HOMELESS COORDINATING COUNCIL

REGIONAL FRAMEWORK

Draft

(October 2026)

Background and Overview of the Homeless Coordinating Council (HCC)

The Homeless Coordinating Council (HCC) was established in 2020 through a partnership among the City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, the University of New Mexico, and the New Mexico Veterans Affairs Healthcare System (NMVAHCS).

. Its original purpose was "to combine the respective knowledge from these three entities in order to develop enduring and comprehensive solutions to homelessness." The HCC operated through approximately December 2025, at which time the charter expired.

Significant progress has been made since the HCC was first established. During this period:

The City of Albuquerque developed city wide response and homeless service systems which include: (1) the Gateway System of Care, a 1,200-bed emergency and specialized shelter system that now serves more than 7,000 people annually, and (2) Albuquerque Community Safety (ACS) which is the City's nationally recognized alternative response program that provides non-law enforcement responses to behavioral health crises throughout Albuquerque. The City is also creating an average of 200-250 new units of housing annually with 80%-85% of all units considered affordable. Last year the city created 258 new housing units, all which were considered affordable. The City voucher program is additionally helping to house over 1,500 individuals annually through permanent supported housing, rapid rehousing and project based vouchers.

Bernalillo County has strengthened its behavioral health and housing system through implementation of the 2024 Behavioral Health Authority Division (BHAD) Ordinance and a three-year strategic plan to guide services and investments. In partnership with the City of Albuquerque, the County implemented Close the Loop–Unite Us, a community-wide referral platform that connects residents to services and tracks whether they receive support. The County also purchased Poblano Place to preserve 43 affordable housing units, expanded the CARE Campus Withdrawal Management and Observation and Assessment programs, and planned an additional 18 homes at Tiny Home Village. County Housing administered 200 Community Connections Supportive Housing vouchers, while the Resource Reentry Center provided City-funded motel vouchers for individuals exiting the Metropolitan Detention Center. During FY26, in partnership with the Department of Workforce Solutions Office of Housing and Albuquerque Public Schools' McKinney-Vento Program, the County implemented a state-funded Family Stability Program that assisted 1,115 families, including 1,715 children with rent, car payments, utilities, and other essential expenses to prevent homelessness. The Family Wellness Hotel continues to house 24 families for up to 120 days, with care management provided during their stay and after they leave. BHAD is also launching a public data transparency website so community members can see the reach and impact of the system of care. The county has received GRO funds for FY27 to stand up a pre-filing landlord-tenant mediation program to prevent evictions and possible subsequent homelessness. Through the 100% New Mexico

community network, Bernalillo County also led a housing summit in May, 2026, attended by 10 other counties. This summit led to the co-creation of a community-centered statewide housing plan and recommendations for state and local decision-makers.

The University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center has significantly expanded the region's behavioral health and addiction care infrastructure through partnerships with the City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, and community organizations. Major accomplishments include development of the Medical Respite Unit at the Gateway Center, expansion of detoxification and behavioral health services at the CARE Campus, creation of the Crisis Triage Center, certification of UNM Hospital as a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) with mobile crisis services, establishment of the CAMINOS inpatient addiction consultation program, and creation of bridge clinics that support individuals transitioning from incarceration to community-based mental health and addiction treatment

Building on this progress, a reconstituted HCC is being convened in 2026 with a new mission: **"To prevent homelessness, reduce its occurrence, and shorten its duration for individuals and families by aligning policy, funding, and service delivery across Partner Organizations."**

The new mission reflects the evolution of the community's response to homelessness. While the original HCC focused on bringing partners together to develop comprehensive solutions, the reconstituted HCC will place greater emphasis on measurable system and program improvements, stronger alignment among partner organizations, and targeted strategies designed to produce specific outcomes.

The organizations entering into the 2026 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing the HCC are the City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, Albuquerque Public Schools (APS), the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center and the New Mexico Veterans Affairs Healthcare System (NMVAHCS).

The MOU establishes a five-year charter and creates three committees that will conduct focused work, develop recommendations, and bring those recommendations to the HCC for consideration:

1. **Prevention:** Strengthen the community safety net and implement strategies to prevent homelessness before it occurs.
2. **Services:** Improve coordination among housing and homeless services, behavioral health care, health care, vouchers and benefits, data systems, and education systems.
3. **Housing:** Expand access to and the availability of long-term housing solutions.

HCC Priorities

The HCC partner organizations have agreed to work together to:

- Implement strategies and solutions designed to prevent and reduce homelessness;
- Build a more coordinated and cohesive system of care; and
- More effectively align and leverage public and community resources.

Partners have also agreed to document progress, establish measurable goals and timelines, and identify barriers to implementation across the following core priority areas:

- Reduction in unsheltered homelessness;

- Reduction in returns to homelessness within 12 months;
- Increased exits from homelessness to permanent housing;
- Reduction in the length of time individuals and families experience homelessness; and
- Increased coordination among housing, behavioral health, health care, and education systems.

Data Sharing

Partner organizations will work toward greater data sharing and coordinated use of information to support system-wide analysis and continuous improvement. Data will be used to:

- Identify service gaps, capacity constraints, and system bottlenecks;
- Assess program effectiveness and outcomes;
- Inform policy and funding recommendations; and
- Support continuous quality improvement across participating systems.

Data-sharing efforts will be pursued consistent with applicable privacy, confidentiality, security, and legal requirements.

Coordinated Regional Plan and Recommendations

The work of the HCC and its three committees will culminate in a written **Coordinated Regional Recommendations and Action Plan** addressing homelessness prevention, services, housing, system design, resource alignment and leveraging funding. The Plan will be created in year one, and implemented in years 2-5.

Partner organizations will give good-faith consideration to formal recommendations of the HCC related to homelessness policy, system design, service coordination, and funding alignment. The planning process will also include opportunities for public input, with community feedback considered and incorporated into the plan and recommendations as appropriate.

The goal of this renewed HCC is to move from coordination alone toward sustained, measurable improvements across the regional homelessness response system—strengthening prevention, improving the effectiveness and coordination of services, expanding housing pathways, and reducing the likelihood and duration of homelessness.