



U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness Fiscal Year 2020 Performance and Accountability Report

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Message from the Executive Director

Fiscal year 2020 was a year of challenges as well as opportunities. The national COVID-19 pandemic required a strong federal response, and, for the population we serve, USICH was the lead coordinating agency for those efforts. USICH chaired the partnership groups and was the lead mitigator and containment agency to ensure that the population we serve, those experiencing homelessness' needs, were elevated and addressed. USICH staff worked with its federal, national, state, local and non-governmental partners to galvanize organizations across the country with necessary public health, funding, and resourceful information to take appropriate measures to protect their staff, and position themselves to continue serving those we are committed to serve– the nation's homeless population. We issued a [report](#) in July of this year on our work up to that point. And, the work continues into the current fiscal year 2021.

Additionally, while the response to homelessness across the country has resulted in some progress in specific population groups, much work remains to be done. The status quo simply has not worked sufficiently. Generally, homelessness has been increasing. Federal data demonstrate dramatic increases in sheltered and unsheltered homelessness. With this in mind, while managing our COVID-19 responses, efforts, and on-going work, we were tasked by our Council Chair, Assistant DOL Secretary John Pallasch, to draft an update to our strategic plan. *We announced Expanding the Toolbox: The Whole-of-Government Response to Homelessness* in October 2020 as the new strategic plan. *Expanding the Toolbox: The Whole-of-Government Response to Homelessness*, envisions an approach that dramatically reduces homelessness by engaging and assessing families and individuals with a trauma-informed approach to care that is combined with housing assistance. Ultimately, the aspirational goals included in the plan are intended to expand our collective thinking to move beyond simply providing subsidized housing assistance and optimizing self-sufficiency by reducing reliance on public assistance and implementing policies that pursue this as an end goal. Lastly, Expanding the Toolbox is about just that, expanding the use of options for all efforts towards ending homelessness as we realize there is no panacea, and communities will need to draw on an array of approaches as they go about their work of supporting those they serve.

The plan focuses on eight solutions:

- Employment & Labor
- Mental health and Trauma Informed Care
- Affordable Construction and Affordable Housing Prevention
- Population Specific Programming
- Renewed focus on Racial Disparities
- Alternatives to Criminalizing People Experiencing Homelessness
- National Emergency Readiness

As the only agency in the federal government whose mission is to end homelessness, our role includes building and sustaining a shared national vision captured in our new strategic plan. Our work and mission also include ensuring progress and success in driving federal-state-local partnerships, public and private sector collaboration, and coordination so those collective efforts by stakeholders across the

country are aligned and working in concert towards the same goals – preventing and ending homelessness across the country.

While we experienced unexpected challenges in FY2020, USICH has also realized opportunities to work even closer with our federal, state, and local partners across the country to meet those challenges. The national pandemic has highlighted now than ever, the need for our collective efforts towards safe and stable housing for this nation’s most vulnerable citizens. We look forward to the work ahead, along with our partners across the country, to serve and support those who need our help the most.

Management Discussion and Analysis

USICH was established in 1987 by the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act and most recently reauthorized by the [Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing \(HEARTH\) Act](#) of 2009.

USICH’s mission is two-fold: 1) to drive an efficient and effective federal response to homelessness and 2) to build and foster a national partnership at every level of government and with the private sector to reduce and end homelessness across the nation. We support all of our interagency and community work by publishing a robust body of guidance, tools, and resources that we disseminate through a multi-pronged communications strategy.

USICH focuses on outcome, impact, and performance measurements to maximize billions of dollars in targeted federal homelessness funding and engage localities non-targeted programs, by providing a foundation for evidence-informed practices. USICH does not administer programs or have regulatory authority, nor do we duplicate the efforts of other agencies. Rather, our tools for advancing good governance are through innovative collaborations and strategic engagements that drive streamlined changes and progress across our partners. We recognize the need for continuous improvement on our efforts to reach our most vulnerable, from our governance and onward. As indicated by [a 2020 GAO report](#) focused on clarifying governance responsibilities, we are making progress in the right direction evidenced by the establishment of the [Council Charter](#) in March 2020.

Through our efforts, collective action to end homelessness reaches the highest level of the federal government. Under the Executive Director’s direction, USICH staff supported quarterly meetings of our Council, which include senior leaders from our 19 member agencies. The Council met four times during FY 2020, in December 2019, March 2020, June 2020, and August 2020.

We utilized interagency policy and planning mechanisms such as our interagency working groups that consist of agency senior advisors responsible for coordinating policies and programs, developing special initiatives, and preparing recommendations for consideration by Council members.

To drive day-to-day progress, we also convened a variety of on-going and ad hoc interagency working groups comprised of high-level agency staff from key partners across our 19 member agencies. FY 2020 working groups included:

Solving Veteran Homelessness as One: We designed and prioritized actions to review and confirm communities’ achievement of the goal of ending Veteran homelessness, to ensure efficient and

effective implementation of federal programs targeted to Veterans, and to expand rapid resolution and diversion approaches, among other areas of focus.

Interagency Working Group on Ending Chronic Homelessness among People with Disabilities: We determined actions that supported communities as they worked toward achieving the criteria and benchmark for ending chronic homelessness among people with disabilities, including strategies for strengthening outreach, increasing access to supportive housing, and strengthening collaborations between health and housing agencies, among many other issues.

Interagency Working Group on Ending Family Homelessness: We determined priority action areas to support communities as they worked toward achieving the criteria and benchmarks for ending family homelessness, with an emphasis on strategies to strengthen federal and local partnerships across systems and sectors, connections to permanent housing, and ways to tailor housing and services supports based on unique family needs.

Interagency Working Group on Ending Youth Homelessness: We determined priority action areas to support communities as they worked toward achieving the criteria and benchmarks for ending youth homelessness, including building evidence for effective crisis response and housing strategies for youth, among other issues.

Interagency Working Group on Employment and Homelessness: We determined priority action areas to support communities to more closely integrate employment as part of their efforts to prevent and end homelessness.

Activities of these working groups are described in more detail in the Performance Goals and Accomplishments section below.

We worked with Council agencies to strengthen Federal Regional Interagency Councils on Homelessness in all ten federal regions. We provided technical assistance to regional staff from multiple federal agencies, including HUD, HHS, VA, and DOL, to further develop their collaborative structures and unite behind common regional goals. Some activities in FY 2020 included:

Distributed a quarterly update that highlights activities and action taken by Federal Regional Interagency Councils.

Provided guidance on Covid-19 resources, including USICH webinars, CDC Guidance, and HUD guidance to disseminate to partners and the field within Federal Regions.

Provided guidance, coaching, and content development in partnership with active Federal Regional Interagency Council in quarterly meetings.

Supported HUD in the roll out of the Foster Youth Initiative (FYI) out in all regions and highlighted regional partners.

Partnered in 3-part FRICH 9 webinar series focusing on Maricopa County and federal, state, local elected leaders, and providers. Including COVID-19 response, racial equity, aligning healthcare, housing and homelessness, and reducing Veteran's homelessness.

We brought together community leaders, experts, national partners, and staff from our Council member agencies for exploratory conversations about new strategic actions. For example, in FY 2020, we hosted or co-hosted:

West Coast Cities Peer-to-Peer Calls. In FY 2020, we continued to facilitate monthly conference calls with the West Coast Cities Peer-to-Peer Group, representing mayors' offices in 17 cities represented from CA, HI, OR, WA, and Vancouver BC to share strategies to address common challenges in their efforts to end homelessness. Calls focused on topics such as: encampments, low-barrier shelter, affordable housing, partnerships with law enforcement, the impact of natural disasters and COVID-19.

State Interagency Councils on Homelessness Peer-to-Peer Call. We hosted a peer-to-peer call with 25 State Interagency Councils representatives on Homelessness to provide a forum for information-sharing around strategies and best practices. The call featured presentations by Minnesota and North Carolina, and topics included governance models and use of CARES Act funds.

Presentation by Chapin Hall on Youth Homelessness. Our November 2019 meeting of the Interagency Working Group on Ending Youth Homelessness featured a presentation by Chapin Hall on recommendations for federal action to more effectively prevent and end youth homelessness. These recommendations were subsequently used to help the working group develop research-informed activities and priorities for the FY 2020 Action Plan.

Subgroup on Homelessness Among Older Adults. In light of developing research on the emerging crisis of homelessness among adults aged 55 and over, we convened an ad hoc subgroup during FY 2019 comprised of representatives of HHS, HUD, VA, and others. This subgroup met twice during Q1 and Q1 of FY 2020. One of these meetings featured a presentation from Dr. Margot Kushel on her research regarding older adults and homelessness. During this time, the subgroup also began working to develop a typology of resources for responding to various needs of older adults. While progress has stalled due to COVID-19, we believe this is an important topic to continue to prioritize once agencies have more capacity to focus on non-COVID activities.

Building a National Partnership at Every Level of Government and Across the Private Sector

USICH drives national, regional, state, and local collective action through outcome-oriented partnerships with a wide variety of leaders and decision-makers. Although we made progress in this area, a great deal of our efforts were related to the federal response to COVID-19 as described in more detail further in this report.

State Interagency Councils on Homelessness: We have encouraged every state to develop a state interagency council on homelessness to align public resources, build on innovations and best practices across the country, and promote cost-effective strategies to strengthen coordination within state departments. In FY 2020 we provided technical assistance around developing statewide plans to end homelessness and strengthen governance structures and practices and coordinate strong responses to COVID-19. This included a national peer to peer call with representatives from 25 states and presentations from Minnesota and North Carolina. Additionally, we coordinated peer learning

partnerships with Arizona, California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, and Wisconsin.

Governors, Mayors, and other Elected Officials: Political leadership at the state and local level is critical to advancing progress. The Executive Team and our National Initiatives Team met regularly with Governors, Mayors, and other elected officials and local leaders to provide individualized guidance to address their jurisdictions' unique needs. This included the governors' offices in California, and Hawaii, and the mayors of Honolulu and Kauai, HI, Berkley, Oakland, Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, and San Jose, CA, Meza, AZ, Las Vegas, NV, Portland, OR, New York, NY, Austin, TX, Seattle, WA, Salt Lake City, UT, Boston, MA, Clearwater, Daytona, Miami and Tampa, FL, Fargo, ND, Anchorage, AK, and Denver, CO, and many others. We also worked with associations that support the efforts of a broad array of elected officials, such as the Council of State Governments, National League of Cities, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

In FY 2020, we also continued to facilitate monthly conference calls with the West Coast Cities Peer-to-Peer Group, which represents mayors' offices in 17 cities represented from CA, HI, OR, WA, and Vancouver BC to share strategies to address common challenges in their efforts to end homelessness. Calls focused on topics such as: encampments, low-barrier shelter, affordable housing, partnerships with law enforcement, the impact of natural disasters and Covid-19.

National Non-Profit Organizations and Associations: Through our national stakeholders outreach, we partner with national organizations that drive and influence public agendas on homelessness, housing, and related issues, such as the National Alliance to End Homelessness, National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, National Healthcare for the Homeless Council, A Way Home America, National Low Income Housing Coalition, and many others. We hosted a national stakeholder meeting in FY 2020 that allowed major national non-profit and faith-based organizations to provide input on federal programs and policy development and to identify opportunities for collaboration on important strategic objectives.

Private Sector, Faith-Based, and Philanthropic Partners: The private sector and faith-based and philanthropic organizations dedicated to serving populations at risk of or experiencing homelessness play critical leadership roles, in partnership with public agencies and programs. We work with a variety of stakeholders across those sectors. USICH conducted virtual workshop conference calls with the private sector, faith-based organizations, and direct emergency homelessness service providers. These virtual workshops exemplified powerful partnership with the CDC and other necessary federal agency experts. Through these workshops the sharing of guidance, followed by extensive Question and Answer sessions provided a unique and newly developed opportunity for external partners hear directly from federal leadership on CDC protocols, the CARES Act, the Paycheck Protection Program, Economic Impact Payments, the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program and, HUD Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG). Collaboration throughout the federal government with local entities and the private sector has been instrumental in helping save lives by lessening the demand on local emergency health systems, and thus avoid overwhelming emergency rooms and departments with medically compromised people experiencing homelessness.

Community Leaders: We provide a range of targeted community engagement and technical assistance to community leaders, including overall guidance on implementing coordinated entry, Housing First,

rapid re-housing, and other best practices for ending homelessness. In FY 2020, we provided strategic guidance to stakeholders in all 50 states. We traveled to local communities more than 45 times to convene stakeholders, deliver presentations at conferences, and provide technical guidance and training. And we strengthened state and local strategies through more than 130 in-person meetings with high-ranking and elected state and local officials, and hundreds of additional calls and virtual meetings with state and local leaders.

Providing Tools and Resources for Success

Through a broad communications strategy that includes electronic newsletters, speaking engagements, conference presentations, social media, and media engagement, we disseminate best practices to a wide array of stakeholders across the country.

Beginning in March, this focus shifted towards disseminating information on COVID-19 via [our website](#), newsletter, webinars, and our five Regional Coordinators.

We educated national audiences on new tools and resources through semi-monthly newsletters distributed to an audience of nearly 40,000 subscribers, up from 30,000 at the end of FY 2020. We expanded our social media engagement with over 8,700 individuals following our page on Facebook's platform and 13,600 individuals following on Twitter's platform.

We delivered presentations and serve on expert panels at national conferences focused on homelessness, housing, and related issues, highlighting best practices in preventing and ending homelessness across the country and supporting peer learning among regions, states, and local jurisdictions. For example, we delivered two panel presentations at the annual conference of the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth ([NAEHCY](#)) participated in a plenary session at the 2020 HHS/ACF Native Grantees meeting, presented at the SAMHSA/HRRN: Engaging Subpopulations of Clients Experiencing Homelessness and Serious Mental Illness (SMI) or Co-Occurring Disorders (CODs): Criminal Justice Involvement, and at the among many others.

We hosted or co-hosted eight webinars on: Federal Criteria and Benchmarks for Ending Veteran Homelessness: Version 4; Isolation and Quarantine: Lessons Learned from King County; Reinforcing the Homelessness Crisis Response: Lessons from Seattle & King County; Implementing Assessment and Recovery Centers and Providing Transportation to I/Q Facilities: Lessons from Seattle & King County; Maximizing Funding for Non-Congregate Shelter Opportunities: California's Project Roomkey; Operating Isolation and Quarantine Facilities and Providing Medical, Behavioral Health, and Substance Use Treatment: Lessons from King County; Future Planning for the Homelessness Response System: Lessons Learned from Seattle/King County, Los Angeles, and Houston; Future Planning for the Homelessness Response System: Lessons Learned from Birmingham, Detroit, and New Orleans.

We supported communities in understanding how to use their data to advance equity, assess needs, and more effectively allocate resources. We published [Data Guidance for Analyzing Racial and Ethnic Inequities in Homelessness Crisis Response Systems](#) to provide communities with a framework for gathering and assessing that data. We also published [Navigating Homelessness and Housing Needs Data: Tailoring and Driving Local Solutions](#), which provides an overview of several key data sources,

including data on homeless youth, describes what they measure, and highlights how communities can use that range of information to strengthen their efforts to address homelessness, housing instability, and other housing needs.

In addition, since the release of federal criteria and benchmarks in 2015 to measure progress for ending homelessness among Veterans, 81 communities and 3 states, across 36 different states, have effectively ended Veteran homelessness. And four communities have achieved the [federal criteria and benchmarks for ending chronic homelessness](#).

Other Specific Areas of Focus

During this unprecedented time, a focus for USICH has become the emergency response to COVID-19, with the primary objective of saving lives and not overwhelming local emergency rooms and departments due to medically compromised residents of homelessness facilities and encampments.

Coordinating Federal Response to COVID-19 for People Experiencing Homelessness

During the uncertainty of the global pandemic's start, we have seen the strength of what happens when exigent circumstances bring about strengthened communications between agencies. We have seen what happens when organizations truly come together, pushing differences aside, to achieve the same aim of helping our most vulnerable during times of immediate crisis. In addition to the work already described, specific work in this area has included the following activities:

We chaired the COVID-19 Homelessness Interagency Work Group working in concert with the Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate federal partners and initiatives and gather front-line situational awareness of COVID-19's impact at the community level. The Work Group's efforts have resulted in federal grant information shared across Council members and large direct emergency service providers, COVID-19 funding and waiver information disseminated, food assistance program information distributed, sharing of COVID-19 policy resource guides, consultation program for healthcare providers serving veterans, and more.

We identified opportunities for the IRS to identify mechanisms to ensure that Economic Impact Payments (EIP) were made to those experiencing homelessness that may not have a bank account or an accessible social security number.

Partnered with federal agencies such as CDC, FEMA, HUD, and others to release guidance on COVID-19 response for those experiencing homelessness including CDC's Interim Guidance for Homeless Service Providers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

In conjunction with HHS, HUD, FEMA, published guidance on Federal Programs that Support Individuals Experiencing Homelessness. The guidance helped communities identify forms of federal assistance that can provide additional support to agencies/organizations addressing the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 outbreak. The guidance also provided a listing of federal programs in a funding matrix that may help federal, state, and local funding meet short- and long-term needs.

We contributed to the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) to formally include language on homelessness services in DHS- CISA's *Updated Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers during COVID- 19 Response*. The language in the memorandum included "workers who support food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for needy groups and individuals, including in-need populations and COVID-19 responders (including traveling medical staff)." The language included in this memorandum was instrumental in guiding communities to address concerns about closing emergency shelters that had not been deemed essential by localities.

USICH and FEMA partnered with other federal partners like HHS on regular ESF #6 Homelessness Policy calls and with the ESF #6 Mass Casualty calls. The objective for this coordination was to streamline funding streams for direct emergency homelessness service providers.

We partnered with USDA to disseminate USDA resources that coordinate with state and local entities to provide food resources to families and children experiencing homelessness. USDA provides a site finder map that identifies locations that are serving [free meals](#) to kids and teens 18 years old and under during the pandemic and throughout the summertime.

Additionally, we engaged in proactive outreach to cities, counties and states that had COVID-19 homelessness hot spots. Calls were made to elected officials, senior staff, and direct emergency service agencies in these jurisdictions in order to exchange information and coordinate responses. We set up a 24/7/168 emergency rapid response protocol team. This rapid response team worked directly with potential hot-spot homelessness shelters, centers, and campuses to contain and/or mitigate the spread of the virus within and between emergency facilities. In addition to the facility program operators, USICH's rapid response team generally has worked with CDC, local authorities, and staff from national network organizations proactively to address critical issues.

During the early stages of this pandemic, many local health authorities were over capacity due to the significant increased workload resulting from COVID-19. USICH led the way to develop virtual workshop conference calls to create a space where communities can hear directly from federal agencies in real-time and simultaneously have communities voice concerns or questions that federal agencies should address. USICH leaned into the convening authority to host a series of large-scale conference calls with front-line homelessness service providers and communities that serve extremely vulnerable populations.

These virtual workshop conference calls engaged subject matter experts from the CDC engage in critical dialogue. USISH widely transmitted CDC guidance on COVID-19 regarding homelessness, encampments, and shelters. We collaborated with the CDC, HUD and other federal agencies to coordinate and distribute critical guidance and information on how to address COVID-19 in terms of families and individuals experiencing homelessness. These workshops also offered opportunities to gain situational awareness of what has been occurring on the front lines.

More specifically, our efforts included working with various stakeholders to deliver guidance and coaching with hundreds of virtual meetings and calls to local leaders, cities, state, and federal partners. This also included a series of webinars highlighting the critical work of communities including

Birmingham, AL, Detroit, MI, Los Angeles, California, New Orleans, LA, and Houston, TX and Seattle, WA:

Webinar: Isolation and Quarantine: Lessons Learned from King County, USICH (March 24)

Webinar: Reinforcing the Homelessness Crisis Response: Lessons from Seattle & King County, USICH (March 31)

Webinar: Implementing Assessment and Recovery Centers and Providing Transportation to I/Q Facilities: Lessons from Seattle & King County, USICH (April 13)

Webinar: Maximizing Funding for Non-Congregate Shelter Opportunities: California's Project Roomkey, USICH (April 23)

Webinar: Operating Isolation and Quarantine Facilities and Providing Medical, Behavioral Health, and Substance Use Treatment: Lessons from King County, USICH (May 12)

Webinar: Future Planning for the Homelessness Response System: Lessons Learned from Seattle/King County, Los Angeles, and Houston, USICH (June 17)

Webinar Recording: Future Planning for the Homelessness Response System: Lessons Learned from Birmingham, Detroit, and New Orleans, USICH (July 27)

Staff also worked with US of Care, a National Healthcare Organization, to design a playbook for health system partners throughout the country on best practice models for creating Isolation and Quarantine facilities.

USICH also hosted a series of webinars for state and local government officials that have been focused on real-time lessons learned. The webinars were primarily based on lessons learned in the response of COVID-19 in Seattle and King County, Washington. Representing the area of initial impact of the Coronavirus in United States, these two jurisdictions have had impactful observations and useful lessons learned that USICH has helped share nationally. Key topics of these webinars have included critical issues of response systems as well as isolation and quarantine operations. These webinars included USICH staff, CDC epidemiologists, local officials from Seattle and King County and subject matter experts from other federal agencies on an as-needed basis. These webinars allowed local officials in communities to better prepare for COVID-19 before the virus reached their respective homelessness shelters, centers, and campuses. Beyond the workshop conference calls with state and local officials, USICH hosted workshops with the Women of Color Network and the Women Veterans United Committee. These webinars have reached over 13,000 individuals in communities across the country.

Increasing Affordable Housing Opportunities

While housing affordability concerns vary across the country, there are clearly powerful connections between people's ability to access affordable housing and both their risk of homelessness and their ability to exit homelessness. We need to do everything we can, across all levels of government and in the private sector, to expand access to housing affordable to people who are at risk of or are experiencing homelessness. Activities under this focus area included:

During Q1, we published [a blog](#) on leveraging federal housing resources to increase the supply of affordable housing.

Strengthening Prevention and Diversion Practices

To end homelessness, we must do a better job of preventing housing crises from occurring and diverting people away from the homelessness services system or from becoming unsheltered, when they have safe and appropriate family or social supports available. There is still much to be learned about specific, effective strategies in both areas. Activities under this focus area included:

During Q1 and Q2, we worked with HUD, VA and NAEH on a draft document on the core components of diversion that built on the prevention, diversion and rapid exit document that was published by USICH/HUD/VA in July 2019. NAEH published the final document (one pager infographic) in February 2020.

Through community presentations and other engagements, we continued to advance opportunities to improve efforts to prevent people from entering homelessness as they transition into and out of public systems.

Creating Solutions for Unsheltered Homelessness

While some communities document significant reductions in their annual point-in-time counts, others are faced with increasing numbers of people living unsheltered. Such communities need support to address the immediate safety and health concerns of unsheltered people while also working to develop more low-barrier pathways into housing. Along with HUD and national partners, we continued to provide coordinated technical assistance to support communities – particularly those with the largest increases in unsheltered homelessness – to innovate, test approaches, and implement solutions to reduce and ultimately end unsheltered homelessness.

Regional Coordinators led regular communications with leaders in communities regarding engaging with people experiencing unsheltered homelessness and mitigating the impacts of encampments and the spread of COVID-19. Key communities included Anchorage, Austin, Phoenix/Maricopa County, San Diego City/County, Los Angeles City/County, Oakland/Alameda County and San Jose/Santa Clara, Portland/ Multnomah County, San Antonio, Seattle/ King County, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Southern Nevada, Chicago, Detroit, Denver, and the state of Hawaii.

Facilitated monthly West Coast Cities Peer-to-Peer calls, comprising of 17 cities in HI, CA, OR, WA, and Vancouver BC, where several topics discussed were related to coordination and communication of best practices in addressing unsheltered homelessness and encampments.

Particularly in response to mitigating the spread of COVID-19 among people experiencing unsheltered homelessness and disaster response to significant wildland fires, Regional Coordinators connected with key public health official and federal partners in Region IX and Region X within HUD, VA, HHS and FEMA in their work to ensure strong access to information and resources between federal partners, state, and local leaders and homeless service providers.

Tailoring Strategies for Rural Communities

For rural communities, the challenges of ending homelessness are often exacerbated by the hidden nature of the problem, large geographic expanses, more dispersed or fewer resources, a shortage of transportation and quality housing, and fewer economic and employment opportunities. We must learn

from the work happening in rural communities and intentionally adapt and tailor strategies to address their specific needs. Activities under this focus area included:

We served as a resource to the HUD-sponsored Balance of State Community of Practice, which consists of representatives of more than 15 predominantly rural Continuums of Care (CoCs).

We continued to participate in a Rural National Stakeholders group comprised of HUD, USICH, and representatives of several large national organizations including the Housing Assistance Council (HAC), Salvation Army, National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH), National Community Action Partnership, Council of State Community Development Agencies (COSDCA), and others.

Helping People Who Exit Homelessness Find Employment Success

For households to successfully sustain their exits from homelessness, they must have adequate income to meet basic living expenses. To help people access sustainable employment, federal programs and communities must address obstacles to employment, implement job training and apprenticeship programs that create access to career pathways, and strengthen partnerships between workforce programs and homelessness services and housing programs, among other strategies. Activities under this focus area included:

We provided significant input on a DOL Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) regarding Priority of Service populations for WIOA Adult Services. This guidance is intended to re-emphasize the priority populations for individualized career and training services (recipients of public assistance, low-income individuals, and individuals who are deficient in basic skills), and to strongly encourage states to ensure that at least 75 percent of the state's participants are from at least one of these priority groups. Importantly, the guidance addresses the overlap between people experiencing homelessness and these priority populations and includes a special Appendix dedicated to coordination between workforce systems and homelessness services.

We led three meetings of the Interagency Working Group on Employment and Homelessness and highlighted the working group's progress at the December 2019 Council Meeting.

We supported the launch of the [Pathways Forward Challenge](#) and hosted a presentation by Heartland Alliance during our November 2019 Working Group meeting, which included recommendations for federal partners. Further, we promoted partner resources regarding employment and homelessness, including [a series of case studies](#) by HUD on integrating employment strategies into Rapid Re-Housing programs

Learning from the Expertise of People with Lived Experience

Directly consulting with and learning from people who have experienced homelessness is critical to our success in providing tailored, person-centered solutions to everyone experiencing homelessness. We must help ensure that people with lived experience are part of communities' systemwide and organizational planning and decision-making through hiring practices, leadership opportunities, consultation, and other efforts. Activities under this focus area included:

We hosted a [listening session focused on employment](#) at Friendship Place in DC. A second planned event, at Community of Hope, was postponed due to COVID.

We hosted a virtual listening session to consult with women with lived experiences of homelessness. In partnership with the Women of Color Network, Inc. (WOCN) and Safe Housing Partnerships, we hosted a listening session to discuss promising practices, challenges, and solutions to provide accessible safe, short and long-term housing for survivors, women of color and their families.

As part of the development of *Expanding the Toolbox*, we [hosted a virtual input session](#) to solicit feedback from people with lived experiences of homelessness.

Annual Performance Measures and Metrics

For FY 2020, we developed the following performance metrics to track and measure our activities and impact. Given our concentrated focus on prioritizing our work on and response to COVID-19, we report the following progress.

Driving an Efficient and Effective Federal Response to Homelessness

Provide expert guidance and input to federal agencies to strengthen the implementation of more than \$6 billion of federal investments into targeted homelessness programs.

Result: Fully achieved. We provided guidance and expertise on over **\$4.7 billion** in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act targeted funding for homeless programs from across our council member agencies. We also provide recommendations for the CARES Act approximate \$13 billion funding to an elementary and secondary education emergency relief fund, where the funding was eligible to be used to assist students experiencing homelessness through the Education for Homeless Children and Youths program (EHCY) in FY2020.

Additionally, we provided guidance and input across our Council member agencies on over **\$6 billion** in FY 2020 targeted resources for homelessness programs from across multiple federal agencies and covering multiple sub-populations and focus areas.

We convene at least 25 interagency working group meetings annually.

Result: Partially achieved. We convened four quarterly Council meetings in FY 2020 (December of 2019 and March, June, and August of 2020). We convened a Council Policy Group meeting in November 2019 alongside a Council Senior Advisor Group meeting in March 2020, and 21 interagency working group meetings during FY 2020. (Note: Spring 2020 Interagency Working Group Meetings were canceled to allow agencies to focus on COVID-19 planning and response activities). Also relative to the work to produce a new federal strategic plan in FY 2020, the Council met in October, 2020 to vote on and approve the new plan.

Manage the development and implementation of action plans for at least four (4) population-specific interagency working groups and ensure that at least 75% of strategies and activities projected within those action plans are implemented or achieved.

Result: Fully achieved. We managed implementing action plans for the Working Groups on Employment and Homelessness and on Ending Veteran, Chronic, Youth, and Family Homelessness. We oversaw work to ensure that at least 75% of activities projected within the plans were implemented or achieved. We will review each of the projected activities not yet implemented or achieved and determine with our federal partners if they will be implemented on a different timeframe or should be deprioritized.

Building a National Partnership at Every Level of Government and Among the Private Sector

Provide expert guidance, convene strategic meetings, and/or host peer-to-peer conversations to educate state officials and leaders in at least 15 states and local officials and leaders in at least 40 communities.

Result: Fully achieved and exceeded. We provided guidance and coaching to state leaders in 28 states and community leaders in more than 100 communities.

Convene at least one workshop in each of the 10 federal regions each year to provide professional and technical assistance to states, local governments, and other public and private nonprofit organizations.

Result: Fully achieved. We convened at least one workshop in each federal region, ranging from smaller, focused conversations to larger, statewide, or regional convenings.

Review and confirm at least 15 communities as achieving the goal of ending Veteran homelessness and three communities as achieving the goal of ending chronic homelessness.

Result: Partially achieved. We confirmed three communities as achieving the goal of ending Veteran homelessness, and 5 additional communities were under review at the end of the fiscal year. We continue to provide technical assistance to many communities to expand community-level understanding of the criteria and benchmarks for ending homelessness for these populations and to increase awareness of the confirmation process.

Providing Tools and Resources for Success

Publish and disseminate bi-monthly educational newsletters providing information on federal programs, resources, and guidance regarding effective strategies and best practices, as well as increase subscribers 20% annually.

Result: Partially achieved. USICH produced 24 newsletters in FY 2020.

Publish and disseminate at least 50 new or updated tools and publications.

Result: Partially achieved. We published or updated 27 tools, podcasts, and publications due to our COVID-19 response work's prioritization.

Deliver at least 100 presentations, workshops, and speeches via national, regional, and local conferences, webinars, and conference calls.

Result: Partially achieved due to the pandemic and travel restrictions. Included in our COVID-19 responses are presentations, workshops, and webinars from both staff and our Executive Director.

Management Assurances

Per Circular A-123, USICH management is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls and financial management systems that meet the objectives of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA). With respect to any and all internal and external reviews of the agency, to the best of our knowledge and belief, USICH provides reasonable assurance on the effectiveness of internal controls over operations, management systems, and financial reporting and that its internal controls

over the effectiveness and efficiency of operations were in compliance with applicable laws and regulations as of September 30, 2020, and no material weaknesses were identified in the design or operations of internal controls.

USICH relies on the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the General Services Administration (GSA), both shared services providers, for accounting, payroll and financial services, systems, and reporting requirements. USICH has no in-house financial systems. USICH considers the USDA's financial system, Pegasys, and any other financial systems used by USDA and GSA to support USICH financial operations to be reliable and effective. USICH reviewed each entity's SSAE No. 18 audit report, to assist in assessing internal controls over USICH financial reporting. After a review of FY 2020 results, in which both USDA and GSA received favorable opinions on their SSAE No. 18 audits, USICH discovered no significant issues or deviations in its financial reporting during FY 2020 and therefore believes its internal controls over financial reporting are sufficiently strong.

Population-Specific Work

Accomplishing the federal strategic plan's goals to prevent and end homelessness requires leadership at all levels of government and strong partnerships with businesses, researchers, philanthropy, and non-profits. It also demands a commitment to reassessment and the ability to alter course based on changing conditions and lessons learned.

In FY 2020, USICH continued to work with all these sectors and continued its focus on specific population groups, as follows.

Veterans Homelessness

Between 2010 and 2019, Veteran homelessness was reduced by 50%, including a 53% drop in unsheltered homelessness among Veterans. Estimated homelessness among Veterans decreased by 2% (793 Veterans) between 2018 and 2019. At the same time, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, three additional communities achieved the goal of effectively ending Veteran homelessness in FY 2020, as defined by the [criteria and benchmarks](#) we released in FY 2015 and revised in FY 2019, bringing the total number up to 81 communities and 3 entire states across 36 states.

Through USICH's efforts, federal agencies have engaged in unprecedented coordination and shared responsibility, using data-driven decision-making to drive the deployment of resources through the HUD-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program and the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program, which enable communities to provide a range of housing and services interventions. State and local entities and philanthropy have aligned investments with the federal resources, and communities have formed stronger partnerships to deploy those resources through best practices, including coordinated entry and Housing First approaches.

Driving Progress Across Federal Agencies

USICH and Council agencies are continuing to drive progress through the Solving Veterans Homelessness as One (SVHO) interagency decision-making body, made up of USICH, HUD, and VA officials. SVHO plans and executes strategic actions through goal setting, policy gap identification, communication, and

action. Senior leaders at USICH also serve as ex officio members of the VA Secretary's Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans and inform the group on progress and the work ahead for interagency strategies to end Veteran homelessness.

In FY 2020, SVHO focused on:

Confirming Communities' Achievement of Goal of Ending Veteran Homelessness. We continued the review process for communities seeking federal confirmation of their achievement of the goal of ending Veteran homelessness. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, we continued to see a steady volume of submissions. In FY 2020, three new communities were confirmed, including Burlington/Chittenden County, VT, the Iowa/Illinois Quad Cities Bi-State Region, and the Dakota, Anoka, Washington, Scott, Carver Counties Continuum of Care in Minnesota, and an additional 10 community submissions were reviewed. We continued to collaborate with interagency partners to support elected officials and communities wishing to continue or initiate participation in the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness, including sending a quarterly communication to mayors about new resources.

Ensuring Efficient and Effective Implementation of Federal Programs Targeted to Veterans. A large focus of our efforts during FY 2020 was improving the utilization of HUD-VASH vouchers nationally. We formed and are leading a small interagency workgroup to identify sites with challenges to fully utilizing their allocation of vouchers, speak with local stakeholders to understand more about the barriers and challenges at play, and then work with those communities to identify policy or programmatic options that could potentially help mitigate those barriers. We are hopeful that the lessons learned from this small initiative will inform our broader efforts as it relates to HUD-VASH utilization. In addition, during FY 2020, HUD and VA developed and rolled out a HUD-VASH data-sharing solution, which allows VAMCs to send an export file that can be directly uploaded into a CoC's HMIS system, ensuring more accurate and timely data collection and reporting. We published [a blog](#) highlighting this effort in January 2020.

Driving Progress in Communities

Our team—and particularly our 5-member National Initiative Team and Executive Director—works directly with elected officials, stakeholders, and community decision-makers to advance progress in communities across America.

We participated in the VA's Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans meetings and presented to the Committee on topics such as USICH priorities related to homelessness among Veterans.

We helped more than 15 communities with their efforts to end Veteran homelessness. We provided training and technical assistance at the East Coast and West Coast regional SSVF Rapid Re-Housing Institutes, presenting on sustainability and the criteria and benchmarks for ending Veteran homelessness.

We provided technical assistance and training during Community Solutions' Built for Zero training events in Denver, CO and virtually, focused on providing intensive assistance to 70 communities that have pledged to end Veteran and chronic homelessness.

We convened quarterly TA coordination meetings with federal partners (HUD, DOL, VA) and led technical assistance providers and national partners to provide guidance on the criteria and benchmarks, exchange innovative practices in communities, and align messaging and TA activities.

We facilitated and presented a national webinar on the Veteran Criteria and Benchmarks to review updates and demonstrate the revised Master List and Benchmark Generation Tool, which can help communities gather and track data toward achieving the goal. We presented on the criteria and benchmarks during two monthly calls for VA Coordinated Entry Specialists.

Tools and Resources to Strengthen Practices

We developed and disseminated a diverse array of articles, guidance, and tools to communicate national strategies and priorities, to strengthen states' and communities' activities, and to support the implementation of best practices.

[HUD and VA Identify Data-Sharing Solution for HUD-VASH](#) describes a joint HUD and VA initiative that will facilitate data-sharing on Veterans participating in the HUD-VA Supportive Housing Program (HUD-VASH)

The [Federal Criteria and Benchmarks for Ending Veteran Homelessness Review Tool](#) was updated to align with the most recent version of the Criteria and Benchmarks (Version 4).

We weighed in on this VA white paper on [Effective Practices in Integrating Grant and Per Diem Transitional Housing Programs into Community Coordinated Entry Systems](#).

A newsletter was sent to mayors signed on to the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness to promote new resources in November 2019 and May 2020.

Chronic Homelessness

Between 2010 and 2019, chronic homelessness was reduced by 9%, including a 3% drop in unsheltered chronic homelessness. Between 2018 and 2019, chronic homelessness increased by 9%, or 7,501 individuals. That increase appears to be both driven by worsening conditions and by efforts in many communities to more accurately determine which people meet the definition of chronic homelessness.

This trend of increases in chronic homelessness means we must redouble our efforts to bring to scale what works to end the recurring or long-term homelessness of people with disabilities: supportive housing implemented through Housing First approaches. By prioritizing people experiencing chronic homelessness for existing supportive housing, creating opportunities to bring new units online, and by pairing housing with health and behavioral health services of individuals' choice, communities must make many more units available for people experiencing chronic homelessness with the highest needs.

Driving Progress Across Federal Agencies

During FY 2020, the Interagency Working Group on Ending Chronic Homelessness continued its focus on:

Responding to Unsheltered Homelessness, Particularly in West Coast Communities. We continued to support efforts to address unsheltered homelessness and encampments, particularly in West Coast communities. We conducted 1:1 meetings with 12 Mayors at the USCM Winter meeting, including priority cities: Austin, Denver, Honolulu, Las Vegas, NYC, and Portland. During Q1, our National Initiatives Team provided targeted support in partnership with HUD and NAEH as part of HUD's unsheltered TA initiative (including Alameda, Chicago, Honolulu, LA, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Clara, and Seattle). During the COVID-19 pandemic, we hosted numerous webinars on best practices for establishing non-congregate shelter, which included a discussion of unsheltered homelessness and encampments. We also continued to convene a monthly West Coast Cities peer-to-peer call to allow for exchange of information and best practices.

Strengthening Collaborations Between Health and Housing Partners. We worked closely with our agency partners in FY 2020 to determine how federal housing programs and federal health programs could better collaborate to reduce costs and improve health and housing outcomes. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we collaborated closely with CDC, HHS, HRSA, HUD, NHCHC, NAEH and other homelessness and healthcare partners, including weighing in on CDC guidance and inviting representatives of these agencies to speak on webinars and peer-peer calls. As a result, we have seen unprecedented collaboration between health and housing partners in many communities, particularly as it relates to partnerships with public health.

Providing Guidance and Coaching on the Criteria and Benchmark for Effectively Ending Chronic Homelessness. Since the release of the [criteria and benchmarks](#) in FY 2016, four communities have been confirmed as achieving the goal of ending chronic homelessness: Bergen County, NJ; Rockford, IL; Lancaster County, PA; and the Southwest Minnesota CoC. While we did not receive any official submissions in FY 2020, we worked with HUD and TA providers, including monthly calls, to coach several communities working towards the criteria and benchmark, including Milwaukee, WI, Gulfport, MS, and Prince George's County, MD, Texas Balance of State, Columbus, OH, and Detroit, MI. We plan to continue this activity in FY 2021 to help additional communities achieve the goal.

Driving Progress in Communities

Our entire team—and particularly our 5-member National Initiative Team and Executive Director—works directly with elected officials, stakeholders, and community decision makers to advance progress in communities across America.

We provided technical assistance to communities across the country on topics like Housing First, the prioritization of people experiencing chronic homelessness in permanent supportive housing, outreach and engagement, working with the criminal justice system, and systems change.

We worked with HUD and TA providers, including monthly calls, to coach several communities working towards the criteria and benchmark for effectively ending chronic homelessness.

We engaged with elected officials in Las Vegas/Clark County, Los Angeles, Oakland/Alameda County, San Diego City and County, the San Francisco CoC, and many others as part of HUD's unsheltered TA initiative.

Tools and Resources to Strengthen Practices

We developed and disseminated a diverse array of articles, guidance, and tools to communicate federal guidance and to strengthen states' and communities' activities and support the implementation of best practices.

The [Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Program State Medicaid-Housing Agency Partnerships Toolkit](#), which is based on the tools used to provide program support to 16 states that participated in the IAP State Medicaid-Housing Agency Partnerships Tracks between 2016 and 2018.

The SAMHSA PATH Program provided more than 12 webinars for PATH grantees and other stakeholders. Topics included: Crisis intervention strategies for persons who have a SMI or COD and are experiencing homelessness; Permanent Supportive Housing/Housing First for People Experiencing Homelessness who have a SMI or COD; Engaging Subpopulations of Clients Experiencing Homelessness and SMI or COD Series, which included Bridging Cultural and Social Lines, Older Adults (Including Those Who Have Dementia), Victims of Human Trafficking, and Criminal Justice Involvement; and Successful Outreach to People Living in Encampments.

Families and Children Homelessness

Between 2010 and 2019, homelessness among family households was reduced by 32%, including a 75% drop in unsheltered homelessness among family households, as documented within communities' annual point-in-time counts. The number of family households experiencing homelessness was reduced by 5% (or 2,650 households) between 2018 and 2019. That progress has been driven by the vision of a comprehensive community response to family homelessness described within our [criteria and benchmarks for ending family homelessness](#), published in FY 2017, which are helping government, non-profits, and other partners increase their focus on evidence-based solutions and using their time and resources as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Driving Progress Across Federal Agencies

During FY 2020, USICH led an eight-agency Interagency Working Group on Family Homelessness to identify resources and key strategies needed to achieve the goal of preventing and ending homelessness among families with children. The working group implemented activities to advance short-term and long-term strategies:

Building a Systemic Response to Achieve the Goal of Ending Family Homelessness. During FY 2020, we continued the process of revising and refining the criteria and benchmarks for effectively ending homelessness among families based upon input and feedback from the pilot process we undertook during FY 2018 and FY 2019. We also developed a draft master list and benchmark generation tool that communities can use to collect data gains the criteria and benchmarks. While federal partners have offered comment, revisions to the criteria and benchmarks have been put on hold due to federal agencies' urgent demands to prepare for and respond to COVID-19. However, the draft worksheet tool

developed is still being made available to communities who are working towards the goal. We anticipate that this work will resume once agencies have more capacity to focus on non-COVID-related activities.

Increasing Coordination with Early Care and Education Programs. Building on previous efforts, we published [a blog](#) in Q1 on connecting shelters and transitional housing programs to early care programs, and cross-promoted the Department of Education’s early childhood homelessness state profiles . In September, the Family Interagency Work Group heard presentations from Boston and Chicago on early childhood development activities at family shelter programs developed to respond to COVID-19, including recommendations for federal partners to expand support for families and children experiencing homelessness.

Coordination with Domestic Violence Services. We continued to partner with the federally funded Domestic Violence and Housing Technical Assistance Consortium. Through the interagency working group, USICH provided input into the development of topics for the 2020 Safe Housing Conference as well as the NOFA for survivors of trafficking (initially released by HUD and subsequently released by DOJ). USICH has continued to be an active participant in the DVHTAC activities, including developing the Consortium's consolidated work plan in coordination with HUD, HHS, DOJ, and TA Providers. We also published a blog in October 2019 on strengthening housing outcomes for [domestic violence survivors](#).

Driving Progress in Communities

Our entire team—and particularly our five-member National Initiative Team and Executive Director—works directly with elected officials, stakeholders, and community decision-makers to advance progress in communities across America.

In July 2020, USICH and NAEH convened a meeting of [Day One Families Fund](#) grantees to discuss on-going activities including the expansion of rapid rehousing and diversion for families experiencing homelessness. These lessons learned will be part of an on-going effort to inform the field about promising practices in 2021 and to support the next round of grantees.

We provided on-going technical assistance and guidance to communities working towards the criteria and benchmarks for ending family homelessness.

We provided resources and information to communities specific to family homelessness in the context of COVID-19, such as considerations for family shelters and rapid-rehousing.

Tools and Resources to Strengthen Practices

We developed and disseminated a diverse array of articles, guidance, and tools to communicate federal guidance and to strengthen states’ and communities’ efforts and support the implementation of best practices.

[Supporting Young Children: Connecting Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Programs to Early Care and Education](#) addresses the importance of integrating early care and education to family shelters and transitional housing programs.

[Strengthening Housing Outcomes for Domestic Violence Survivors](#), which highlights the work of the Domestic Violence and Housing Technical Assistance Consortium (DVHTAC) and provides a roundup of resources.

Youth Homelessness

Local point-in-time counts estimate that there were 35,038 unaccompanied youth under the age of 25 experiencing homelessness on any given day in 2019, which represents a 4% decrease from 2018. In addition, there were 7,564 parents and 9,779 children in families in which the parent was a youth.

Data from the Department of Education and Voices of Youth Count also show that there is still much work to be done to reduce and end youth homelessness in America. According to ED's [Federal Data Summary School Years 2015-16 to 2017-18: Education for Homeless Children and Youth](#), 1,508,265 public school students were identified as experiencing homelessness at some point during the 2017-2018 school year, an increase of 15% over a three-year period. And national prevalence research from Chapin Hall's Voices of Youth Count found that 1 in 30 youth ages 13 to 17 and 1 in 10 young adults ages 18 to 25 experience some form of homelessness in a year.

Efforts to improve our data on the scale and scope of youth homelessness help us better understand the full range of solutions, collaborations, and investments needed to achieve and sustain an end to homelessness, by any federal definition, for all youth. Through strong collaboration at the national and local level among the public, private, non-profit, and philanthropic sectors, momentum is growing.

Driving Progress Across Federal Agencies

The Interagency Working Group on Ending Youth Homelessness, made up of seven federal agencies, was focused on the following activities in FY 2020:

Building a Systemic Response to Achieve the Goal of Ending Youth Homelessness. During FY 2020, we continued the process of revising and refining the criteria and benchmarks for effectively ending youth homelessness based upon input and feedback from the pilot process we undertook during FY 2018 and FY 2019. While federal partners have offered comment, revisions to the criteria and benchmarks have been put on hold due to federal agencies' urgent demands to prepare for and respond to COVID-19. We anticipate continuing this work in FY 2021, pending capacity and status of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Improving Understanding of the Scale and Scope of Youth Experiencing Homelessness. The working group focused on developing a more coordinated national estimate of youth homelessness's scale and scope. We continued to promote an understanding of various data sources, including HUD's PIT data, ED's annual federal data summary on homeless children and youth, and findings from the Voices of Youth Count initiative, and how they can be used together to provide a more complete picture of youth homelessness. During Q1, we hosted a presentation by Chapin Hall to the Interagency Working Group on Ending Youth Homelessness, which included a set of recommendations for federal action.

Supporting and Learning from Communities. Throughout FY 2020, member agencies provided significant support to the implementation of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)

and 100-Day Challenges around the country. During Q3, the Executive Director of Larkin Street Youth Services in San Francisco presented to the Interagency Working Group on their response to COVID-19 and how they incorporate trauma-informed care into their work with youth. In November 2019, we presented at the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) conference which included YHDP lessons learned in two different workshops (including cross-system data utilization). We also worked with NAEHCY on developing a session for their annual conference in Q4 to discuss key strategies and actions driving federal interagency collaboration in support of local and state efforts to prevent and end homelessness among families with children, and youth.

Driving Progress in Communities

Our entire team—and particularly our five-member National Initiative Team and Executive Director—works directly with elected officials, stakeholders, and community decision makers to advance progress in communities across America.

We provided on-going technical assistance to communities working towards the criteria and benchmarks for effectively ending youth homelessness.

We presented at the Annual NAEHCY Conference, including two sessions highlighting cross-sector partnerships in YHDP sites, and participated in the Annual Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Grantee Training.

We provided guidance and recommendations to communities participating in 100-day Challenges to End Youth Homelessness.

Tools and Resources to Strengthen Practices

We developed and disseminated a diverse array of articles, guidance, and tools to communicate federal guidance and to strengthen states' and communities' activities and support the implementation of best practices.

[Preventing Youth Homelessness: Partnerships Between Homelessness Services and Juvenile Justice Systems](#), which highlights two communities' work to leverage partnerships between the homelessness services and justice systems to disrupt and end the cycle of homelessness among youth and young adults.

[Navigating Homelessness and Housing Needs Data: Tailoring and Driving Local Solutions](#), which provides an overview of several key data sources, including data on homeless youth, describes what they measure, and highlights how communities can use that range of information to strengthen their efforts to address homelessness, housing instability, and other housing needs.

[Partnering with Higher Education to Prevent and End Homelessness in Prince George's County, Maryland](#), which highlights a 100-Day Challenge site.

[Supporting Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness during the COVID-19 Outbreak: Questions to Consider](#)

Homelessness Among All Other Individuals

Point-in-time count data estimates that more than two in three people experiencing homelessness (396,045 people) were “individuals,” in 2019, that is, in households without children. Homelessness among individuals has increased by 0.2% between 2010 and 2019, and the data shows a 6% increase in the number of individuals experiencing homelessness between the 2018 and 2019 counts.

In FY 2020, our work in this area included a strong focus on the health and safety of individuals living in unsheltered locations, including in encampments.

Driving Progress Across Federal Agencies

To address the growing population of individuals experiencing homelessness, we focused on:

Advancing Efforts to Address Encampments and Unsheltered Homelessness. USICH, with HUD and national partners, supported communities – particularly those with the largest increases in unsheltered homelessness – to innovate, test approaches, and implement solutions that will reduce and ultimately end unsheltered homelessness. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we hosted numerous webinars on best practices for keeping people safe, which included a discussion of unsheltered homelessness and encampments. We also continued to convene a monthly West Coast Cities peer-to-peer call to exchange information and best practices. This included multiple facilitated discussions on strategies for addressing unsheltered homelessness and encampments.

Building Strategies to Address Homelessness Among Older Adults. Our ad hoc sub-working group on older adults met twice during the first half of FY 2020. One of these meetings featured a presentation by Dr. Margot Kushel from the University of California-San Francisco, one of the nation’s foremost researchers on homelessness, including among older adults. During this time, the subgroup also began working to develop a typology of resources for responding to various needs of older adults. While the working group was put on hold during COVID-19, we believe this is an important topic to continue to prioritize once agencies have more capacity to focus on non-COVID-related activities.

Driving Progress in Communities

Our team—and particularly our five-member National Initiative Team and Executive Director—works directly with elected officials, stakeholders, and community decision-makers to advance progress in communities across America.

We provided training and technical assistance during the National Conference on Ending Individual Homelessness and affiliated meetings.

We convened monthly meetings with key city staff from 17 communities as part of the West Coast Mayors Alliance to address issues related to increases in unsheltered homelessness in those communities.

HHS/SAMHSA, HHS/ACL, and HUD delivered the second webinar in the Engaging Subpopulations of Clients Experiencing Homelessness and Serious Mental Illness (SMI) or Co-Occurring Disorders (CODs) series, which focused on older adults (including older adults with dementia).

Tools and Resources to Strengthen Practices

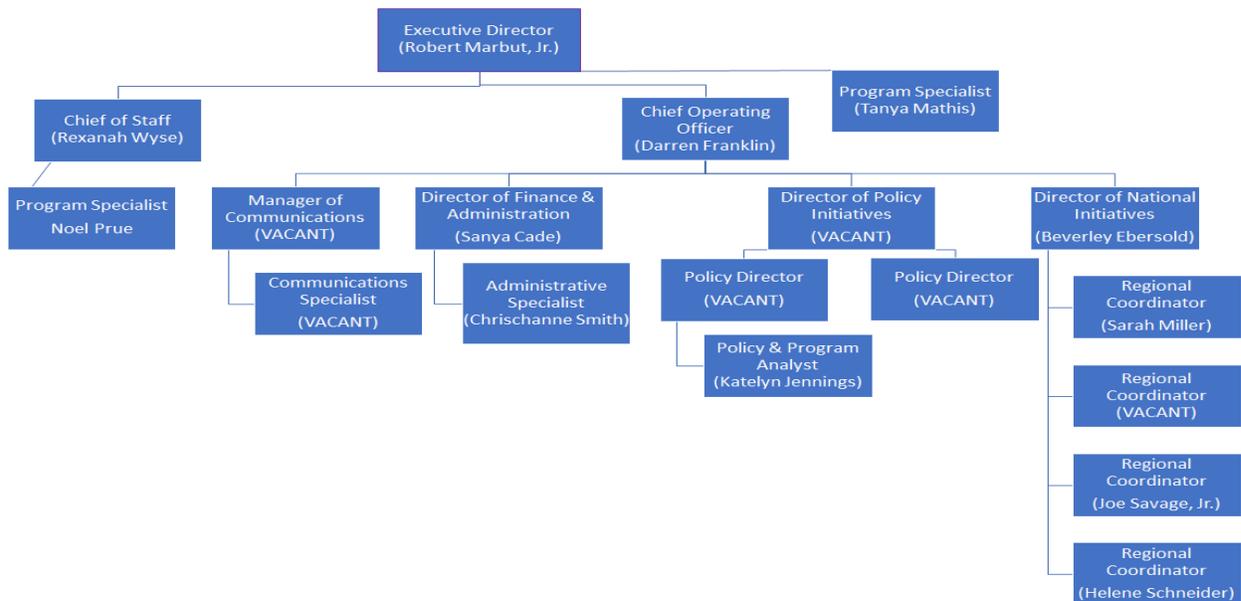
We developed and disseminated a diverse array of articles, guidance, and tools to communicate federal guidance and to strengthen states’ and communities’ activities and support the implementation of best practices.

[Partnering with State Police on Boston’s 2020 Homeless Census](#), which describes the City of Boston’s partnership with law enforcement to find and identify people experiencing homelessness during the Point-in-Time Count.

We disseminated dozens of guidance documents on our [COVID-19 landing page](#), many of which pertain to individuals experiencing homelessness.

Agency Operations

The success of our efforts to prevent and end homelessness in this country is heavily dependent on USICH’s ability to attract, support, and continuously develop highly skilled staff. USICH employee performance is tied directly to the success of the agency's mission, strategies, objectives, and overall performance. The agency's organizational structure, which follows, supports USICH’s success in achieving its mission, goals, and objectives.



Financial Statements, Auditor’s Reports, and Other Requirements

To keep operational costs at a minimum and focus the bulk of the agency's budgetary resources directly towards accomplishing the agency’s mission, USICH outsources support for several mission support components to other government entities via shared services agreements—the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the General Services Administration (GSA). These support areas include human capital, finance, payroll, legal counsel, and EEO processing, to name a few.

USICH maintains control of the work and approval/authorization processes, and both USDA and GSA execute transactions and perform other operations support work as directed by USICH. USICH also outsources website and network support to private entities. These and other mission support areas fall under the Agency's Director of Finance and Administration's direct responsibility.

USICH utilizes USDA's accounting system to track and report on its finances. No instances of improper payments occurred during FY 2020 or previous years.

As a Federal agency, USICH prepares annual financial statements in conformity with U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and undertakes an independent annual audit to ensure reliability in assessing the Council's financial health and performance. Each year, USICH prepares the following financial statements:

Balance Sheet

Statement of Net Cost

Statement of Changes in Net Position

Statement of Budgetary Resources

These statements are accompanied by corresponding notes.

For FY 2020, USICH received an unmodified opinion, the highest audit opinion available. Further, independent, certified auditors found: USICH's financial statements as of and for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2019, and 2018, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; no material weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting based on the procedures performed; and, no reportable noncompliance for fiscal year 2020 with provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements that were tested.

USICH processes its payroll transactions through USDA's Pentaho accounting system, and other subsystems and GSA's PAR payroll accounting system. Both of these offices operate out of Kansas City, MO.

USICH's financial statements and notes are presented in the format required for the current year by OMB guidance, such as Circular A-136, *Financial Reporting Requirements*, and other applicable guidance, and are audited via the *Generally Accepted Auditing Standards* issued by the AICPA and the standards of financial audits contained in the *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and other applicable guidance.

Balance Sheet

The balance sheet presents the total dollar amounts available for use by USICH (assets) against the amounts owed (liabilities) and amounts that comprise the difference (net position). Total assets for USICH are \$962,193. Of those total assets, \$960,377 are attributable to the Agency's Fund Balance with the Department of Treasury, \$1,816 are attributable to Accounts Receivable. Fund Balance with

Treasury is funding available for specific fiscal years through the Department of Treasury accounts from which USICH is authorized to make expenditures and pay amounts due.

For depreciation purposes, a threshold of \$5,000 per item is used in order to determine capitalization. Capitalized property, plants, and equipment is recorded at original acquisition cost. Straight line depreciation and a useful life of five years are used in depreciation calculations. Acquisitions not meeting these criteria are recorded as expenses.

Total liabilities equal \$653,522, including accounts payable, which consists of liabilities to other government agencies, commercial vendors, contractors, and disbursements in transit. At fiscal year-end, USICH accrues the amount of estimated unpaid expenses. Also, at fiscal year-end, USICH accrues payroll for services rendered by USICH employees and leave accrued, but not yet paid out. To the extent current and prior-year appropriations are not available to fund annual leave earned but not taken, funding is obtained from future appropriations.

Statement of Net Cost

This statement presents the annual cost of operating USICH. The gross cost less any offsetting revenue is used to arrive at the net cost of operations. All USICH's costs incurred were directly related to the support and advancement of its mission and directives per the Administration and Congress. Net Cost of Operations for FY 2020 equals \$3,720,598.

Statement of Changes in Net Position

The State of Changes in Net Position presents accounting items that caused the net position section of the balance sheet to change from the beginning to the end of the reporting period. USICH's net position for FY 2020 is \$308,671.

Statement of Budgetary Resources

This statement provides information on how budgetary resources were made available to USICH and the status of those budgetary resources at year-end. USICH is funded through congressional appropriation totaling \$3,800,000 for operations attributable to FY 2020. Unobligated balances from prior fiscal years totaled \$202,155, giving USICH total budgetary resources of \$4,002,155. Net outlays for activity during FY 2020 totaled \$3,497,596 for all funds, including new obligations as well as upward adjustments of past obligations.

Limitations of the Financial Statements

As required by OMB Circular A-136, *Financial Reporting Requirements*, USICH discloses the following limitations on USICH's FY 2020 financial statements, which are contained in this Report. The financial statements are prepared to report the financial position and results of operations of USICH, pursuant to the requirements of 31 U.S.C. § 3515 (b). The statements are prepared from the books and records of USICH in accordance with GAAP for federal entities and the formats prescribed by OMB. These statements are in addition to the financial reports used to monitor and control budgetary resources, which are prepared from the same books and records. The statements should be read with the realization that they are for a component of the U.S. Government, a sovereign entity.

Fraud Reduction

OMB Circular A-136 requires agencies to report on its fraud reduction efforts. USICH reports the following actions:

USICH has taken measurements to reduce fraud opportunities and incidents. We have in place controls that keep the likelihood of these events to a minimum, including the following:

New employees are required to attend ethics training upon hire with HUD ethics attorneys.

The Handbook details certain actions that are taken seriously, including fraud, waste, and abuse, and associated actions that will be taken by management in the event that these actions occur, including an Ethics/Code of Conduct Policy. Each employee is required to sign an acknowledgement of/and agreement to adhere to this and other applicable policies upon receipt and review of the Handbook.

A periodic review, update, and physical count of USICH inventory and property.

Management sets the ethical tone at the Council through its own actions and through its dialogue with Council staff.

USICH contracts with the General Services Administration to post and process all financial transactions, generation of vendor payments, generation of financial reports and financial statements, and processing of payroll and benefits payments and withholding for USICH employees. GSA employees review each transaction for accuracy, as well as validity.

Biennial Review of User Fees

OMB Circular A-136 requires agencies to review, on a biennial basis, fees, rents, royalties, and other charges imposed by the agency for services and things of value. For FY 2020 USICH had no items applicable to this review requirement.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness
Washington, D.C.

In our audits of the fiscal years 2020 and 2019 financial statements of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), we found

- USICH's financial statements as of and for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2020, and 2019, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles;
- no material weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting based on the limited procedures we performed; and
- no reportable noncompliance for fiscal year 2020 with provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements we tested

The following sections discuss in more detail (1) our report on the financial statements, which includes required supplementary information (RSI) and other information included with the financial statements; (2) our report on internal control over financial reporting; and (3) our report on compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements.

Report on the Financial Statements

In accordance with the provisions of Accountability of Tax Dollars Act of 2002 (ATDA) (Pub. L. No. 107-289), we have audited USICH's financial statements. USICH's financial statements comprise the balance sheets as of September 30, 2020, and 2019; the related statements of net cost, changes in net position, and budgetary resources for the fiscal years then ended; and the related notes to the financial statements.

We conducted our audits in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards. We believe that the audit evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Management's Responsibility

USICH's management is responsible for (1) the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; (2) preparing, measuring, and presenting the RSI in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; (3) preparing and presenting other information included in documents containing the audited financial statements and auditor's report, and ensuring the consistency of that information with the audited financial statements and the RSI; and (4) maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, including the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. We are also responsible for applying certain limited procedures to RSI and other information included with the financial statements.

An audit of financial statements involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the auditor's assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit of financial statements also involves evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. Our audits also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

Opinion on Financial Statements

In our opinion, USICH's financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, USICH's financial position as of September 30, 2020, and 2019, and its net cost of operations, changes in net position, and budgetary resources for the fiscal years then ended in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

U.S. generally accepted accounting principles issued by the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB) require that the RSI be presented to supplement the financial statements. Although the RSI is not a part of the financial statements, FASAB considers this information to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the financial statements in appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the RSI in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the RSI and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to the auditor's inquiries, the financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during the audit of the financial statements, in order to report omissions or material departures from FASAB guidelines, if any, identified by these limited procedures. We did not audit and we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI because the limited procedures we applied do not provide sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information

USICH's other information contains a wide range of information, some of which is not directly related to the financial statements. This information is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements or the RSI. We read the other information included with the financial statements in order to identify material inconsistencies, if any, with the audited financial statements. Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on USICH's financial statements. We did not audit and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the other information.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In connection with our audits of USICH's financial statements, we considered USICH's internal control over financial reporting, consistent with our auditor's responsibility discussed below. We performed our procedures related to USICH's internal control over financial reporting in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards.

Management's Responsibility

USICH's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, including the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

In planning and performing our audit of USICH's financial statements as of and for the year ended September 30, 2020, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards, we considered the USICH's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of USICH's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on USICH's internal control over financial reporting. We are required to report all deficiencies that are considered to be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We did not consider all internal controls relevant to operating objectives, such as those controls relevant to preparing performance information and ensuring efficient operations.

Definition and Inherent Limitations of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

An entity's internal control over financial reporting is a process effected by those charged with governance, management, and other personnel, the objectives of which are to provide reasonable assurance that (1) transactions are properly recorded, processed, and summarized to permit the preparation of financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, and assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition, and (2) transactions are executed in accordance with provisions of applicable laws, including those governing the use of budget authority, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements due to fraud or error.

Results of Our Consideration of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described above, and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses and significant deficiencies or to express an opinion on the effectiveness of USICH's internal control over financial reporting. Given these limitations, during our audit, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Intended Purpose of Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our consideration of USICH's internal control over financial reporting and the results of our procedures, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the USICH's internal control over financial reporting. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards in considering internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, this report on internal control over financial reporting is not suitable for any other purpose.

Report on Compliance with Laws, Regulations, Contracts, and Grant Agreements

In connection with our audits of USICH's financial statements, we tested compliance with selected provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements consistent with our auditor's responsibility discussed below. We caution that noncompliance may occur and not be detected by these tests. We performed our tests of compliance in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards.

Management's Responsibility

USICH's management is responsible for complying with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements applicable to USICH.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to test compliance with selected provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements applicable to USICH that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in USICH's financial statements, and perform certain other limited procedures. Accordingly, we did not test compliance with all laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements applicable to USICH.

Results of Our Tests for Compliance with Laws, Regulations, Contracts, and Grant Agreements

Our tests for compliance with selected provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements disclosed no instances of noncompliance for fiscal year 2020 that would be reportable under U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards. However, the objective of our tests was not to provide an opinion on compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements applicable to USICH. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Intended Purpose of Report on Compliance with Laws, Regulations, Contracts, and Grant Agreements

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of compliance with selected provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards in considering compliance. Accordingly, this report on compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements is not suitable for any other purpose.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the management of the USICH, OMB, and the U.S. Congress, and is not intended to be, and should not be used by anyone other than these specific parties.

Brown & Company

Greenbelt, Maryland

December 15, 2020

U.S. INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS
BALANCE SHEET
As of September 30, 2020, and 2019

		<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Asset:			
Intragovernmental:			
Fund Balance With Treasury	(Note 3)	\$ 960,377.00	\$ 891,666.65
Total Intragovernmental		<u>960,377.00</u>	<u>891,666.65</u>
Accounts Receivable, net	(Note 4)	1,815.93	1,915.49
General Property, Plant and Equipment, Net	(Note 5)	<u>-</u>	<u>145.24</u>
Total Assets		<u>\$ 962,192.93</u>	<u>\$ 893,727.38</u>
Liabilities:	(Note 6)		
Intragovernmental:		\$ 2,137.36	\$ 2,137.36
Accounts Payable			
Other:	(Note 7)		
Employer Contributions and Payroll Taxes Payable		27,890.30	24,155.25
Liability for Non-Entity Assets Not Reported on the Statement of Custodial Activity	(Note 2)	<u>878.93</u>	<u>978.49</u>
Total Intragovernmental		<u>30,906.59</u>	<u>27,271.10</u>
Accounts Payable		359,598.71	265,681.76
Other:	(Note 7)		
Accrued Funded Payroll and Leave		91,707.20	86,034.96
Employer Contributions and Payroll Taxes Payable		3,132.05	3,118.61
Unfunded Leave		<u>168,177.00</u>	<u>171,511.84</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>\$ 653,521.55</u>	<u>\$ 553,618.27</u>
Net Position:		\$ 504,929.81	\$ 539,557.14
Unexpended Appropriations - All Other Funds (Consolidated Totals)			
Cumulative Results of Operations - All Other Funds (Consolidated Totals)		(196,258.43)	(199,448.03)
Total Net Position - All Other Funds (Consolidated Totals)		<u>308,671.38</u>	<u>340,109.11</u>
Total Net Position		<u>308,671.38</u>	<u>340,109.11</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Position		<u>\$ 962,192.93</u>	<u>\$ 893,727.38</u>

The accompany notes are an integral part of these statements.

U.S. INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS
STATEMENT OF NET COST
As of And For The Years Ended September 30, 2020, and 2019

	2020	2019
Program Costs:		
USICH:		
Gross Costs	\$3,720,598.27	\$3,736,572.51
Net Program Costs	3,720,598.27	3,736,572.51
Net Cost of Operations	\$3,720,598.27	\$3,736,572.51

The accompany notes are an integralpart of these statements.

U.S. INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET POSIITON
As of And For The Years Ended September 30, 2020, and 2019

	FY 2020 (CY)			Consolidated Totals
	Funds From Dedicated	All Other Funds	Eliminations	
	Collections (Consolidated Totals)			
Unexpended Appropriations:				
Beginning Balance		\$ 539,557.14		\$ 539,557.14
Budgetary Financing Sources:				
Appropriations Received		3,800,000.00		3,800,000.00
Other Adjustments		(233,693.32)		(233,693.32)
Appropriations Used		(3,600,934.01)		(3,600,934.01)
Total Budgetary Financing Sources		(34,627.33)		(34,627.33)
Total Unexpended Appropriations		<u>\$ 504,929.81</u>		<u>\$ 504,929.81</u>
Cumulative Results from Operations:				
Beginning Balance		\$ (199,448.03)		\$ (199,448.03)
Budgetary Financing Sources:				
Appropriations Used		3,600,934.01		3,600,934.01
Other Financing Sources (Non-Exchange):				
Imputed Financing		122,853.86		122,853.86
Total Financing Sources		3,723,787.87		3,723,787.87
Net Cost of Operations		3,720,598.27		3,720,598.27
Net Change		<u>3,189.60</u>		<u>3,189.60</u>
Cumulative Results of Operations		<u>(196,258.43)</u>		<u>(196,258.43)</u>
Net Position		<u>\$ 308,671.38</u>		<u>\$ 308,671.38</u>

The accompany notes are an integralpart of these statements.

U.S. INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET POSIITON
As of And For The Years Ended September 30, 2020, and 2019

	FY 2019 (CY)			Consolidated Totals
	Funds From Dedicated	All Other Funds (Consolidated Totals)	Eliminations	
	Collections (Consolidated Totals)			
Unexpended Appropriations:				
Beginning Balance		\$ 693,201.35		\$ 693,201.35
Budgetary Financing Sources:				
Appropriations Received		3,600,000.00		3,600,000.00
Other Adjustments		(182,140.71)		(182,140.71)
Appropriations Used		(3,571,503.50)		(3,571,503.50)
Total Budgetary Financing Sources		(153,644.21)		(153,644.21)
Total Unexpended Appropriations		<u>\$ 539,557.14</u>		<u>\$ 539,557.14</u>
Cumulative Results from Operations:				
Beginning Balance		\$ (184,410.24)		\$ (184,410.24)
Budgetary Financing Sources:				
Appropriations Used		3,571,503.50		3,571,503.50
Other Financing Sources (Non-Exchange):				
Imputed Financing		150,031.22		150,031.22
Total Financing Sources		3,721,534.72		3,721,534.72
Net Cost of Operations		3,736,572.51		3,736,572.51
Net Change		(15,037.79)		(15,037.79)
Cumulative Results of Operations		<u>(199,448.03)</u>		<u>(199,448.03)</u>
Net Position		<u>\$ 340,109.11</u>		<u>\$ 340,109.11</u>

The accompany notes are an integralpart of these statements.

U.S. INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS
STATEMENT OF BUDGETARY RESOURCES
As of And For The Years Ended September 30, 2020, and 2019

	<u>2020</u> <u>Budgetary</u>	<u>2019</u> <u>Budgetary</u>
BUGETARY RESOURCES		
Unobligated balance from prior year budget authority, net	\$ 202,155.45	\$ 437,746.78
Appropriations (discretionary and mandatory)	3,800,000.00	3,600,000.00
Total budgetary resources	<u>\$ 4,002,155.45</u>	<u>\$ 4,037,746.78</u>
STATUS OF BUGETARY RESOURCES		
New obligations and upward adjustments (total)	\$ 3,643,209.27	\$ 3,615,813.83
Unobligated balance, end of year:		
Apportioned, unexpired account	<u>158,181.38</u>	<u>7,890.94</u>
Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	158,181.38	7,890.94
Expired unobligated balance, end of year	<u>200,764.80</u>	<u>414,042.01</u>
Unobligated balance, end of year (total)	<u>358,946.18</u>	<u>421,932.95</u>
Total budgetary resources	<u>\$ 4,002,155.45</u>	<u>\$ 4,037,746.78</u>
OUTLAYS, NET		
Outlays, net (discretionary and mandatory)	<u>\$ 3,497,596.33</u>	<u>\$ 3,638,381.04</u>
Agency outlays, net (discretionary and mandatory)	<u>3,497,596.33</u>	<u>3,638,381.04</u>

The accompany notes are an integralpart of these statements.



U.S. INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 1 – Significant Accounting Policies

Reporting Entity

Congress established the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness in 1987 with the passage of the *Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act*. The mission of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) is to coordinate the federal response to homelessness and to 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.

USICH financial statements include Fund types as described below.

General Funds are accounts used to record financial transactions arising under congressional appropriations or other authorizations to spend general revenues. USICH has six general funds as outlined in Note 3.

Miscellaneous Receipt Funds are considered non-entity accounts since USICH management does not exercise control over how the monies in these accounts can be used. Miscellaneous Receipt Fund accounts hold receipts and accounts receivable resulting from miscellaneous activities of USICH where, by law, such monies may not be deposited into funds under USICH management control. The U.S. Department of the Treasury (U.S. Treasury) automatically transfers all cash balances in these receipt accounts to the General Fund of the U.S. Treasury at the end of the fiscal year.

The miscellaneous receipt funds consist of the following:

- Fines, Penalties, and Forfeitures, Not Otherwise Classified
- General Fund Proprietary Interest, Not Otherwise Classified
- General Fund Proprietary Receipts, Not Otherwise Classified

Basis of Presentation

These financial statements have been prepared from the accounting records of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as promulgated by the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB), and OMB (Office of Management and Budget) Circular A-136, “Financial Reporting Requirements.” GAAP for Federal entities is the Hierarchy of accounting principles prescribed in the American Institute of Certified Public Accountant’s (AICPA) Statement on Auditing Standards No. 91, *Federal GAAP Hierarchy*.

OMB Circular A-136 requires agencies to prepare principal statements, which include a Balance Sheet, a Statement of Net Cost, a Statement of Changes in Net Position, and a Statement of Budgetary Resources. The balance sheet presents, as of September 30, 2020, amounts of future economic benefits owned or managed by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (assets), amounts owed by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (liabilities), and amounts, which comprise the difference (net position). The Statement of Net Cost reports the full cost of the program, both direct and indirect costs of the output, and the costs of identifiable supporting services provided by other segments within the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness and other reporting entities. The Statement of Budgetary Resources reports an agency's budgetary activity.

Basis of Accounting

Transactions are recorded on the accrual accounting basis in accordance with general government practice. Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when earned, and expenses are recognized when a liability is incurred, without regard to receipt or payment of cash. The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

Revenues and Other Financing Sources

The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness is an appropriated fund and receives appropriations. Other financing sources for the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness consist of imputed financing sources which are costs financed by other Federal entities on behalf of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, as required by Statement of Federal Financial Accounting Standard (SFFAS) No. 5, Accounting for Liabilities of the Federal Government.

Classified Activities

Accounting standards require all reporting entities to disclose that accounting standards allow certain presentations and disclosures to be modified, if needed, to prevent the disclosure of classified information.

Note 2 – Non-Entity Assets

As of September 30, 2020, certain amounts reported on the Balance Sheet are elements of Miscellaneous Receipt Funds, which are not available to management for use in ongoing operations and are classified as Non-entity assets (see Note 1- Reporting Entity). The only non-entity asset balances were as follows.

	<u>FY 2020</u>	<u>FY 2019</u>
Interest Receivable	\$ 85.89	\$ 123.67
Penalties and Fines Receivable	253.04	553.24
Administrative Fees Receivable	540.00	301.58
Total	<u>\$ 878.93</u>	<u>\$ 978.49</u>

Note 3 – Fund Balance With Treasury

All of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness fund balance with treasury comes from appropriations. This fund balance with treasury is a consolidated balance of five annual funds (910: FY 2016, FY 2017, FY 2018, FY 2019 and FY 2020). The annual FY 2015 fund was cancelled and the remaining fund balance of \$233,693.32 was given back to the U.S. Treasury during fiscal year 2020.

	<u>FY 2020</u>	<u>FY 2019</u>
Status of Fund Balance with Treasury		
1) Unobligated Balance		
a) Available	\$ 158,181.38	\$ 7,890.94
b) Unavailable	200,764.80	414,042.01
1) Obligated Balance not yet Disbursed	<u>601,430.82</u>	<u>469,733.70</u>
Total	<u>\$ 960,377.00</u>	<u>\$ 891,666.65</u>

Note 4 – Accounts Receivable, Net

The line item represents the Account Receivable Claims from Associates. It is showing a debit balance. The direct write-off method is used for uncollectible receivables. The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness has historically collected any receivables due and thus has not established an allowance for uncollectible accounts.

	<u>FY 2020</u>	<u>FY 2019</u>
A/R Claims - Non - Federal	\$ 1,815.93	\$ 1,915.49
Total	<u>\$ 1,815.93</u>	<u>\$ 1,915.49</u>

Note 5 - General Property, Plant and Equipment, Net

As of September 30, 2020, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness shows Equipment – Administrative total cost of \$34,250.94 and a net book value of \$0. The Accumulated Depreciation to date shows a balance of \$34,250.94. The depreciation calculation method used is Straight Line with a useful life of 5 years. However, for the items that were obligated in FY 2003 and received in FY 2005, the useful life is 3 years. A \$5,000 threshold is used to determine whether items are capitalized.

FY 2020	<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Furniture & Fixtures</u>	<u>Software</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cost	\$ 34,250.94	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 34,250.94
Accumulative Depreciation	<u>(34,250.94)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>\$ (34,250.94)</u>
Net Book Value	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
FY 2019	<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Furniture & Fixtures</u>	<u>Software</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cost	\$ 34,250.94	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 34,250.94
Accumulative Depreciation	<u>(34,105.70)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>\$ (34,105.70)</u>
Net Book Value	<u>\$ 145.24</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 145.24</u>

Note 6 – Liabilities Not Covered by Budgetary Resources

Liabilities of U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness are classified as liabilities covered or not covered by budgetary resources. As of September 30, 2020, U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness showed liabilities covered by budgetary resources of \$485,344.55 and liabilities not covered by budgetary resources of \$168,177.00.

The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness's liabilities are as follows:

	<u>FY 2020</u>	<u>FY 2019</u>
Intragovernmental		
Accounts Payable	\$ 2,137.36	\$ 2,137.36
Employer Contributions and Payroll Taxes Payable	27,890.30	24,155.25
Liability for Non-Entity assets Not Reported on the Statement of Custodial Activity	878.93	978.49
Total Intragovernmental	<u>30,906.59</u>	<u>27,271.10</u>
With the Public		
Accounts Payable	359,598.71	265,681.76
Accrued Funded Payroll and Leave	91,707.20	86,034.96
Employer Contributions and Payroll Taxes Payable	3,132.05	3,118.61
Unfunded Leave	168,177.00	171,511.84
Total With the Public	<u>622,614.96</u>	<u>526,347.17</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 653,521.55</u>	<u>\$ 553,618.27</u>
Total Liabilities Not Covered by Budgetary Resources	\$ 168,177.00	\$ 171,511.84
Total Liabilities Covered by Budgetary Resources	<u>485,344.55</u>	<u>382,106.43</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 653,521.55</u>	<u>\$ 553,618.27</u>

Note 7 – Other Liabilities

Other liabilities with the public for the year ended September 30, 2020 and 2019 consist of Accrued Funded Payroll and Leave, Employer Contributions and Payroll Taxes Payable and Unfunded Leave in the amounts shown below. Other Intragovernmental liabilities consist of Employer Contributions and Payroll Taxes Payable.

	FY 2020		
	Non-Current	Current	Total
Intragovernmental			
Employer Contributions and Payroll Taxes Payable	\$ -	\$ 27,890.30	\$ 27,890.30
Liability for Non-Entity assets Not Reported on the Statement of Custodial Activity	878.93	-	878.93
Total Intragovernmental	\$ 878.93	\$ 27,890.30	\$ 28,769.23
Liabilities With the Public			
Accrued Funded Payroll and Leave	\$ -	\$ 91,707.20	\$ 91,707.20
Employer Contributions and Payroll Taxes Payable	-	3,125.05	3,125.05
Unfunded Leave	168,177.00	-	168,177.00
Total Liabilities With the Public	\$ 168,177.00	\$ 94,832.25	\$ 263,009.25
Total Other Liabilities	\$ 169,055.93	\$ 122,722.55	\$ 291,778.48
	FY 2019		
	Non-Current	Current	Total
Intragovernmental			
Employer Contributions and Payroll Taxes Payable	\$ -	\$ 24,155.25	\$ 24,155.25
Liability for Non-Entity assets Not Reported on the Statement of Custodial Activity	978.49	-	978.49
Total Intragovernmental	\$ 978.49	\$ 24,155.25	\$ 25,133.74
Liabilities With the Public			
Accrued Funded Payroll and Leave	\$ -	\$ 86,034.96	\$ 86,034.96
Employer Contributions and Payroll Taxes Payable	-	3,118.61	3,118.61
Unfunded Leave	171,511.84	-	171,511.84
Total Liabilities With the Public	\$ 171,511.84	\$ 89,153.57	\$ 260,665.41
Total Other Liabilities	\$ 172,490.33	\$ 113,308.82	\$ 285,799.15

Note 8 – Operating Lease and Future Lease Payments

USICH occupies office space under a lease agreement that is accounted for as an operating lease. The current office lease term began on October 2, 2017 and expires on June 30, 2020. Lease payments are increased annually based on the USICH's proportionate share of the building's operating expenses and real estate taxes. The total operating lease expenses as of September 30, 2017 and 2016 were \$226,509 and \$265,500, respectively.

Below is a schedule of estimated future payments for the term of the lease.

Fiscal Year	Office Space Cost Estimates
2021	\$259,456
2022	\$259,721
2023	\$259,991
2024	\$ 65,066
Year 5 and Subsequent Years	\$ 0
Total future payments	\$884,234

Note 9 – Inter-Entity Costs

USICH recognizes certain inter-entity costs for goods and services that are received from other federal entities at no cost or at a cost less than the full cost. Certain costs of the providing entity that are not fully reimbursed are recognized as imputed cost and are offset by imputed revenue. Such imputed costs relate to employee benefits. The Conference recognizes as inter-entity costs the amount of accrued pension and post-retirement benefit expenses for current employees. The assets and liabilities associated with such benefits are the responsibility of the administering agency, OPM. For the periods ended September 30, 2020 and 2019, respectively, inter-entity costs were as follows:

	<u>FY 2020</u>	<u>FY 2019</u>
Office of Personnel Management	<u>\$ 122,853.86</u>	<u>\$ 150,031.22</u>
Total Imputed Financing Sources	<u>\$ 122,853.86</u>	<u>\$ 150,031.22</u>

Note 10 – Net Adjustments To Unobligated Balance, Brought Forward, October 1

The Unobligated Balance Brought Forward from the prior fiscal year has been adjusted for recoveries of prior year paid and unpaid obligations and other changes such as canceled authority. The Adjustments to Unobligated Balance Brought Forward, October 1, as of September 30, 2020, and 2019, consisted of the following:

	<u>FY 2020</u>	<u>FY 2019</u>
Unobligated Balance Brought Forward, October 1	\$ 421,932.95	\$ 614,053.38
Recoveries of Prior Year Obligations	13,915.82	5,834.11
Other changes in Unobligated Balances	<u>(233,693.32)</u>	<u>(182,140.71)</u>
Unobligated Balance From Prior Year Budget Authority, Net	<u>\$ 202,155.45</u>	<u>\$ 437,746.78</u>

Note 11 – Undelivered Orders at the End of the Period

Undelivered orders represent the value of goods and services ordered and obligated that have not been received. This amount includes any orders for which advance payment has been made but for which delivery or performance has not yet occurred.

The amount of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness' budgetary resources obligated for undelivered orders was \$145,983.63 and \$117,624.19 as of September 30, 2020 and 2019, respectively.

	<u>Unpaid Undelivered Orders</u>	<u>Paid Undelivered Orders</u>	<u>Total Undelivered Orders</u>
Intragovernmental			
2020	\$ 1,531.52	\$ -	\$ 1,531.52
2019	\$ 117,624.19	\$ -	\$ 117,624.19
With the Public			
2020	\$ 144,452.11	\$ -	\$ 144,452.11
2019	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total			
2020	\$ 145,983.63	\$ -	\$ 145,983.63
2019	\$ 117,624.19	\$ -	\$ 117,624.19

Note 12 – Explanation of Difference between the SBR and the Budget of the US Government

SFFAS No. 7, *Accounting for Revenue and Other Financing Sources and Concepts for Reconciling Budgetary and Financial Accounting*, requires an explanation of material differences between budgetary resources available, the status of those resources and outlays as presented in the Statement of Budgetary Resources to the related actual balances published in the *Budget of the United States Government* (Budget). The Budget that will include FY 2020 actual budgetary execution information is scheduled for publication in February 2021, which will be available through OMB's website at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb>. Accordingly, information required for such disclosure is not available at the time of publication of these financial statements.

Balances reported in the FY 2019 SBR and the related President's Budget reflected the following:

FY 2019	<u>Budgetary Resources</u>	<u>New Obligations & Upward Adjustments (Total)</u>	<u>Net Outlays</u>
Statement of Budgetary Resources	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00
<i>Budget of the U.S. Government</i>	<u>\$ 4.00</u>	<u>\$ 4.00</u>	<u>\$ 4.00</u>
Difference	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

The difference between the Statement of Budgetary Resources and the *Budget of the United States Government* for budgetary resources, obligations incurred and net outlays are primarily due to rounding. A portion of the difference in the budgetary resources is due to expired unobligated balances being reported in the Statement of Budgetary Resources but not in the Budget of the United States Government.

Note 13 – Reconciliation of Net Operating Cost and Net Budgetary Outlays

USICH has reconciled its budgetary obligations and non-budgetary resources available to its net cost of operations.

	FY 2020		
	<u>Intragovernmental</u>	<u>With the Public</u>	<u>Total</u>
Net Operating Cost (SNC)	\$ 3,720,598.27	\$ -	\$ 3,720,598.27
Components of Net Operating Cost Not Part of the Budgetary Outlays			
Property, plant, and equipment depreciation	-	(145.24)	(145.24)
(Increase)/Decrease in Liabilities not affecting Budget Outlays:			
Accounts payable	-	(93,916.95)	(93,916.95)
Salaries and benefits	(3,735.05)	(5,685.68)	(9,420.73)
Other liabilities	99.56	3,334.84	3,434.40
Components of Net Operating Cost Not Part of the Budgetary Outlays			
Federal employee retirement benefit costs	(122,853.86)	-	(122,853.86)
Total Components of Net Operating Cost Not Part of the Budgetary Outlays	<u>(126,489.35)</u>	<u>(96,413.03)</u>	<u>(222,902.38)</u>
Net Outlays (Calculated Total)	<u>\$ 3,594,108.92</u>	<u>\$ (96,413.03)</u>	<u>\$ 3,497,695.89</u>
Related Amount on the Statement of Budgetary Resources			
Outlays, net (SBR Line 4190)			<u>\$ 3,497,596.33</u>
Agency Outlays, (SBR Line 4210)			<u>\$ 3,497,596.33</u>

	FY 2019		
	<u>Intragovernmental</u>	<u>With the Public</u>	<u>Total</u>
Net Operating Cost (SNC)	\$ 3,736,572.51	\$ -	\$ 3,736,572.51
Components of Net Operating Cost Not Part of the Budgetary Outlays			
Property, plant, and equipment depreciation	-	(2,409.36)	(2,409.36)
(Increase)/Decrease in Liabilities not affecting Budget Outlays:			
Accounts payable	122.10	75,820.63	75,942.73
Salaries and benefits	(1,721.67)	(7,343.52)	(9,065.19)
Other liabilities	-	(12,628.43)	(12,628.43)
Components of Net Operating Cost Not Part of the Budgetary Outlays			
Federal employee retirement benefit costs	(150,031.22)	-	(150,031.22)
Total Components of Net Operating Cost Not Part of the Budgetary Outlays	<u>(151,630.79)</u>	<u>53,439.32</u>	<u>(98,191.47)</u>
Net Outlays (Calculated Total)	<u>\$ 3,584,941.72</u>	<u>\$ 53,439.32</u>	<u>\$ 3,638,381.04</u>
Related Amount on the Statement of Budgetary Resources			
Outlays, net (SBR Line 4190)			<u>\$ 3,638,381.04</u>
Agency Outlays, (SBR Line 4210)			<u>\$ 3,638,381.04</u>