

**Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team (DCHLT)  
Charter**

**Context:**

In 2014, City of Denton Mayor Chris Watts organized a task force to explore improving and expanding housing solutions for the homeless in Denton. The goal of the task force was to produce a plan for coordinated community-wide efforts to address homelessness. The process made it clear that solutions to prevent and reduce homelessness in Denton will require adequate funding, accessible, affordable housing; and collaborative commitments by many organizations.

A recommendation of the task force sought support for a coordinator position to oversee the development and implementation of a community-wide coordinated system to address homelessness and housing services.

In February 2016, the City of Denton and the United Way of Denton County entered into a public private partnership to fund this position, with the goal of scaling up the work of the task force to address the needs of homeless and at-risk citizens and families across Denton County.

The Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team seeks to improve the effectiveness of community funding, ensure multi-faceted affordable housing options are available, provide a framework for delivery, support the implementation of innovative programs and provide the community with a robust picture of the impact of current resources (including gaps in availability) and the need for more housing resources to support ending homelessness.

**Purpose:**

The Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team is tasked to convene as a policy making team to improve the planning, coordination, oversight, and implementation required to create systems change, for housing/homelessness initiatives in Denton County.

**Composition and Roles:**

The DCHLT shall consist of no less than fifteen (14) and no more than twenty-three (23) members. Such number may be increased or decreased by the DCHLT.

The DCHLT shall be composed of appointees from the following entities.

- |                                       |                                      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| (1) Denton County Commissioners Court | (2-4) Health Care Providers          |
| (1-2) Denton City Council             | (1-2) Higher Education               |
| (1-2) Lewisville City Council         | (1-2) United Way of Denton County    |
| (1-2) Small Cities/Towns              | (1-2) Workforce/Business Development |
| (5-6) Homelessness/Housing Providers  |                                      |

**Officers:**

The DCHLT will have a chair, co-chair, secretary, past chair (after 1 year) and ex-officio members.

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**Workgroups/Sub-committees:** The DCHLT will define workgroups and sub-committees as deemed appropriate and necessary. Workgroups/Sub-committees will meet outside of the regular DCHLT meeting schedule and provide reports to the DCHLT.

**Resources and Support:**

United Way of Denton County Inc. (UWDC) will serve as the fiscal agent and backbone organization of the DCHLT to provide staff, guide vision and strategy, support aligned activities, establish shared measurement practices, build public will, advance policy and mobilize funding.

**Operations:**

To ensure members are actively engaged, members are expected to attend 75% of the meetings. Meetings of the DCHLT will be held monthly for a period of six (6) months. DCHLT members will review the scheduling needs to determine meeting frequency after the initial six (6) months.

Meetings of the DCHLT will be held at the United Way of Denton County Inc. office and be open to the public. Meeting agendas and minutes will be made available through UWDC website.

The meetings of the DCHLT shall be governed by the parliamentary rules and usages contained in the current edition of the “Roberts Rules of Order”.

**Deliverables:**

1. Selection of the following officers:
  - Chair
  - Co-Chair
  - Secretary
  - Past Chair
2. Development of Bylaws
3. Development of a comprehensive business plan addressing housing/homelessness issues with outcome measures.

**Adopted Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Charter verified by signature of DCHLT members.**

