

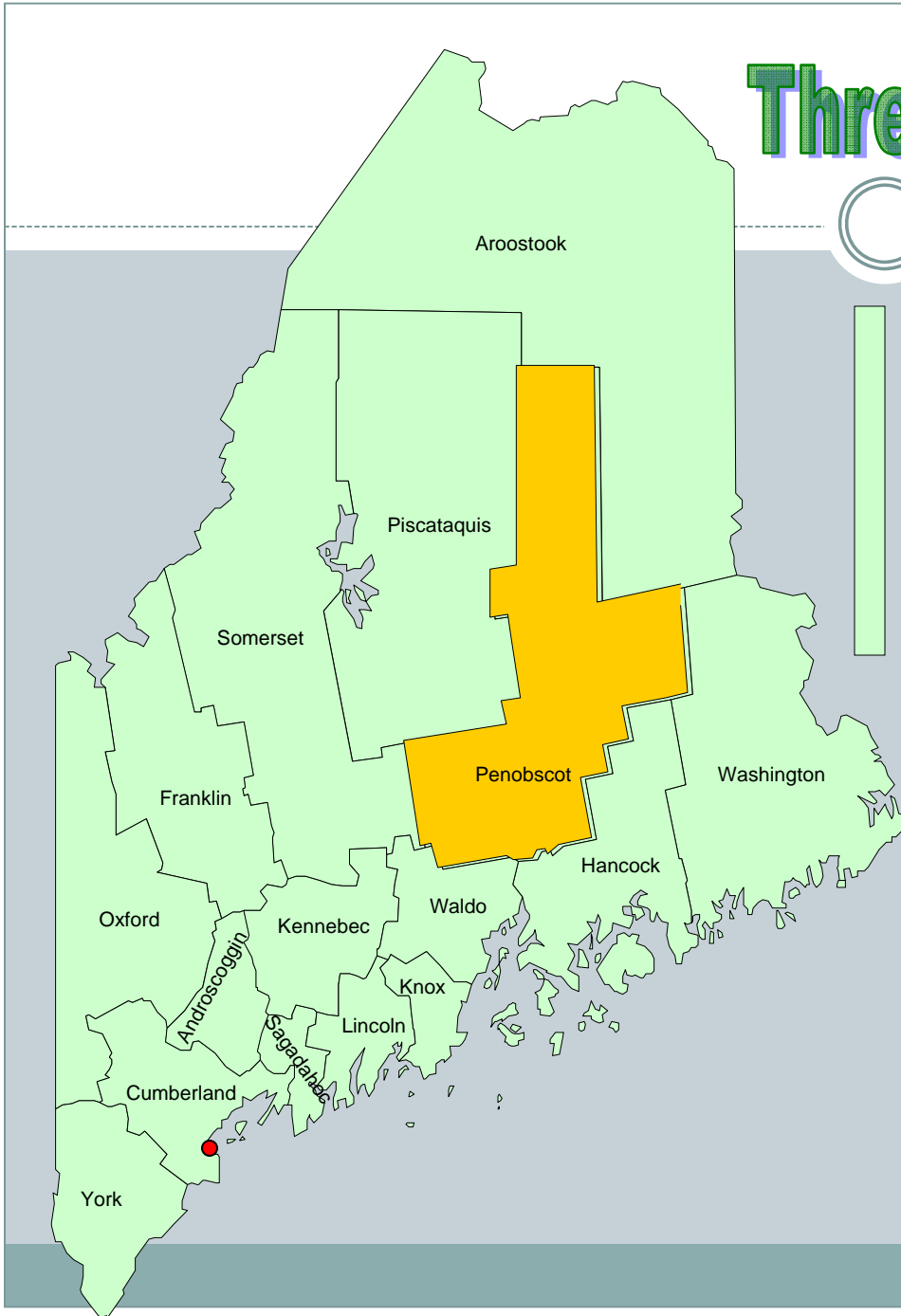
**National Alliance to End Homelessness Webinar:
Creating a High Performing Rural Continuum of Care**



Maine
Balance of State
Continuum of Care

Melany Mondello, Shalom House
Scott Tibbitts, Maine State Housing Authority

Three Continuums in Maine



Maine Balance of State Continuum of Care

Population: 1,106,000

Area: 27,444 square miles

2010 Pro rata Amount: \$1,888,355

2010 PIT Count:

ES=388 TH=897 PSH=1093

Greater Penobscot Continuum of Care

Population: 149,500

Area: 3,396 square miles

2010 Pro rata Amount: \$336,479

2010 PIT Count: ES=150 TH=303 PSH=341

City of Portland Continuum of Care

Population: 63,000

Area: 21 square miles

2010 Pro rata Amount: \$731,806

2010 PIT Count: ES= 316 TH=311 PSH=368

Three Regional Homeless Councils



Maine Statewide Homeless Council

Created by the Governor and the Legislature
Chaired by Nancy Fritz, Director of Homeless Initiatives at Maine State Housing Authority and a member of the Governor's Cabinet

Region 3 Homeless Council

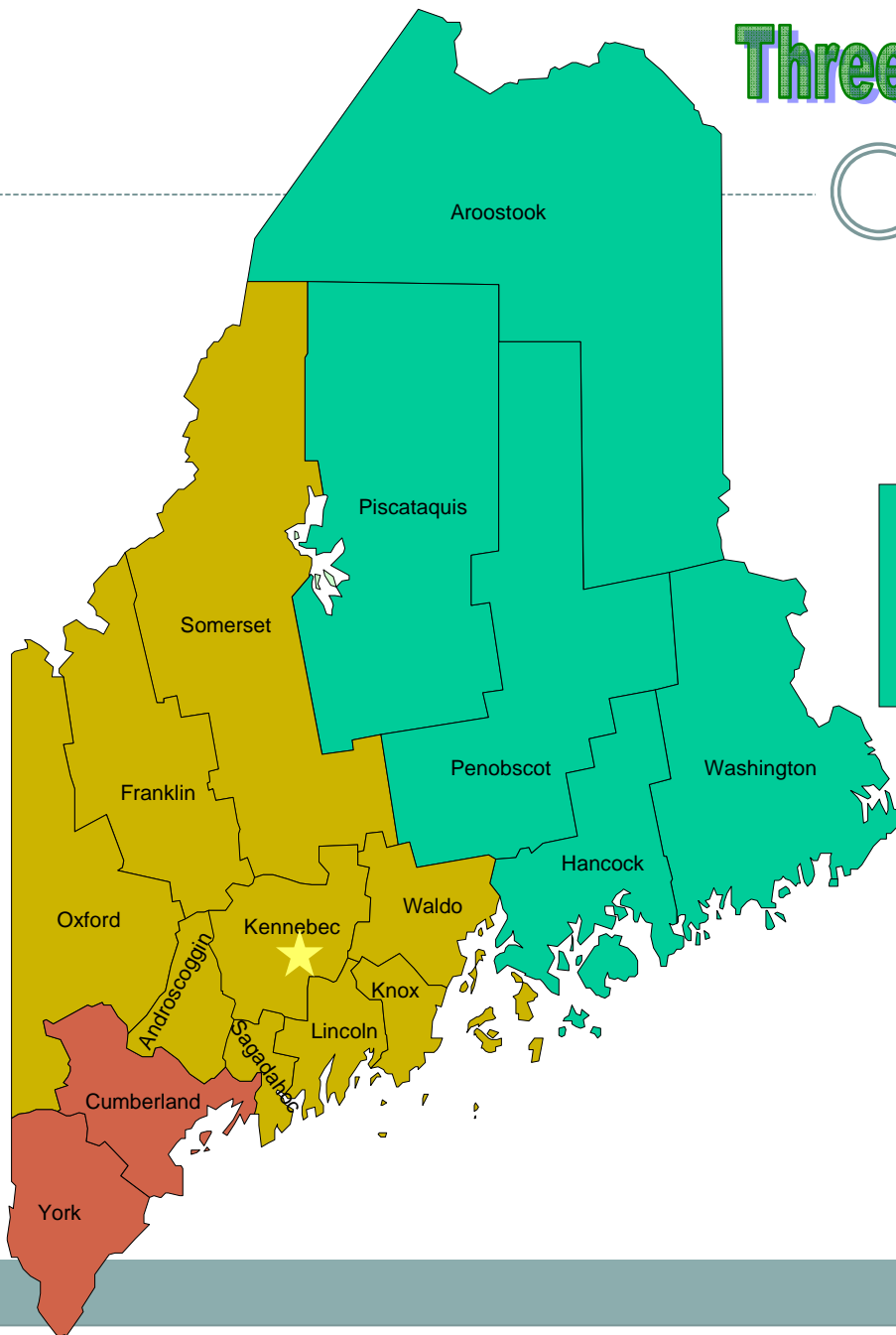
Covers the 5 most rural counties
Largest Geographic area, least densely populated
Includes Greater Penobscot Continuum of Care

Region 2 Homeless Council

Covers 9 counties
Rural west & north, more densely populated near coast
Includes state capitol of Augusta

Region 1 Homeless Council

Cumberland and York Counties
Smallest geographic area, but most densely populated
Includes the City of Portland Continuum of Care



Maine BOS Continuum Meetings



Monthly meetings, Year-Round, Set Date/Time

- Open to all interested parties
- Conference Calling, ITV, “Go To Meeting” options for attendance
- Agendas, minutes, documents e-mailed to all
- Governance document cited frequently
- One vote per agency –
 - ✦ Attendance at 3 of last 6 meetings to be eligible to vote
- “Guided by” Robert’s Rules of Order

Maine BOS Continuum Agenda



Agenda includes

- Provider updates on program specific successes and challenges
- Updates on tasks and initiatives across the State
- Regional or Population specific topics
- Legislative updates – State and National
- Trainings from MainStream service providers
- Anyone can add agenda items

MBOS Sub-Committees



- Workgroups to perform tasks required for completion of the annual COC application
- Focus on action steps to meet goals of CoC & HUD
- All Committee work must be approved by the CoC
- Committees cannot make policy or funding related decisions unless authorized to do so by the CoC
- All CoC members encouraged to join a committee
- You do not have to attend regular full CoC meetings in order to participate on a committee

MBOS Standing Committees



○ Steering

- CoC Co-Chairs and all Committee Chairs
- Guides Application

○ Data & Gaps

- Point-in-Time/HIC
- HMIS

○ Monitoring & Evaluation

- Renewal Projects

○ Engagement & Resources

- Community outreach
- Mainstream resources

○ Scoring Criteria

- Updated annually
- Points awarded to incentivize goals

○ Project Selection & Prioritization

- Non-competing members
- Recruitment from outside of CoC membership

○ Ad hoc committees as needed

- Governance review
- Dispute resolution

Members To Recruit



Representatives from:

- ★ Agencies with Financial Resources
 - ★ Matching construction funding
 - ★ Matching service funding
 - ★ Banks
- ★ Agencies who make policy
 - ★ State and Local government representatives
- ★ Agencies with service resources
 - ★ Social Service/Non-Profit Agencies
 - ★ Public Housing Authorities
 - ★ Veterans Services
 - ★ Non-Profit Housing Developers

Partner Working Groups



- ★ Statewide Homeless Council
- ★ Portland Continuum of Care
- ★ Penobscot Continuum of Care
- ★ Regional Homeless Councils (3 Statewide)
- ★ Augusta Homeless Working Group
- ★ Lewiston Auburn Area Services for the Homeless (LAASH)
- ★ Greater Franklin County Resource Network
- ★ Washington County Coalition for the Homeless
- ★ Homeless Voices for Justice

Maine BOS Continuum Organizations



- * Homeless Service Providers
- * Social Service/Non-Profit Agencies
- * State and Local Government Agencies
- * Public Housing Authorities
- * Veterans Services
- * Advocacy Groups and Consumers
- * Non-Profit Housing Developers
- * DOC Pre-Release and Re-entry programs
- * Youth Providers
- * Domestic Violence Service Providers

Key Agencies to Maine's Success



The following agencies provide key support and services to Maine's Continuum of Care structure and Statewide Homeless Councils

Maine State Housing Authority

The Housing Finance Agency for Maine provides staff, technical resources and financial resources

Maine State Department of Health and Human Services

State Government department provides staff and financial resources.

MaineHousing's Role



- MaineHousing includes a Homeless Initiatives Department employing: a Director, a Manager, two HMIS positions, a Continuum Coordinator, an ESG Shelter Funding Administrator, an HPRP Administrator, and a 4 person RAC+ Team providing a homeless rental assistance program.
- MaineHousing is the Grantee and administrator for our HMIS. We have one system, statewide, that all 3 Maine CoC's utilize.
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- MaineHousing funding is used as the dollar for dollar cash match for CoC SHP applications dedicated to 'bricks and mortar' costs. (Acquisition and Rehab or New Construction)
- Also uses funds from the state's Real Estate Transfer Tax to fund an annual in-state RFP for Housing for the Homeless.
- Provide funds for Grant Writing, TA, Studies & Reports.

DHHS Role

Maine Dept. of Health & Human Services



- The DHHS Adult Mental Health Office is the major Shelter Plus Care grantee for Maine, funds and operates a transitional rental housing program for individuals and families with mental illness and distributes PATH outreach funds for both children and adult services.
- DHHS Offices supports and provides funding to a wide spectrum of housing models across populations.
- DHHS provides service funding to residential programs through the PNMI Medicaid rules

Coordination is the key



The Maine Balance of State Continuum of Care tries to include and involve ALL of the programs, agencies and activities in our State working to end and prevent homelessness by:

- Embracing other working groups as allies/partners not competition
- Creating one HMIS system – Maine has one lead agency, MaineHousing, who contracts with each continuum
- Coordinating and consolidating data gathering processes
 - ✦ Simplify forms and utilize the same day and process for Point-in-Time Counts
 - ✦ Centralize and conduct one annual Housing Inventory Update
- Distributing information to all partners and allow each community to decide what pieces to focus their resources toward
- Sharing any tools and processes between working groups
- Leveraging resources by developing and modifying new forms and process together for consistency

Why Get Involved?



Limited personnel resources in rural areas are the biggest challenge to getting provider participation.

○ **HEARTH Act going into full effect in 2011**

- Changes in the homeless definition will open up resources to previously exclude rural people
- Creation of simplified rules and criteria for rural areas
- More flexibility to utilize funds for prevention
- HUD Continuum structure allows for response to individual community needs
- Get the voice of your customers heard!
- Get resources allocated to your geographic area!

Maine Outcomes

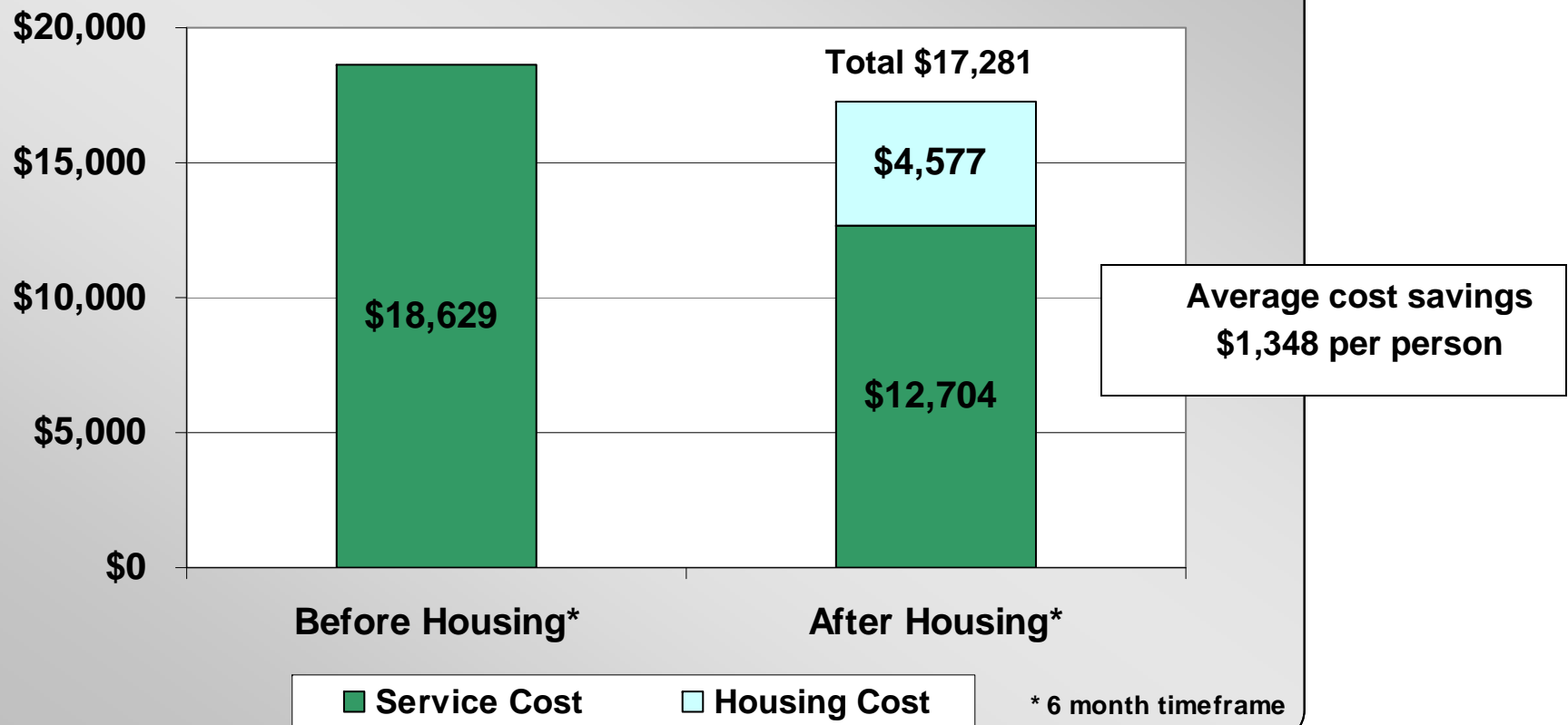


Foundation created over the past 10 years allows:

- Established provider/community relationships to build program partnerships upon
- Multiple studies on Rural Homelessness in our State
 - Four Homelessness Reports about Maine to educate and document the reality of our citizens
- Statewide Housing focus
- Development of functional rural housing models
- HPRP rapidly put into place due to prior planning

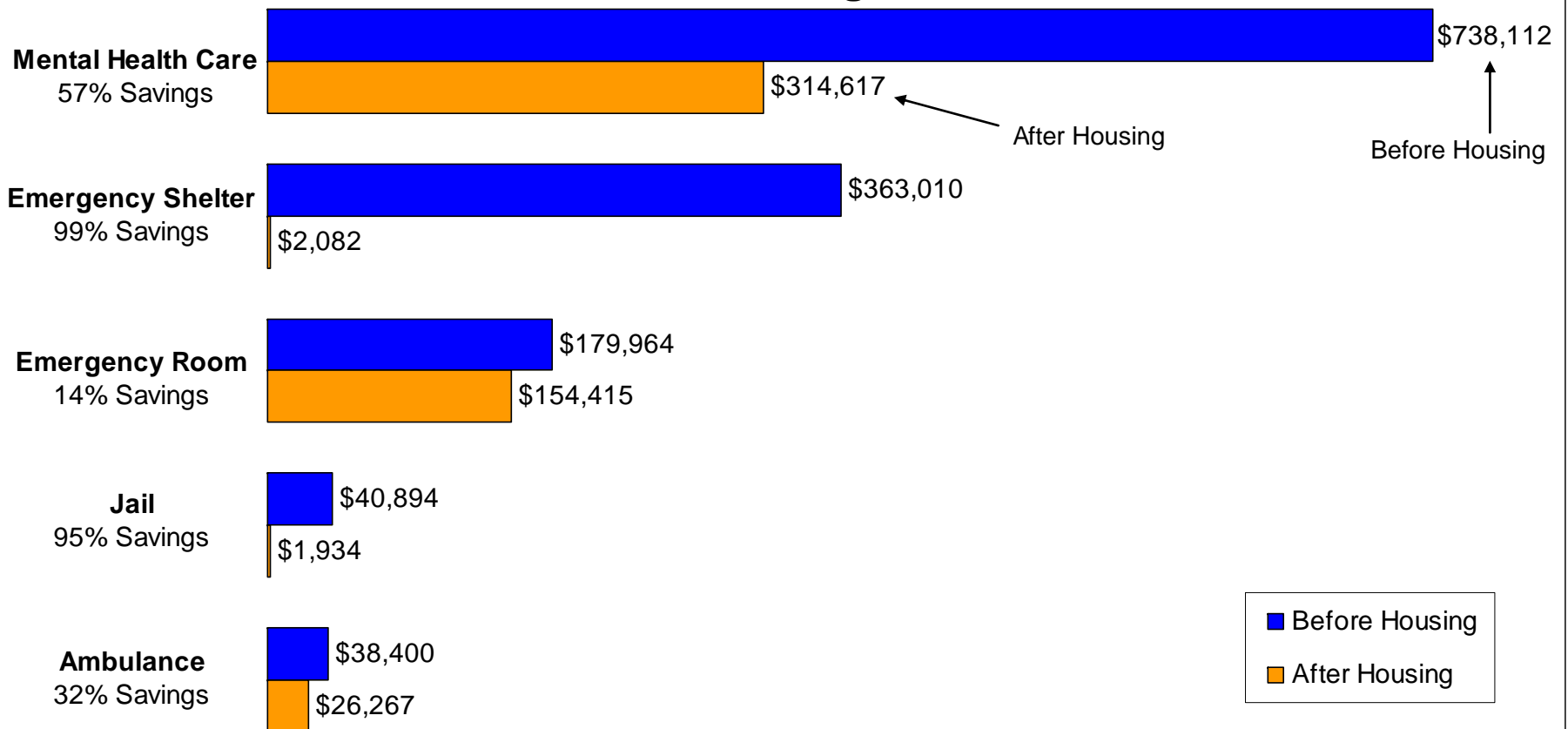
Rural Maine Cost Study – 1st year

**Average Cost Per Person Before and After Permanent Supportive Housing Placement
State of Maine**



Rural Maine Cost Study

Cost Avoidance After Participants Entered Supportive Housing



Conclusion



Partnership and leveraging resources is key to success. A competitive process does not exclude creating partnerships.

Don't be afraid to try! Any structure you can put into place gets the process started.

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Maine Balance of State Continuum of Care

Any questions please contact either:

Melany Mondello

MBOS Co-Chair

Grant Coordinator

Shalom House, Inc.

1-207-874-1080

mmondello@shalomhouseinc.org

Scott Tibbitts

MBOS Coordinator

Coordinator of Homeless Initiatives

Maine State Housing Authority

1-800-452-4668

stibbitts@mainehousing.org