

INCREASE ACCESS TO STABLE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING (cont'd)

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES
<p>FOUR Provide permanent supportive housing to prevent and end chronic homelessness</p>	<p>a. Improve access to and use of supportive housing by encouraging prioritization and targeting for people who need this level of support to prevent or escape homelessness.</p> <p>b. Create protocols and consider incentives to help people who have achieved stability in supportive housing—who no longer need and desire to live there—to move into affordable housing to free units for others who need it.</p> <p>c. Expand the supply of permanent supportive housing, in partnership with state and local governments and the private sector.</p> <p>d. Assess options for more coordinated, sustainable, dependable sources of supportive housing service funding. This should include consideration of incentives for local communities to develop supportive housing and how best to coordinate service funding with housing funding.</p>

THEME: INCREASE ECONOMIC SECURITY

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES
<p>FIVE Increase meaningful and sustainable employment for people experiencing or most at risk of homelessness</p>	<p>a. Collaborate with economic recovery and jobs programs to ensure that job development and training strategies focus attention on people who are experiencing or most at risk of homelessness.</p> <p>b. Review federal program policies, procedures, and regulations to identify educational, administrative, or regulatory mechanisms that could be used to improve access to work support.</p> <p>c. Develop and disseminate best practices on helping people with histories of homelessness and barriers to employment enter the workforce, including strategies that take into consideration transportation, child care, child support, domestic violence, criminal justice history, disabling conditions, and age appropriateness.</p> <p>d. Improve coordination and integration of employment programs with homelessness assistance programs, victim assistance programs, and housing and permanent supportive housing programs.</p> <p>e. Increase opportunities for work and support recovery for Veterans with barriers to employment, especially Veterans returning from active duty, Veterans with disabilities, and Veterans in permanent supportive housing.</p>
<p>SIX Improve access to mainstream programs and services to reduce people's financial vulnerability to homelessness</p>	<p>a. Document, disseminate, and promote the use of best practices in expedited access to income and work supports for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. This includes improved outreach to homeless assistance providers and collaborations across government and with community nonprofits, online consolidated application processing, and electronic submission. Consider lessons learned from the SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery Initiative (SOAR), and the Homeless Outreach and Projects and Evaluation Initiative (HOPE).</p> <p>b. Review federal program policies, procedures, and regulations to identify administrative or regulatory mechanisms that could be used to remove barriers and improve access to income supports.</p> <p>c. Enhance public information, targeted communications, and a national toll-free homeless call center to ensure that all Veterans and their families know they can obtain homelessness prevention assistance from the VA or other places in their community.</p> <p>d. Create clear pathways to greater financial independence. Collaborate to review program eligibility and termination criteria across the range of programs which people experiencing or at risk of homelessness may access. Identify changes that should be made to create incentives for work, earning and retaining income while maintaining access to health coverage, housing assistance, child care, etc. until a household is earning enough through employment to be financially stable.</p> <p>e. Prepare for Medicaid expansion to effectively enroll people who experience or are most at risk of experiencing homelessness. This should include systems to reach out to, engage, and enroll newly eligible people in health care insurance benefits.</p>

THEME: IMPROVE HEALTH AND STABILITY

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES
<p>SEVEN Integrate primary and behavioral health care services with homeless assistance programs and housing to reduce people's vulnerability to and the impacts of homelessness</p>	<p>a. Encourage partnerships between housing providers and health and behavioral health care providers to colocate or coordinate health, behavioral health, safety, and wellness services with housing and create better resources for providers to connect patients to housing resources.</p> <p>b. Build upon successful service delivery models to provide services in the homes of people who have experienced homelessness including using Medicaid-funded Assertive Community Treatment Teams for those with behavioral health needs.</p> <p>c. Seek opportunities to establish and evaluate the effectiveness of a "medical home" model to provide integrated care for medical and behavioral health, and to improve health and reduce health care costs in communities with the largest number of people experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>d. Seek opportunities to establish medical respite programs in communities with the largest number of people experiencing homelessness to allow hospitals to discharge people experiencing homelessness with complex health needs to medical respite programs that will help them transition to supportive housing.</p> <p>e. Increase availability of behavioral health services, including community mental health centers, to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.</p> <p>f. Improve access to child and family services that improve early child development, educational stability, youth development, and quality of life for families—including expectant families, children, and youth experiencing or most at risk of homelessness.</p>

THEME: IMPROVE HEALTH AND STABILITY (cont'd)

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES
<p>EIGHT Advance health and housing stability for youth aging out of systems such as foster care and juvenile justice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Improve discharge planning from foster care and juvenile justice to connect youth to education, housing, health and behavioral health support, income supports, and health coverage prior to discharge. b. Review federal program policies, procedures, and regulations to identify administrative or regulatory mechanisms that could be used to remove barriers and improve access to stable health care, housing, and housing supports for youth. c. Promote targeted outreach strategies to identify youth experiencing homelessness who are most likely to end up in an emergency room, hospital, jail, or prison, and connect them to the housing and support they need.
<p>NINE Advance health and housing stability for people experiencing homelessness who have frequent contact with hospitals and criminal justice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Improve discharge planning from hospitals, VA medical centers, psychiatric facilities, jails, and prisons to connect people to housing, health and behavioral health support, income and work supports, and health coverage prior to discharge. b. Promote targeted outreach strategies to identify people experiencing homelessness who are most likely to end up in an emergency room, hospital, jail, or prison, and connect them to the housing and support they need. c. Increase the number of jail diversion courts at the state and local levels that are linked to housing and support, including those specifically for Veterans, those experiencing homelessness, or people with mental health issues or drug abuse problems. d. Reduce criminalization of homelessness by defining constructive approaches to street homelessness and considering incentives to urge cities to adopt these practices.

THEME: RETOOL THE HOMELESS CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES
<p>TEN Transform homeless services to crisis response systems that prevent homelessness and rapidly return people who experience homelessness to stable housing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop and promote best practices for crisis response programs and increase their adoption by agencies receiving federal funds. b. Determine opportunities to utilize mainstream resources to provide housing stabilization assistance to clients who are homeless or at high risk of homelessness. c. Develop implementation strategies for the HEARTH Act—especially the new Emergency Solutions Grant—that sustain best practices learned from the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program and the Rapid Re-Housing Demonstration. d. Ensure continuity in the provision of homeless prevention and rapid re-housing services to families, youth, and individuals—including Veterans and their families—through HUD’s Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program. e. Ensure that homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing strategies are coordinated with Education for Homeless Children and Youth, and incorporated within federal place-based strategies to improve neighborhoods and schools, including Promise Neighborhoods and Choice Neighborhoods.

VER. 06/13/10



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