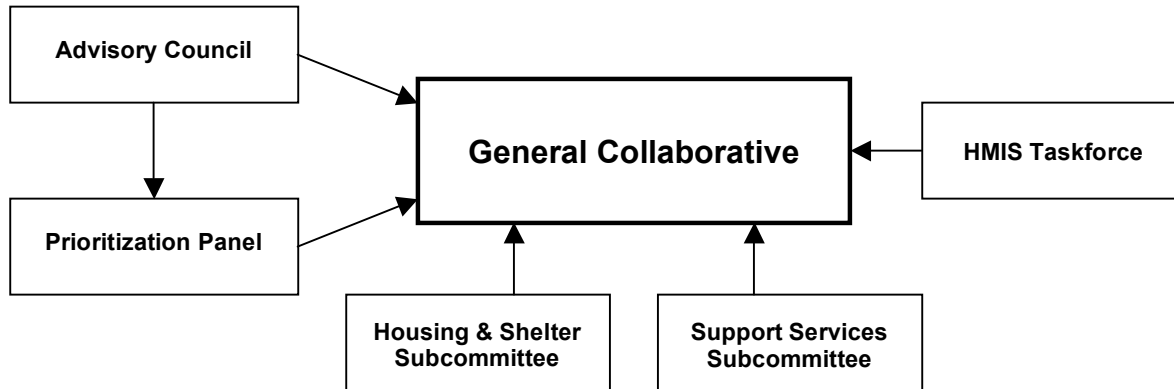


Merced County Continuum of Care Collaborative Organizational Structure



General Collaborative – *made up of representatives from over 100 local agencies*

This group’s primary function involves implementing the CofC strategy for combating homelessness, identifying the strengths and weaknesses in the system of care, developing means for filling gaps in the system, and ensuring that services do not overlap or duplicate each other.

Housing & Shelter Subcommittee – *made up of representatives from agencies that provide or have an interest in providing housing and/or shelter to homeless individuals in Merced County*

The function of this subcommittee is to develop and implement steps to increase the availability of emergency, transitional, and permanent supportive housing beds; develop shelter-based support services; and provide input to the CofC General Collaborative with regard to the development of processes for the successful transition of homeless persons to permanent affordable housing.

Supportive Services Subcommittee - *made up of representatives from agencies that provide supportive services to the homeless, including outreach and prevention*

The functions of this group include developing and expanding programs to prevent homelessness through crisis intervention; identifying weaknesses and strengthening the existing system of services, developing methods for implementing a full range of needed support services, and coordinating linkages in the system of care.

Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) Taskforce – *made up of representatives from agencies planning to or considering participating in the HMIS for Merced County project*

The function of the HMIS Taskforce is to provide input into HMIS planning and implementation, including exploring funding sources, selecting appropriate equipment and software, and developing and implementing methods for maximizing participation among local providers.

Advisory Council – *total of nine members, each appointed either by the Merced City Council or the Merced County Board of Supervisors*

The Advisory Council’s primary function is to provide administrative oversight to the CofC planning process. This involves overseeing implementation of the Continuum of Care strategy for combating homelessness, tracking and ensuring progress of the Collaborative in meeting its goals, ensuring accountability of grantees by reviewing financial status reports, reviewing the annual CofC Plan draft; reviewing and approving the decisions of the Prioritization Panel; and serving as an appeals board for agencies wishing to appeal a decision made by the Prioritization Panel. Membership configuration, as determined by the General Collaborative, is as follows: 3 government agency representatives, 2 non profit representatives, 2 faith based representatives, 1 concerned citizen, and 1 business community representative.

Prioritization Panel – *total of five members, each of whom is elected by the General Collaborative*

The Panel’s function is to review local CofC grant proposals, select and prioritize them for inclusion in the Merced Collaborative’s CofC grant application; and to review the CofC Plan draft. The group meets approximately three times, beginning in Spring. Configuration of the Panel is as follows: 2 government agency representatives, 1 non profit representative, 1 faith based representative, and 1 concerned citizen.