

## **Establishing a Phone Access Single Point of Entry for the Homeless**

In the State of Virginia, the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) acts to provide homeless assistance in rural communities using Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds. The partnership of communities working with DHCD to bring services to rural Virginia is called the Balance of State (BoS) Continuum of Care (CoC). Each rural area requesting funding from DHCD must be a participant in the BoS through their Local Planning Group (LPG). In the NRV, the LPG is the New River Valley Housing Partnership.

NRCA has worked with our LPG and the BoS CoC for more than 15 years to serve persons at risk of becoming homeless. New outreach duties to the homeless will be required in 2018. NRCA is the logical sponsor of this new outreach as it is the local administrator for the DHCD Virginia Homeless Solutions Program.

Each LPG has either a centralized or multiple, physical, coordinated access points to ensure persons from across the entire geography of the LPG can access the homeless crisis response system. In addition to access points, each LPG must have one 24/7 phone number by January 23, 2018, so homeless persons can access services. NRCA staff seeks Board approval to serve as the agency sponsoring the new 24/7 access phone number.

*(This goes to Executive Committee due to concern a weather event could cancel the regular January board meeting.)*