

FACEBOOK REPLY

Coordination, Progress & Federal Windows

*Who Is Coordinating. What Is the Progress.
What the Federal Calendar Already Cost Us.*

End Homelessness NORMAN responds to a citizen inquiry on coordination, demonstrable progress since April 7, and the cost of institutional inaction measured in federal funding windows.

Ron, two good questions. Direct answers below.

Who Is Coordinating This Initiative.

Homeward Bound NORMAN, Inc. (HBN) at HomewardNORMAN.org — an Oklahoma nonprofit being launched as the operational backbone organization for Norman and Cleveland County. It is modeled directly on the Houston Coalition for the Homeless, which is the entity behind Houston's 63% reduction in homelessness. HBN's role is to coordinate the system, run coordinated entry and the by-name list, manage the HMIS, file and administer the federal grant stack, and be the addressable nonprofit that funders, HUD, and partner agencies work through. HBN is pursuing the formal CoC Systems Lead role for OK-504 under MOU. Without a backbone entity actually working the grants and running the data, federal and foundation money does not flow — that is one of the lessons from communities that have tried this and stalled.

Alongside HBN, the coordination layer is already being built. ClevelandConnect.org is the Cleveland County partner network and coordination directory, of the kind HUD expects every functioning CoC to operate, with 363+ Cleveland County partners catalogued.

Progress on the \$100M.

The citizens did their part on April 7. Three things have already happened:

1. \$8M Voter-Approved Local Match Instrument.	The single most important precondition is done.
2. The Salvation Army — \$10M Private Cornerstone.	A known, serious partner with national infrastructure.
3. The Federal Grant Clock Started April 7.	Per the Math page: formula grants (HUD ESG, CDBG) 90–120 days post-ballot. Competitive grants (HUD CoC, HUD-VASH, HOME) 6–14 months. Major foundations (George Kaiser Family Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson, MacArthur) 12–24 months.

The Foundation Is in Place. The Work Is Waiting.

It is waiting on the City of Norman and on the current governance structure of CoC OK-504. The Mayor and the Norman City Council were made aware of this opportunity months ago, in writing. There has been no response, no inquiry, and no action toward the significant changes that are required of them. The Council has not yet declared OK-504 a Housing First system, and the formal CoC governance structure has not yet moved to align with what Housing First requires. Until those steps are taken, the federal filings and foundation outreach cannot move at the pace the timeline requires.

Specific Federal Windows Have Already Passed.

The January 2026 Point-in-Time Count was conducted under the existing CoC arrangement, not a Housing First system. The HUD FY 2026 ESG and CDBG formula allocations for Norman have already been determined. The HUD FY 2026 CoC NOFO competitive cycle is the next major federal window, and Norman's positioning for it depends entirely on actions the City has not yet taken. The FY 2027 federal fiscal year begins October 1, 2026 — the next ESG and CDBG allocation cycle.

Every federal window that closes without governance change is funding Cleveland County citizens were entitled to and did not receive.

The Honest Answer on the Funding.

Year 1 is when the foundation gets built and the filings go in. Year 2 and Year 3 are when the awards land. The Math page lays out the realistic ranges and the probability scenarios. Reaching \$25M in three years is realistic. The path to the full \$50M–\$100M figure depends on IGH Vanguard City designation, sustained foundation engagement, and the federal environment — all of which are addressable but none of which are automatic.

The Real Difficulty Is Not Technical.

The solution itself is not as complicated as it sounds. The proven model exists. The funding pathways exist. Perhaps the most difficult part is finding more folks like yourself who will take the time to read, learn, and then actively participate in advocating for the necessary change — and in educating the public and our community leaders across Cleveland County. Anyone wanting to see the partner network or find where they fit can start at ClevelandConnect.org.

“I think the biggest disease this world suffers from in this day and age is the disease of people feeling unloved, and I know that I can give love for a minute, for half an hour, for a day, for a month, but I can give — I’m very happy to do that and I want to do that.”

— DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES

End Homelessness Norman / Cleveland County · An Oklahoma Citizen-Led Initiative

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