

Read the Plan.

www.usich.gov/home-together

#HomeTogether



Home, Together:

THE FEDERAL STRATEGIC PLAN TO
PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS



UNITED STATES INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

Panelists

Matthew Doherty
Executive Director

Lindsay Knotts
Policy Director

Webinar Format

- 90 minute webinar
- Approximately 45 minutes for questions
- To ask a question at any time, use the question and answer feature
- This webinar will be recorded and posted to www.usich.gov

Home.

Because we know that the only true end to homelessness is a safe and stable place to call home.

Together.

Because the solutions are going to take all of us working together, doing our parts, strengthening our communities.





HOME, TOGETHER



01:23





How Did We Get Here?

- Listening to and learning **from you**
- Building upon **what's working**
- Addressing **areas in need of greater attention**





Our Shared National Goals

- Ending homelessness among **Veterans**
- Ending chronic homelessness among **people with disabilities**
- Ending homelessness among **families with children**
- Ending homelessness among **unaccompanied youth**
- Ending homelessness among **all other individuals**





Structure for Plan

Operational definition: Comprehensive response that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible, or if it can't be prevented, it is a **rare, brief, and one-time experience.**

Criteria and benchmarks: Essential elements of comprehensive systems and the **outcomes those systems must be able to achieve.**

**Rare,
Brief &
One-Time**



Areas of Increased Focus

- Increasing **affordable housing** opportunities
- Strengthening **prevention and diversion** practices
- Creating solutions for **unsheltered homelessness**
- Tailoring strategies for **rural communities**
- Helping people who exit homelessness to find **career success and economic mobility**
- Learning from the **expertise of people with lived experiences of homelessness**



1) Ensure Homelessness is a **Rare** Experience



Objective 1.1:
Collaboratively Build
Lasting Systems that
End Homelessness



Objective 1.1: Collaboratively Build Lasting Systems to End Homelessness

Strategies:

- a) Equip states and communities to set their own bold and ambitious goals for ending homelessness and to prioritize and appropriately scale state, local, public, and private investments
- b) Strengthen the collection, reporting, and utilization of essential data sources
- c) Engage people with lived experience
- d) Further engage and support state and local elected officials, and educate partners and the public
- e) Provide guidance about the roles that a wide range of federal programs and resources can play to support best practices and increase their impact within efficient systems



1) Ensure Homelessness is a **Rare** Experience



Objective 1.2:
Increase Capacity
and Strengthen
Practices to Prevent
Housing Crises and
Homelessness



Objective 1.2: Increase Capacity and Strengthen Practices to Prevent Housing Crises and Homelessness

Strategies:

- a) Promote development of an expanded supply of safe and affordable rental homes
- b) Improve access to federally funded housing assistance by eliminating administrative barriers and encouraging targeting and prioritization of affordable housing
- c) Increase community capacity and state-level coordination to effectively identify, target, and connect at-risk individuals and families to local resources and opportunities that contribute to and strengthen housing stability
- d) Strengthen the evidence base for effective homelessness prevention programming and interventions



Objective 1.2: Increase Capacity and Strengthen Practices to Prevent Housing Crises and Homelessness

Strategies (continued):

- e) Improve efforts to prevent people from entering homelessness as they transition from other systems, such as justice settings, health care facilities, and foster care
- f) Strengthen diversion strategies and practices
- g) Identify and promote implementation of eviction prevention strategies
- h) Utilize opportunities in child welfare policy to expand resources for community-based preventive services to support stable housing outcomes
- i) Encourage programs that are not specifically dedicated to ending homelessness to fund interventions that promote and support housing stability or to prioritize or serve individuals and families experiencing homelessness



2) Ensure Homelessness is a **Brief** Experience

Objective 2.1:

Identify and
Engage All People
Experiencing
Homelessness as
Quickly as Possible





Objective 2.1: Identify and Engage All People Experiencing Homelessness as Quickly as Possible

Strategies:

- a) Support increased capacity of communities to ensure that identification, outreach, and engagement efforts are comprehensive and coordinated
- b) Provide targeted guidance and technical assistance to communities with high rates of unsheltered homelessness and high-cost, low-vacancy housing markets
- c) Promote targeted outreach, in-reach, and data collection strategies to strengthen state and local efforts to identify people experiencing chronic homelessness and frequent users of shelter and other systems



Objective 2.1: Identify and Engage All People Experiencing Homelessness as Quickly as Possible

Strategies (continued):

- f) Strengthen capacity in rural and suburban areas to maximize outreach efforts
- g) Support communities to develop partnerships with law enforcement that reduce the criminalization of homelessness
- h) Help communities to develop the skills of staff to implement essential best practices



2) Ensure Homelessness is a **Brief** Experience

Objective 2.2:

Provide Immediate Access to Low-Barrier Emergency Shelter or other Temporary Accommodations to All Who Need It





Objective 2.2: Provide Immediate Access to Low-Barrier Emergency Shelter and other Temporary Accommodations to All Who Need It

Strategies:

- a) Partner with communities to identify and define appropriate standards for the provision of emergency shelter and other temporary accommodations
- b) Enhance the capacity of emergency shelter providers to implement low-barrier approaches
- c) Improve access to emergency assistance, housing, and supports for historically underserved and overrepresented groups



Objective 2.2: Provide Immediate Access to Low-Barrier Emergency Shelter and other Temporary Accommodations to All Who Need It

Strategies:

- f) Increase the availability of medical respite programs
- g) Align services to ensure that people with behavioral health care needs have adequate and appropriate access to emergency shelter or other temporary accommodations
- h) Continue to assess and retool transitional housing programs to best address local needs



2) Ensure Homelessness is a **Brief** Experience

Objective 2.3:

Implement
Coordinated Entry to
Standardize
Assessment and
Prioritization
Processes and
Streamline
Connections to
Housing and Services





Objective 2.3: Implement Coordinated Entry to Standardize Assessment and Prioritization Process and Streamline Connections to Housing and Services

Strategies:

- a) Support the implementation of strong coordinated entry processes that provide effective, low-barrier, comprehensive, and coordinated access to housing and services programs
- b) Encourage a wide range of programs to develop or strengthen partnerships with coordinated entry processes and to implement effective practices for referrals between systems



Objective 2.3: Implement Coordinated Entry to Standardize Assessment and Prioritization Process and Streamline Connections to Housing and Services

Strategies (continued):

- f) Strengthen the focus on income and employment within coordinated entry systems to effectively target and connect individuals and families to opportunities
- g) Develop and strengthen best practices in population-specific coordinated entry strategies and processes
- h) Support rural and suburban areas to implement effective, regionally specific coordinated entry processes



2) Ensure Homelessness is a **Brief** Experience

Objective 2.4:

Assist People to Move Swiftly into Permanent Housing with Appropriate and Person-Centered Services





Objective 2.4: Assist People to Move Swiftly into Permanent Housing with Appropriate and Person-Centered Services

Strategies:

- a) Support communities to expand the supply and increase access to rental housing subsidies and other affordable housing options
- b) Increase the capacity of communities to implement Housing First and harm reduction practices
- c) Encourage increased use of health, behavioral health, TANF, workforce, early childhood education, K-12 and higher education supports, and child welfare programs
- d) Provide guidance and technical assistance to assist communities to implement and improve outcomes for rapid re-housing for families, youth, and individuals
- e) Increase access to permanent housing models for people with substance use disorders, including opioid use disorders



Objective 2.4: Assist People to Move Swiftly into Permanent Housing with Appropriate and Person-Centered Services

Strategies (continued):

- f) Support communities to implement expanded “move-on” strategies to assist people who have achieved stability in permanent supportive housing
- g) Help communities set specific, ambitious short-term goals
- h) Continue to improve targeting of permanent supportive housing for people with disabilities experiencing chronic homelessness
- i) Improve access to federally funded housing assistance by eliminating administrative barriers and encouraging prioritization
- j) Encourage partnerships between housing providers and health and behavioral health care providers, such as health centers



3) Ensure Homelessness is a One-Time Experience



Objective 3.1:
Prevent Returns to Homelessness through Connections to Adequate Services and Opportunities



Objective 3.1: Prevent Returns to Homelessness through Connections to Adequate Services and Opportunities

Strategies:

- a) Strengthen effective implementation of the core components of rapid re-housing—housing identification, rent and move-in assistance, case management
- b) Support communities to increase on-the-job training and apprenticeship opportunities, supported employment, and other strategies that offer access to employment and career pathways
- c) Review federal program policies, procedures, regulations, and administrative barriers to improve access to employment opportunities and income supports



Objective 3.1: Prevent Returns to Homelessness through Connections to Adequate Services and Opportunities

Strategies (continued):

- f) Encourage state and local efforts to implement a flexible array of behavioral health services that impact housing stability
- g) Support communities to increase access to and retention within high-quality education programs
- h) Share examples and best practices that support communities to maintain capacity to provide resources that will promote the long-term stability of people who have entered permanent housing
- i) Strengthen coordination between early childhood, education, housing, employment, and homelessness services providers as part of a whole-family approach



4) Sustain an End to Homelessness

Objective 4.1:
Sustain Practices
and Systems at a
Scale Necessary to
Respond to Future
Needs





Objective 4.1: Sustain Practices and Systems at Scale Necessary to Respond to Future Needs

Strategies:

- a) Support communities to track and measure their progress
- b) Identify and promote the strategies of communities that have effectively ended homelessness among one or more populations and are successfully sustaining those achievements
- c) Support communities to implement continuous quality improvements to housing and services interventions

A photograph of two men in a workshop or industrial setting. The man on the left is wearing a dark cap and a blue long-sleeved shirt, smiling broadly as he high-fives the man on the right. The man on the right is also smiling. The background is dark and industrial, with some structural elements visible. The text "What's next?" is overlaid in white on the right side of the image.

**What's
next?**



We want to hear from you.

#HomeTogether

Read the Plan.

www.usich.gov/home-together

