



Opening Doors Across America  
Becoming an Opening Doors State

*December 15, 2011*



# Introduction

1. July Meeting
2. USICH Mission
3. Federal Strategic Plan
4. Status Update
5. Opening Doors Across America: A USICH Call to Action
6. On to Hawaii....



# July 2011 Meeting in DC

## Takeaways:

- Alignment among programs
- Greater SICh participation & assistance with measuring performance
- Operating with limited budget
- Engaging with more partners
- Examining political
- Reactivation of SIChs



# USICH Mission

**Coordinate the federal response** to homelessness and **create a national partnership** at every level of government and with the private sector to **reduce and end homelessness** in the nation while **maximizing the effectiveness** of the federal government in contributing to the end of homelessness.

*HEARTH Act of 2009*



# Vision

- **No one** should experience homelessness.
- **No one** should be without a safe, stable place to call **home**.



# *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*

## Four Goals

1. Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness by 2015
2. Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans by 2015
3. Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children by 2020
4. Set a path to ending all types of homelessness



# *Opening Doors*

## **Five themes**

1. Increase leadership, collaboration, and civic engagement
2. Increase access to stable and affordable housing
3. Increase economic security
4. Improve health and stability
5. Retool the homeless crisis response system



# Opening Doors: Implementation

## Key Accomplishments

- Unprecedented collaboration
- Enhanced data collection, analysis, and reporting
- Better use of targeted resources
- Improved access to mainstream resources
- Increased engagement with states and local communities
- President's FY 2012 Budget proposal



# Opening Doors Across America: A Call to Action

We need a sense of urgency – statewide and cross- government strategic planning is pivotal

**Now is the time to invest in and act on strategies proven to make an impact**



# Opening Doors Across America

Inviting States and Communities to Commit to taking Four Actions:

1. Align with *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*
2. Set Targets and Measure Results
3. Act Strategically
4. Partner



## 2 Step Process

**Step 1:** Become a *Participating Community* by committing to the four criteria of Opening Doors Across America in your plan implementation

**Step 2:** Become an *Opening Doors Community* by adopting the four goals of Opening Doors in your plan and convening your state interagency council to commit to these changes



# Opening Doors States

- Alignment with Goals
  - ✓ Generate/Sustain Momentum
  - ✓ Framework for Prioritizing & Using Resources
  - ✓ Way to Engage Local Communities



# Opening Doors States

- ❑ Set incremental goals and implement strategies to accomplish the overall goal and measure results and progress toward incremental goals.
  - ✓ Set numeric goals for permanent housing units made available for target homeless populations
  - ✓ Measure progress using the annual point-in-time data for the 4 population goals
  - ✓ Measure how well homeless programs help their clients become employed and access mainstream programs



# Opening Doors States

- ❑ Act strategically
  - ✓ Transform homeless services to rapid response systems
    - Assessment and targeting
  - ✓ Implement Housing First and Rapid Re-housing
  - ✓ Seize the opportunity created by health reform.
  - ✓ Collaborate with VA medical centers and Housing Authorities
  - ✓ Commit to using data as a management tool.
  - ✓ Work collaboratively and invest state, local, and philanthropic dollars toward strategies aligned with the strategic plan.



# Opening Doors States

## Partner

- ✓ Communicate with Federal, State and Local Partners
- ✓ Ensure effective solutions are shared and that communities can build on the knowledge base already developed.
- ✓ Design regional framework
- ✓ Open up door for Private Investment



# Conclusion

## Going Forward:

Essentials for success:

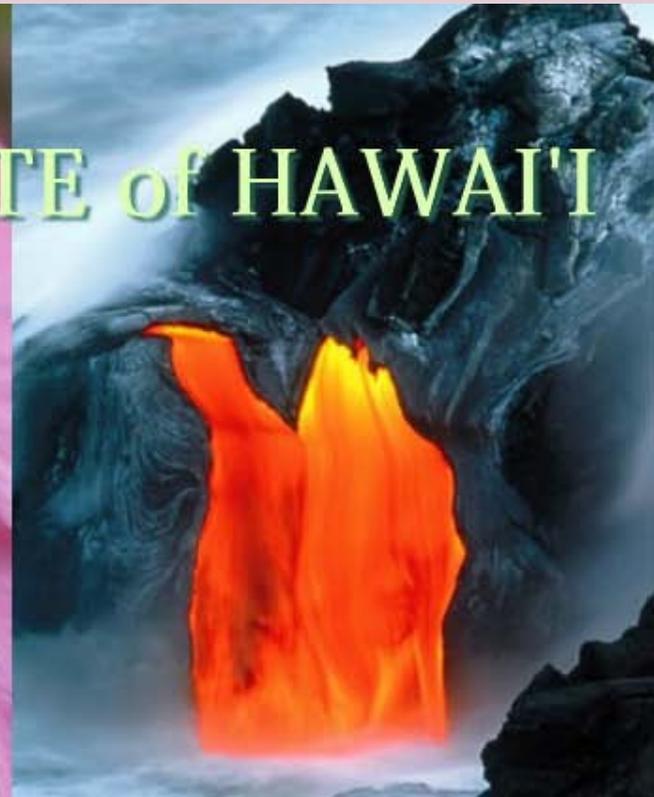
- Have a Plan of Action and Be aligned
- Leverage any Political and Agency Will
- Invest Resources Wisely
- Collaborate
- Have and Encourage a Sense of Urgency

# The Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness

Marc R. Alexander  
*Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness*  
*15 December 2011*



STATE of HAWAII



# Quick Picture of Homelessness in Hawaii: Statewide Point in Time Count 2011

- Date conducted: January 25, 2011
- Sheltered Count: 3,632 people  
2,912 on Oahu (80%)
- Unsheltered Count: 2,556 people  
1,322 on Oahu (52%)
- Chronically Homeless: 904 unaccompanied individuals plus 26 families
- **Total: 6188 homeless persons statewide**  
4,234 on Oahu (68%)

(The next count will take place in Jan. 2012)

# What is New in Hawaii

- Governor Abercrombie has made the elimination of homelessness one of the top priorities of his administration, appointing the first ever Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness
- co-hosted (with the VA) the Governor's Leadership Forum with wide stakeholder participation

# What is New in Hawaii (2)

- The Governor's vision is that through state-wide, unified and coordinated actions by government, non-profits and the private sector, every woman, child and man will have dignified housing.
- A new day in the battle to eliminate homelessness is characterized by a strategic approach, structural change, unprecedented collaboration and civic involvement.

# Two Offices to Address Homelessness in Hawaii

- Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness: position created and appointed by the Governor in January 2011
- State Homeless Programs: under State Department of Human Services

# Solutions

- Hawaii needs more affordable housing or rent subsidy programs.
- Shut the front door to homelessness which is comprised of the holes in the safety nets of mental health services, substance abuse treatment, exiting offenders, and family violence.
- Address the Compact of Free Association (COFA) Migrant issue.
- Develop the supports in Permanent Supportive Housing.

# Planning Partners

- County Continua of Care –  
Community based planning groups that develop strategies for mitigating homelessness in each county
  - Kauai Community Alliance
  - Maui Homeless Alliance
  - Partners in Care (Oahu)
  - Community Alliance Partners (Hawaii)
- Hawaii State Interagency Council on Homelessness

# Unprecedented Collaboration

- 90 Day Plan (May 17 – August 15)
- With City and County of Honolulu and other counties
- With providers
- With private sector
- Access to grants
- With medical school

# The Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH)

- Established by Governor's Executive Order in August 2011
- Follows closely the suggested federal model and resources
- Chair: Governor
- Will seek enshrinement in law via the legislature in 2012
- Will develop 10 year plan to end homelessness

- The ten-year plan will design a strategy to assist individuals who are homeless or facing homelessness; prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable individuals and families; develop partnerships between public and private entities to identify, renovate, and secure dignified transitional, as well as, permanent housing options;

# Investigative Committees are Preparing the Plan

- Stable and Affordable Housing
- Economic Security
- Health and Stability
- Homeless Crisis Response System

# Input is being solicited from:

- Agency professionals
- Service providers
- Advocates for those who are homeless
- Community members
- Business community
- Elected officials

# Process includes:

- The use of HUD technical assistance
- Working investigative committees, led by professionals in the appropriate fields
- Focus groups
- Public hearings

# Hawaii Resource Links

- [www.twitter.com/aloha4homeless](http://www.twitter.com/aloha4homeless)
- FaceBook: aloha4homeless
- [www.hawaii.gov/homeless](http://www.hawaii.gov/homeless)
- [www.homeless.hpha.hawaii.gov](http://www.homeless.hpha.hawaii.gov)
- Hawaii Point in Time Count 2011:  
<http://1.usa.gov/jwLPlS>
- Hawaii Homeless Service Utilization  
Report 2011: <http://bit.ly/vMnzbX>



# Q&A

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