

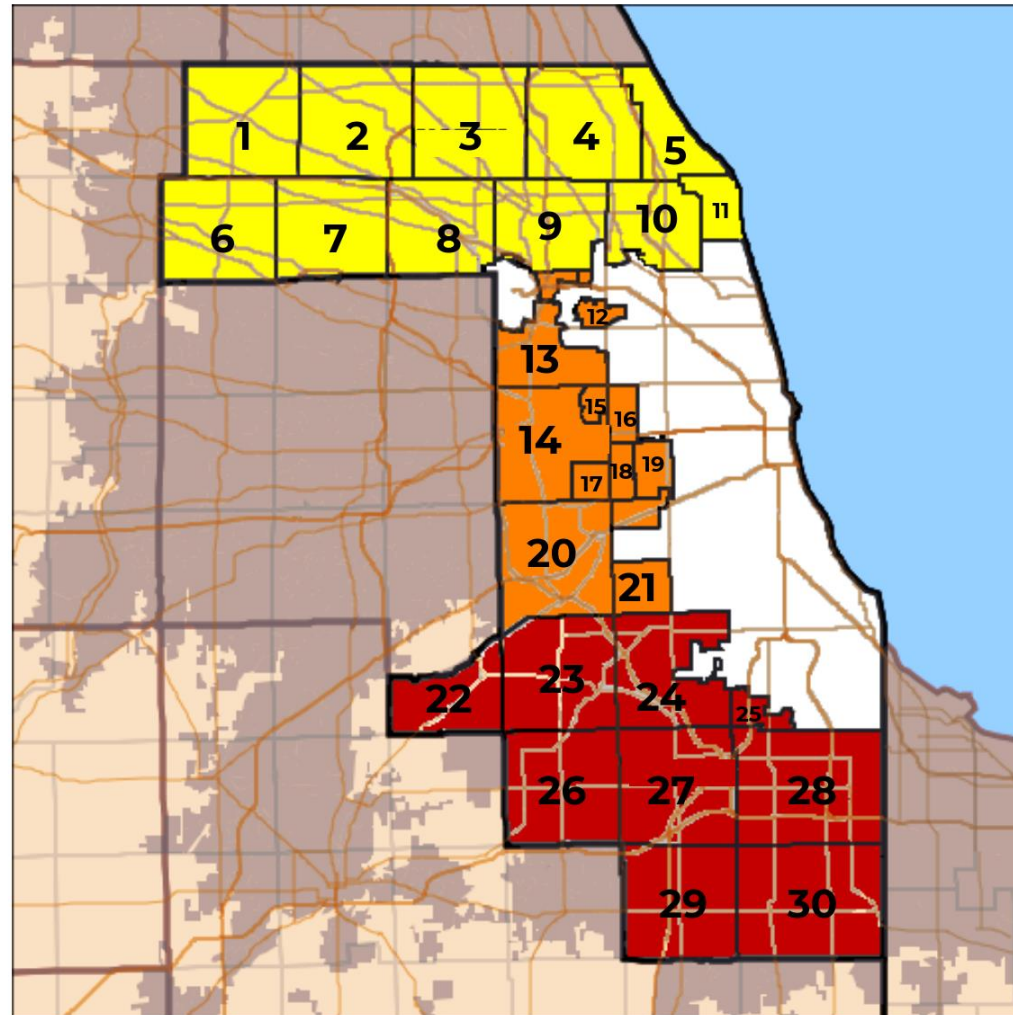


Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County

Lived Experience Advisory Council

Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County

Community Based Service Areas



North

- 1 - Barrington
- 2 - Palatine
- 3 - Wheeling
- 4 - Northfield
- 5 - New Trier
- 6 - Hanover
- 7 - Schaumburg
- 8 - Elk Grove
- 9 - Maine
- 10 - Niles
- 11 - Evanston

West

- 12 - Norwood Park
- 13 - Leyden
- 14 - Proviso
- 15 - River Forest
- 16 - Oak Park
- 17 - Riverside
- 18 - Berwyn
- 19 - Cicero
- 20 - Lyons
- 21 - Stickney

South

- 22 - Lemont
- 23 - Palos
- 24 - Worth
- 25 - Calumet
- 26 - Orland
- 27 - Bremen
- 28 - Thornton
- 29 - Rich
- 30 - Bloom

Updated November 2018

Mission

- The **Lived Experience Advisory Council (LEAC)** is a group composed of individuals who have personally experienced homelessness or housing instability. LEAC members use their lived experience to inform and guide policy decisions, program development, and service delivery within homelessness response systems. In **Suburban Cook County**, the voice of lived experience is intentionally centered through LEAC's active involvement in decision-making bodies, such as the Continuum of Care (CoC) Board and working groups. LEAC members provide critical insights that help shape more equitable and effective strategies for preventing and ending homelessness, ensuring that services are rooted in dignity, accessibility, and real-world understanding. Their leadership ensures that those most affected by homelessness have a direct and meaningful role in shaping the systems meant to serve them.

Meeting

- 2nd Monday of the month and virtual which includes call in options
- Meetings are open with no commitment of attendance
- Payments are made via direct deposit, PayPal or VISA gift cards

Lived Experience Engagement Opportunities

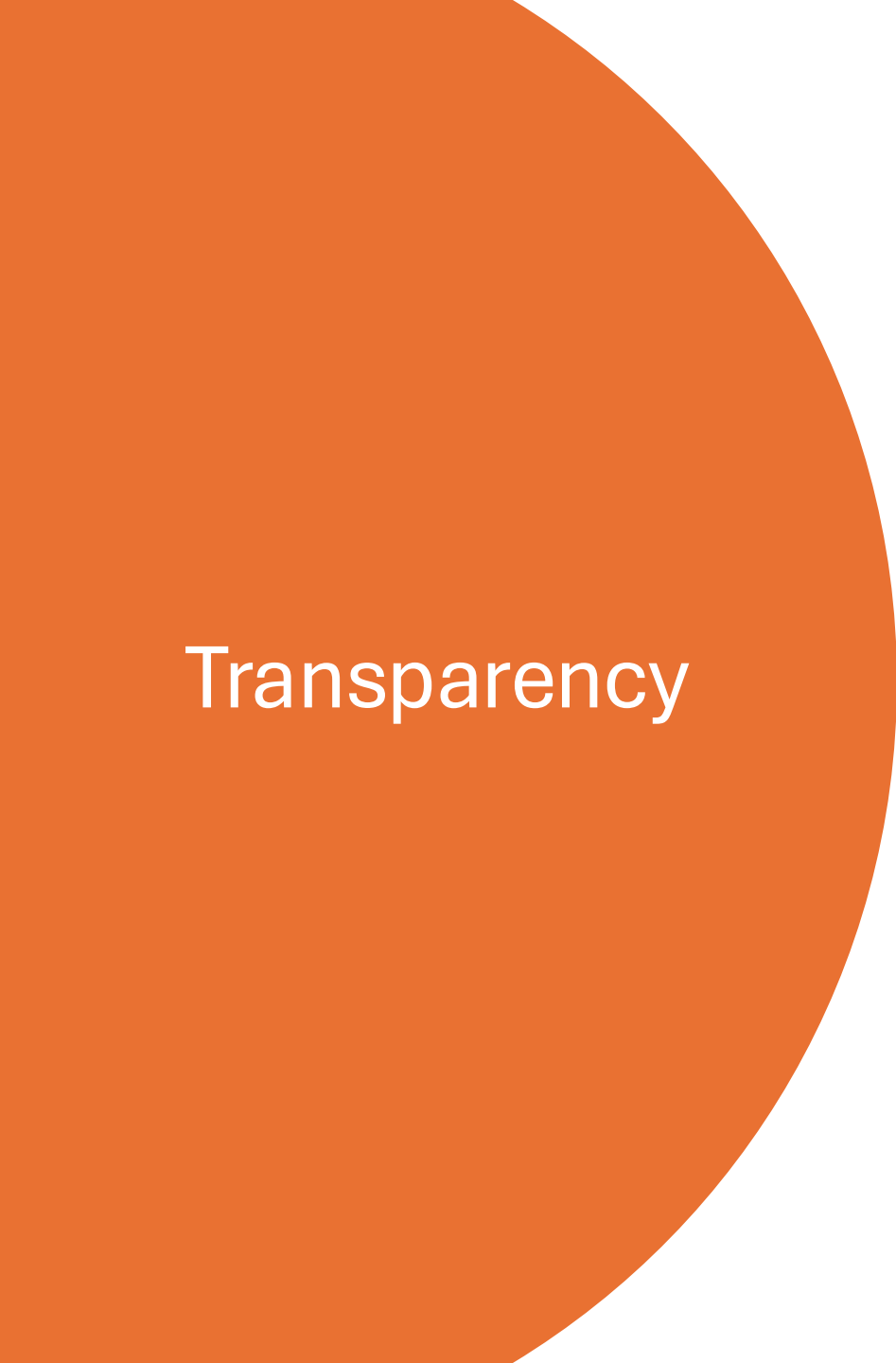
Participation in the following committees:

- HMIS
- Coordinated Entry
- Point in Time Count (methodology, training development, and volunteers)
- CoC NOFO Review Panel to review, score, and rank annual project applications
- Review Panels to review applications, interview, and select outside consultants (i.e. Strategic Planning, Coordinated Entry evaluation, etc.)
- Advocacy (local, state, and federal)
- Access to on-demand professional development
- Conference attendance

A large orange circle with a smaller purple circle at its bottom-left edge. The text "Recruitment Efforts" is centered within the orange circle.

Recruitment Efforts

- 
- Four blue curved lines of varying lengths and orientations, arranged in a loose arc in the top right corner of the slide.
- Direct referrals from community partner agencies
 - Advertisement on Alliance social media pages
 - Detailed information on the Alliance website
 - Word of mouth



Transparency



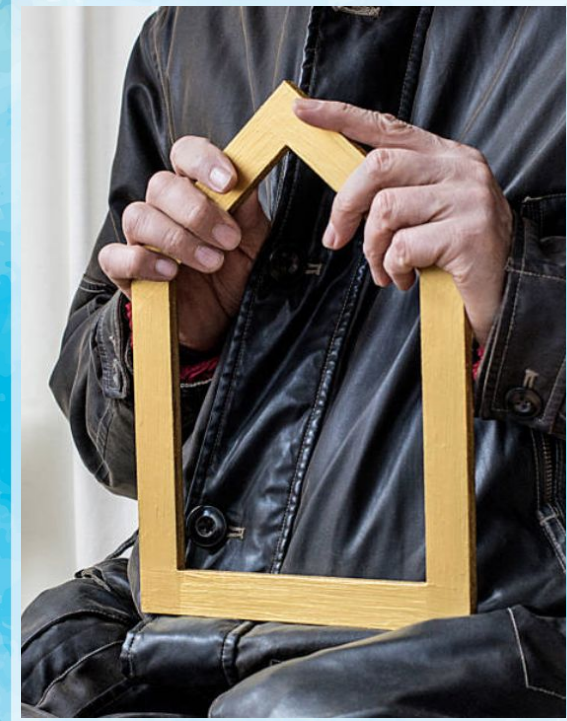
-
- **Genea Moore**
 - she|her|hers
 - *Outreach and Lived Experience Engagement Manager*
 - **Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County**
 - 4415 Harrison Street, Suite 228 | Hillside, IL 60162
 - Phone: 708-236-3261 ext. 408 | Mobile: 708-375-9436
 - Fax: 708-236-3264
 - <http://www.suburbancook.org>



REDEFINING KNOWLEDGE THROUGH EXPERIENCE

Home for All's Efforts to Center Lived Expertise

Kate Green
**Home for All CoC Executive
Director**
Heart of IL United Way





Lived Expertise Committee

Launched in September 2022

Guiding Principles: Persons with lived experience are experts and should be valued, supported, and respected. They are not consulted as an afterthought but at all stages of policy and practice in the CoC.

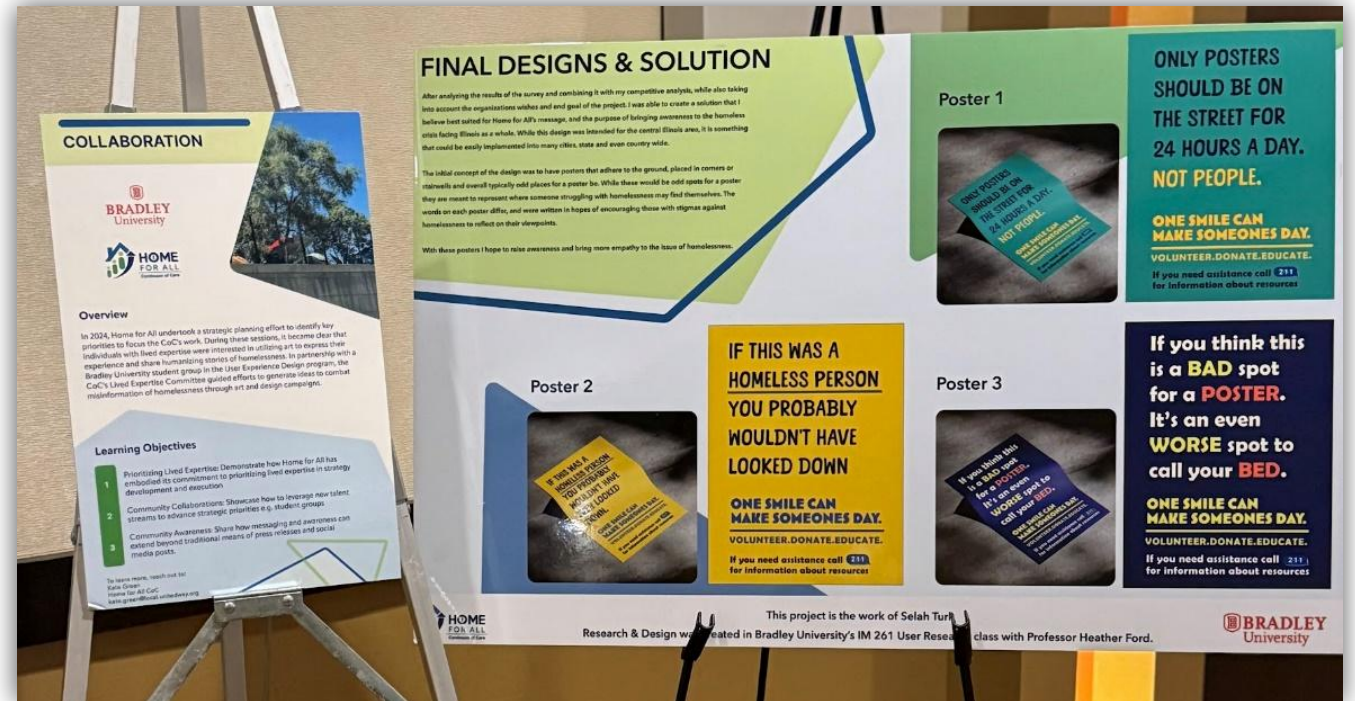
Committee Composition: Individuals with lived expertise who are supported by members from CoC funded service agencies to provide support

Training: Members are provided onboarding training and mentors provide ongoing support if and when needed for members to effectively engage during each meeting

Compensation: Currently \$17 per hour based upon National Low Income Housing Coalition “housing wage” – currently provided via Walmart gift card

Lived Expertise at Work

- The Lived Expertise Committee is charged with:
 - Informing strategic planning and initiative work
 - Reviewing all Continuum of Care policies
 - Advancing projects that grow community knowledge and awareness of homelessness
- Committee members are also tied into local, state, and national advocacy efforts



Moving Forward

- Through community-wide initiatives, Home for All has identified peers as a key component of success
- The CoC is utilizing State pilot funding to employ additional peer supports to supplement existing grant-funded capacity
- These individuals will work in partnership with CoC-funded service agencies to support individuals and families as they move through the stages from homelessness to long-term housing stability



Heartland Continuum of Care

Heartland HOUSED Lived Experience Advisory Board



Shaping the LEAB Vision

- Inclusion of those with Lived Experience
- Lived Experience Collaboration Policy

Community Focus Groups

- Generate community buy-in/early recruitment
- Shape the LEAB



Structure of the Focus Groups

- Introduction/Brief Presentation
- Meeting Etiquette
- Open Discussion
- Snacks
- Gift Cards



Nothing About Us Without Us

Designing the LEAB together

- Co-design
- Collaboration and Partnership

~ We aim to empower those who were
once powerless ~



Current LEAB Projects

Community Engagement

- Advisory Council to Continuum
- Peer Support Groups
- Focus Groups
- Community events
- Bylaws /Code of Conduct
- Support the Professional Growth of those with Lived Experience



Thank you for your time!

Jamie Riedle
System Coordinator
Heartland HOUSED - IL 513
jamie@heartlandhoused.org

