



# *Opening Doors*

FEDERAL STRATEGIC PLAN TO  
PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS

UPDATE 2013



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PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS

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- middle* A mother and her child at the business she started as part of her effort to transition from welfare. Used with permission of St. Stephen's Human Services, Minneapolis, Minnesota
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- top* Housing complex in North Adams, Massachusetts. Photo courtesy of the U.S Department of Veterans Affairs
- left* After many years of chronic homelessness, man (seen here with St. Stephens staff) secures a permanent place to live. Used with permission of St. Stephen's Human Services, Minneapolis, Minnesota
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*USICH would like to thank the photographers who generously donated use of their work.*



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## Preface from the Chair

I am pleased to present the third annual update on *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*.

With the launch of *Opening Doors* in June 2010, the Obama Administration began an ambitious, comprehensive plan to end homelessness. The 19 Federal agencies that constitute the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) have generated significant momentum over the past three years. Our nation has made significant strides in reducing the number of people experiencing homelessness.

Homelessness overall has declined by six percent since 2010, and for the first time, there are reductions across all populations. Over the last three years, homelessness among people in family households declined by more than eight percent, and chronic homelessness fell by more than 15 percent. These are remarkable achievements during a recovering economy.

Our most significant progress was in preventing and ending homelessness among Veterans, in which the number of Veterans experiencing homelessness has decreased 24 percent in the past three years. This achievement is the result of focused efforts by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and unprecedented Federal agency collaboration, which included but was not limited to strategic partnerships with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), USICH, and other important Federal and community partners.

The seamless partnership across HUD, VA, and USICH has been essential to the dramatic success of the Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program. Strategic implementation of this program, using a Housing First approach, led to the deepest reduction yet in the number of unsheltered Veterans. The number of Veterans living on the street has decreased by 16 percent in the course of just one year. Federal investments in solutions have been critical to achieving this progress.

Through interagency collaboration, the Obama Administration is fulfilling the promise of *Opening Doors*. USICH, HUD, the Department of Education, and the Department of Health and Human Services worked in partnership to design and implement YouthCount!—an initiative aimed at improving the data on unaccompanied youth who are experiencing homelessness. To solve this problem, we must be able to see it. Improving the data, particularly for homeless young people, can only happen by working collaboratively across agencies and systems.

Our remarkable progress demonstrates that when we invest strategically and act with urgency, homelessness is a problem we can solve. *Opening Doors* provides us with the framework, and we are on a path to success. Keep up the great work!

Sincerely,

Eric K. Shinseki, USICH Chair and Secretary of Veterans Affairs





## Executive Summary

Three years have passed since the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) launched *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*. This update provides the latest data on the number of people experiencing homelessness, an overview of the progress USICH and its partner agencies have made toward the goals set forth in *Opening Doors*, and information on USICH and member agencies' activities and accomplishments in the third year of implementation since the release of *Opening Doors* in June 2010.

*Opening Doors* has served as a catalyst for significant progress in preventing and ending homelessness in the United States. *Opening Doors'* implementation throughout the country continues to grow. The 2013 Point-in-Time (PIT) count reflected a steady and significant decrease in national rates of homelessness since the launch of *Opening Doors* in 2010. This trend is evidence that, in partnership with communities across the country, the Obama Administration has had a significant impact on the trajectory of homelessness. The progress is particularly remarkable given the economic downturn our country faced and the reality of an economy that has slowly, but steadily been improving. According to HUD's national PIT estimate, the total number of people identified as experiencing homelessness on a single night decreased by six percent between 2010 and 2013 and four percent between 2012 and 2013. The decrease in persons who are unsheltered was even greater, dropping by 13 percent since 2010 and over 11 percent between 2012 and 2013.

Progress was made across all sub-populations. Perhaps most notably, the country has seen homelessness among Veterans decline by 24 percent since 2010. In addition, the number of people experiencing chronic homelessness declined by 15.7 percent between 2010 and 2013. For the first time in the last five years, the number of families on the street or in homeless programs at a point in time decreased in 2013, as did the number of families experiencing homelessness over the course of a year. Data from HUD's 2013 PIT indicated that 71,000 families were homeless at a point-in-time in 2013. Longitudinal data from HUD's AHAR indicate that a larger number—167,000 families—were homeless and sheltered at some point in 2012. Department of Education data, which includes doubled-up households, indicate that more than one million school-age children and their families were homeless at some point during the 2012-2013 school year.

Ending homelessness is possible. However, the country must make adequate investments in effective interventions in order to achieve that goal. Using the tools available (e.g. broad dissemination of information, Federal guidance, technical assistance, and competitive awards) USICH and Council agencies have supported communities' efforts to implement evidence-based practices and maximize efficiencies wherever possible.

In Phoenix/Maricopa County, Arizona, for example, USICH, HUD, and the VA worked closely with State and local partners to increase focus on collaboration and data-driven decision-making. As a result of a close partnership between VA staff, the Arizona Department of Veterans Services, public housing agencies, and local non-profit and public partners, the community announced that it has ended chronic homelessness among Veterans. The accomplishment will be verified through the 2014 Point-in-Time count.

Understanding that permanent supportive housing is the key solution for chronic homelessness, in Houston, Texas, Federal and local partners designed an initiative to use Federal housing and health care resources to create at least another 1,000 units of permanent supportive housing. Supported by analytic tools provided by USICH and HUD, Federal and local partners in Houston are confident that the additional housing units will contribute towards the goal of ending chronic homelessness in their city.

*Opening Doors* recognizes that homelessness cannot be solved with targeted homeless programs alone. In the last year, the Council developed toolkits and provided technical assistance and guidance to help communities better leverage the mainstream housing and supports necessary to advance efforts on ending homelessness.

For example, HUD provided public housing agencies (PHAs), as well as owners and operators of HUD-funded multi-family housing programs, with guidance on how to improve access to affordable housing for people experiencing homelessness in their communities. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued guidance on how communities can use funds from the Temporary Assistance or Needy Families (TANF) program to provide rapid re-housing to families who are experiencing homelessness. USICH created a database of solutions to further assist communities in their efforts to improve their approaches to ending homelessness. The database includes examples of best practices from around the country, a Housing First Checklist, and a guidebook PHAs can use to increase their efforts to coordinate with local homelessness service providers.

USICH, Council agencies, and communities have been doing everything possible within existing resources to accelerate progress. With sustained support and investment in solutions that work, achieving the goals of *Opening Doors* is within reach. Failure to invest in solutions is the more costly route. Not only is homelessness destructive and demoralizing for individuals and families, it is also expensive for taxpayers. Too often, people experiencing homelessness become caught in a revolving door between emergency departments, hospitals, and the criminal justice system, resulting in high costs to the public and poor outcomes for the individuals. Research continues to show that this revolving door pattern contributes to the rising cost of Medicaid as well as other costs associated with this system of care. Providing affordable housing and supportive services creates a platform for health and stability for individuals as well as for the community at-large.

*Opening Doors* has demonstrated that the right strategies are in place to succeed. By relentlessly pursuing the goals in *Opening Doors* and fully investing in solutions that work, the United States can achieve the vision that no one should be without a safe and stable place to call home.

# Introduction

## Background on the Council and *Opening Doors*

USICH’s mission 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. The Council consists of 19 Federal agencies (see sidebar). In 2013, VA Secretary Eric Shinseki became Chair and HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan became Vice Chair. USICH Executive Director Barbara Poppe has served in this capacity since November 2009. The Council is supported by 13 professional and administrative staff based in Washington, DC, and four regional coordinators across the country.

On June 22, 2010, USICH and its 19 member agencies released *Opening Doors*, the nation’s first-ever comprehensive strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness. It serves as a roadmap for joint action by the Federal government and its partners at the State and local levels. *Opening Doors* is based on the vision that no one should experience homelessness—no one should be without a safe, stable place to call home. *Opening Doors* was developed as a five-year plan, covering Federal fiscal years 2010-2014, with four goals:

- ▶ Finishing the job of ending chronic homelessness by 2015;
- ▶ Preventing and ending homelessness among Veterans by 2015;<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ Preventing and ending homelessness for families, youth, and children by 2020; and
- ▶ Setting a path to ending all types of homelessness.

Member Agency	Principal
Department of Agriculture	Secretary Tom Vilsack
Department of Commerce	Secretary Penny Pritzker
Department of Defense	Secretary Chuck Hagel
Department of Education	Secretary Arne Duncan
Department of Energy	Secretary Ernest Moniz
Department of Health and Human Services	Secretary Kathleen Sebelius
Department of Homeland Security	Secretary Jeh Johnson
Department of Housing and Urban Development	Secretary Shaun Donovan
Department of Interior	Secretary Sally Jewell
Department of Justice	Attorney General Eric Holder
Department of Labor	Secretary Thomas Perez
Department of Transportation	Secretary Anthony Foxx
Department of Veterans Affairs	Secretary Eric Shinseki
Corporation for National and Community Service	Chief Executive Officer Wendy Spencer
General Services Administration	Administrator Daniel M. Tangherlini
Office of Management and Budget	Director Sylvia Matthews Burwell
Social Security Administration	Commissioner Carolyn Colvin
U.S. Postal Service	Postmaster General/CEO Patrick R. Donahoe
White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships	Executive Director Melissa Rogers



As amended, *Opening Doors* has 58 strategies under 10 objectives and five overarching themes.

### Increase Leadership, Collaboration, and Civic Engagement

- Objective 1:* Provide and promote collaborative leadership at all levels of government and across all sectors to inspire and energize Americans to commit to preventing and ending homelessness
- Objective 2:* Strengthen the capacity of public and private organizations by increasing knowledge about collaboration, homelessness, and successful interventions to prevent and end homelessness

### Increase Access to Stable and Affordable Housing

- Objective 3:* Provide affordable housing to people experiencing or most at risk of homelessness
- Objective 4:* Provide permanent supportive housing to prevent and end chronic homelessness

### Increase Economic Security

- Objective 5:* Improve access to education and increase meaningful and sustainable employment for people experiencing or most at risk of homelessness
- Objective 6:* Improve access to mainstream programs and services to reduce people’s financial vulnerability to homelessness

### Improve Health and Stability

- Objective 7:* Integrate primary and behavioral health care services with homeless assistance programs and housing to reduce people’s vulnerability to and the impacts of homelessness
- Objective 8:* Advance health and housing stability for unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness and youth aging out of systems such as foster care and juvenile justice
- Objective 9:* Advance health and housing stability for people experiencing homelessness who have frequent contact with hospitals and criminal justice

### Retool the Homeless Crisis Response System

- Objective 10:* Transform homeless services to crisis response systems that prevent homelessness and rapidly return people who experience homelessness to stable housing



Accomplishing the goals of *Opening Doors* requires leadership at all levels of government, and strong partnerships with businesses, researchers, philanthropy, and nonprofits. It requires collaboration across many disciplines. It requires good data and a commitment to changing course based on changing conditions and lessons learned. Ending homelessness requires improved systems and programs at all levels. To prevent and end homelessness, targeted programs must be fully integrated with mainstream programs that provide housing, health, education, and human services. If someone does experience homelessness, well-orchestrated systems should be in place to rapidly return him or her to housing. People experiencing homelessness should have access to affordable housing, access to treatment, and the vocational support they need to remain in housing.

## USICH Congressional Reporting Requirements

This report provides the latest information on the number of people experiencing homelessness, the Federal programs that provide assistance, and key activities and accomplishments of the past year. In so doing, this report fulfills several requirements for USICH contained in the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act:

- ▶ An assessment of the nature and extent of homelessness and the needs of those experiencing homelessness;
- ▶ A description of the activities and accomplishments of Federal agencies and the Council;
- ▶ An account by USICH member agencies of the programs they administer that assist people experiencing homelessness (as an to this document); and
- ▶ An assessment of what is needed going forward.

This document provides an updated assessment of the nature and extent of homelessness in America based on the most recent data released by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Department of Education (ED). It presents the activities and accomplishments of the Council, including an overview of Federal funding and people served by Federal programs, as well as a review of major USICH and member agency activities that have happened during the 2012–2013 plan year.



## Nature and Extent of Homelessness

This section summarizes the most recent data on homelessness from HUD's 2013 PIT Count and its 2012 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR), as well as the U.S. Department of Education's Education for Homeless Children and Youth Data Collection Summary for the 2011–2012 school year.

### Trends in Homelessness on a Single Night: 2010–2013

Each year, communities across the country engage in a count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness. HUD compiles those counts to create a national PIT estimate. According to this data, communities identified 610,042 people on the streets or in shelters on a single night in January 2013.<sup>2</sup> Approximately 65 percent of those counted were sheltered—sleeping in emergency shelters or transitional housing. The other 35 percent were unsheltered—sleeping on the streets, in their cars, in abandoned buildings, or in other places not meant for human habitation. Nearly two-thirds of the people experiencing homelessness on a single night were individuals (64 percent), while more than one third (36 percent) were persons in families. Persons in families were much less likely than individuals to be unsheltered: 14 percent of all persons in families experiencing homelessness were unsheltered on the night of the PIT count, while 48 percent of individuals experiencing homelessness were unsheltered.

	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Individuals</b>	<b>407,966</b>	<b>399,836</b>	<b>394,379</b>	<b>387,845</b>
Sheltered	212,218	205,834	199,159	203,127
Unsheltered	195,748	194,002	195,220	184,718
<b>Persons in Families</b>	<b>241,951</b>	<b>236,181</b>	<b>239,403</b>	<b>222,197</b>
Sheltered	191,325	186,482	190,996	191,571
Unsheltered	50,626	49,699	48,407	30,626
<b>Total Homeless Persons</b>	<b>649,917</b>	<b>636,017</b>	<b>633,782</b>	<b>610,042</b>
Sheltered	403,543	392,316	390,155	394,698
Unsheltered	246,374	243,701	243,627	215,344

**Table 1**

Homelessness in the United States at a Point in Time, 2010–2013

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, <http://www.hudhre.info/index.cfm?do=viewCoCMapsAndReports>

The Council measures progress of the *Opening Doors* population goals annually, using 2010 as the baseline year. The total number of people identified as experiencing homelessness on a single night has decreased by six percent between 2010 and 2013. The decrease between 2012 and 2013 was four percent, representing 23,740 fewer people. The decrease in persons who are unsheltered was even greater, dropping by 13 percent since 2010, and more than 11 percent between 2012 and 2013. This drop from the previous year represented 28,283 fewer people identified as sleeping on the streets or in places not meant for human habitation. The number of homeless persons in families decreased from 241,951 in 2010 to 222,917 in 2013, an eight percent decrease.

A critical target population for *Opening Doors* is unaccompanied individuals who experience chronic homelessness. According to HUD’s Continuum of Care Program interim rule, a chronically homeless single individual is an unaccompanied individual who has a disability and either has been continuously homeless for a year or more or has had at least four “episodes” of homelessness in the past three years; and chronically homeless people in families are people in families in which the head of the family has a disability and either has been continuously homeless for a year or more or has had at least four “episodes” of homelessness in the past three years.<sup>3</sup> Between 2010 and 2013, the number of people experiencing chronic homelessness declined by 15.7 percent, including a seven percent decline between 2012 and 2013. Most of this decline was among sheltered individuals.

Preventing and ending homelessness among Veterans is also one of the goals of *Opening Doors*. As shown in Table 2, the 2013 PIT count identified 57,849 Veterans experiencing homelessness, a 24 percent decrease from 2010. In 2013, 60 percent of Veterans experiencing homelessness were sheltered on the night of the PIT count and 40 percent were unsheltered. The decline of unsheltered Veterans was even greater—with the number of Veterans living on the street decreasing nearly 30 percent since 2010.<sup>4</sup>

**Table 2**  
Change in  
Target Populations  
2010–2013

	2010	2011	2012	2013	Change 2010–2013
<b>Chronically Homeless Individuals</b>					
Sheltered	43,374	38,971	32,647	29,418	-32.2%
Unsheltered	66,438	68,177	67,247	63,175	-4.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>109,812</b>	<b>107,148</b>	<b>99,894</b>	<b>92,593</b>	<b>-15.7%</b>
<b>Veterans</b>					
Sheltered	43,437	40,033	35,143	34,695	-20.1%
Unsheltered	32,892	27,462	27,476	23,154	-29.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>76,329</b>	<b>67,495</b>	<b>62,619</b>	<b>57,849</b>	<b>-24.2%</b>

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, <http://www.hudhre.info/index.cfm?do=viewCoCMapsAndReports>

## Geographic Concentration

State-level PIT data showed that homelessness remained heavily concentrated within a handful of States. Slightly less than half (48 percent) of all persons experiencing homelessness at a single point in time resided in four States: California, Florida, Texas, and New York (Table 3). Together these four States represent just 33 percent of the overall U.S. population.<sup>5</sup> In three of these States (CA, FL, and TX), the percentage of persons who were unsheltered was significantly higher than the national average of 35 percent. There were 24 States that each accounted for less than one percent of the national total, and together they accounted for less than 11 percent of homelessness nationwide (Figure 1).<sup>6</sup>

*The number of Veterans who are unsheltered—  
on the street—has declined by 30 percent since 2010.*

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total
California	45,890	(33%)	91,272	(67%)	136,826
Florida	19,670	(41%)	28,192	(59%)	47,862
New York	73,273	(95%)	4,157	(5%)	77,430
Texas	17,525	(59%)	12,090	(41%)	29,615

**291,733**

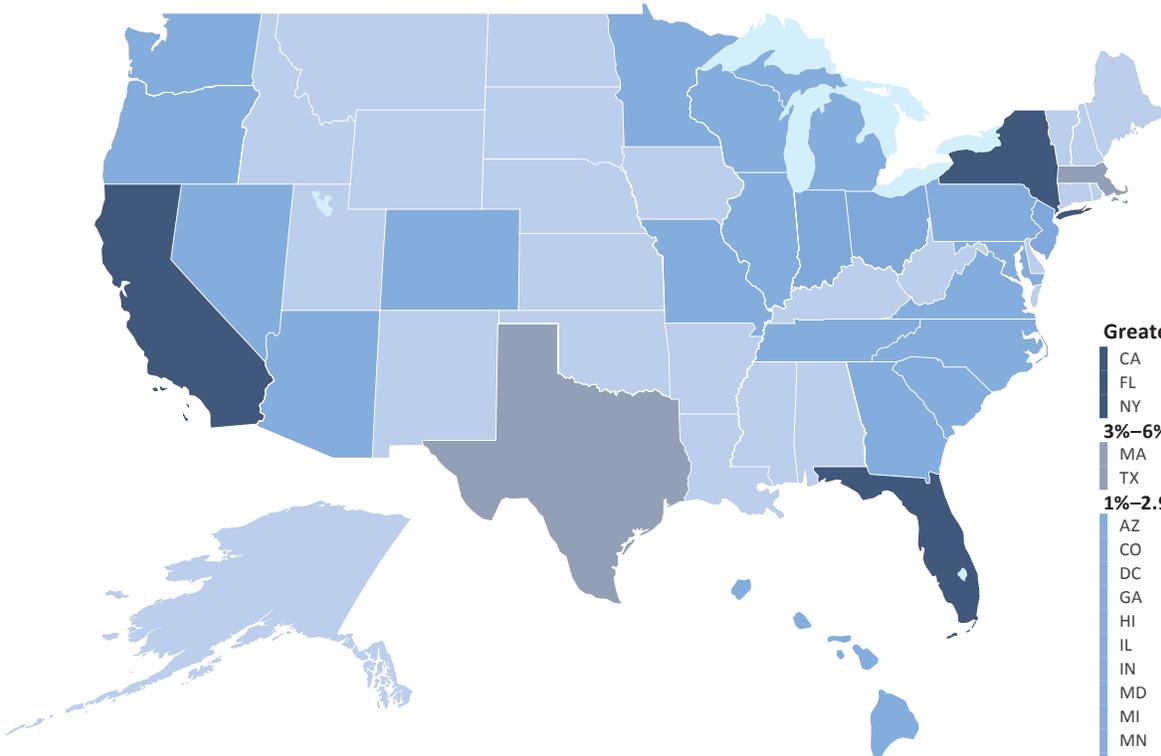
**Note:**

New York City accounts for 83 percent of the homeless population in the State of New York. Unlike other states, New York's Legal Right to Shelter (which resulted from a 1979 class action lawsuit against New York City and State) ensures greater availability of local and State resources; consequently there is a low proportion of unsheltered versus sheltered persons.

**Table 3**

The Concentration of Homelessness in the United States, 2013

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2013 Point-in-Time Count, <http://www.hudhre.info/index.cfm?do=viewHomelessRpts>



**Greater than 6%**

CA	136,826
FL	47,862
NY	77,430

**3%–6%**

MA	19,029
TX	26,615

**1%–2.9%**

AZ	10,562
CO	9,754
DC	6,865
GA	16,971
HI	6,335
IL	13,425
IN	6,096
MD	8,205
MI	11,527
MN	8,214
MO	8,581
NC	12,168
NJ	12,002
NV	8,443
OH	12,325
OR	13,822
PA	15,086
SC	6,544
TN	9,528
VA	7,625
WA	17,760
WI	6,104

**Less than 1%**

AK	1,946
AL	4,689
AR	3,812
CT	4,448
DE	946
IA	3,084
ID	1,781
KS	2,693
KY	5,245
LA	5,226
ME	3,016
MS	2,403
MT	1,878
NE	3,145
ND	2,069
NH	1,447
NM	2,819
OK	4,408
RI	1,384
SD	1,094
UT	3,277
VT	1,454
WV	2,240
WY	953

**Figure 1**

Estimates of People Experiencing Homelessness by State, 2013

Source: HUD, 2013 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, <https://www.onecpd.info/resources/documents/AHAR-2013-Part1.pdf>

Homelessness was also heavily concentrated in large metropolitan areas. Consequently, shifts in homelessness prevalence in these communities impacted the national figures. In 2013, the PIT rose in New York City and in Los Angeles, the two CoCs with the largest homeless populations.

## Annual Estimates on Shelter Use

While the PIT count provided a snapshot of the number of people experiencing homelessness on a given night in America, the development and implementation of Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) has allowed CoCs to produce unduplicated counts of the total number of people who use emergency shelter or transitional housing programs during the course of a year. These longitudinal data sets also help track lengths of stay, service use patterns, and flow in and out of the system.

The 2012 AHAR provided a national estimate of the number of persons who used an emergency shelter or transitional housing program between October 1, 2011 and September 30, 2012 (FY 2012). These annual estimates reflected the demand for shelter (both emergency shelter and transitional housing), the number of available shelter beds, and the length of time people spent in shelter.

For the first time since 2007, the annual estimate of persons serviced in these programs dropped below 1.5 million, decreasing from 1,502,196 to 1,488,371. As shown in Table 4, the annual estimate of individuals using shelter has decreased 7 percent between 2010 and 2012, and the number of persons in families has decreased by 5.6 percent. This translates into an overall decrease of 6.3 percent.

**Table 4**  
Annual Estimate of  
Individuals Using  
Shelter, 2010–2012

	2010	2011	2012	% Change 2010-2012
Individuals	1,043,242	984,469	984,469	-7%
Persons in Families	567,334	537,414	535,420	5.6%
<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>1,592,150</b>	<b>1,502,196</b>	<b>1,488,371</b>	<b>-6.57%</b>

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) data, 2006-2012, <http://hudhre.info>

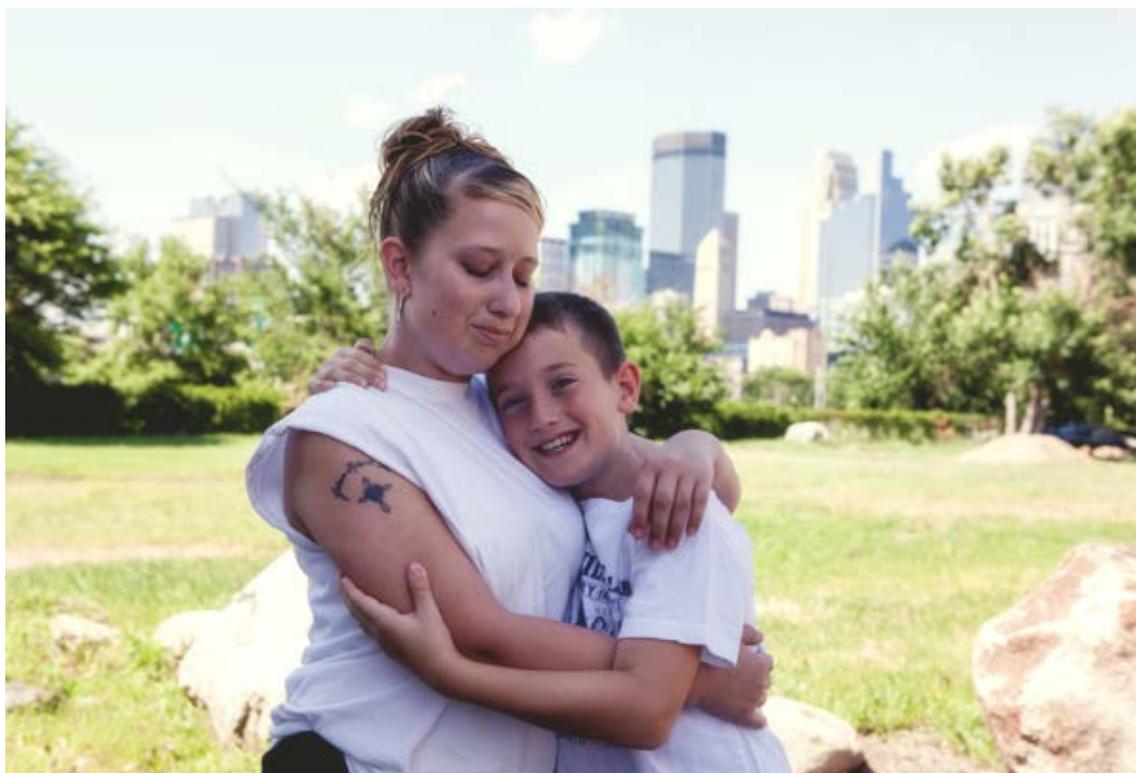
Among individuals, the average stay in emergency shelters has increased from 38 nights in 2007 to 47 nights in 2012; a slight decrease from an average of 49 days in 2011. The average length of stay for families in emergency shelter has decreased from 67 nights in 2007 to 65 nights in 2012.

The most recent AHAR also provided continued evidence that people with disabilities experience homelessness at rates higher than their representation in the general population. Thirty-nine percent of adults who used shelter in 2012 had a disabling condition.<sup>7</sup> By comparison, 15 percent of all adults in the U.S. that same year had a disabling condition.<sup>8</sup>

## Annual Estimates of Students Experiencing Homelessness

ED collects data on the number of students who are experiencing homelessness and are enrolled in public schools (preschool–12th grade) in the United States each year.<sup>9</sup> ED’s Education for Homeless Children and Youth (ECHY) program, authorized under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento), uses a definition of homelessness that is broader than that used in the PIT count and includes youth and families that are “doubled up,” or living with other households, or living in motels. Unlike the PIT count, ED’s count is a cumulative total of all students who experienced homelessness over the course of the school year. According to ED, 1,168,354 homeless students were identified during the 2011-2012 school year compared to 1,065,794 students in the 2010-2011 school year, a 10 percent increase.<sup>10</sup>

Three-quarters of the students who experienced homelessness (75 percent) were in doubled-up living situations. Since the 2010-2011 school year, the number of homeless students in doubled-up situations has increased by 15 percent. The number of homeless students in shelters or unsheltered decreased 20 percent from school year 2010-2011.



# Key Accomplishments and Activities

## Progress Against Plan Goals

*Opening Doors* established six key measures to track progress towards the plan's goals. The first four are population measures:

- ▶ change in the total number of people experiencing homelessness
- ▶ change in the number of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness
- ▶ change in the number of Veterans experiencing homelessness
- ▶ change in the number of people in families experiencing homelessness

The final two track progress on two critical strategies in *Opening Doors*:

- ▶ change in the number of permanent supportive housing units
- ▶ the change in the number of households exiting homeless assistance programs with earned income and/or mainstream benefits



## Population Measures

As discussed in the last section, 610,042 people were identified on the streets or in shelters on a single night in January 2013. This represents a six percent decrease since 2010, the year that *Opening Doors* was adopted.

As seen in Table 5, decreases in specific subpopulations have been greater, including:

- ▶ An eight percent decrease in the number of persons in families experiencing homelessness at a point in time from 241,951 in 2010 to 222,197 in 2013.
- ▶ A 16 percent decrease in the number of persons experiencing chronic homelessness at a point in time, from 109,812 in 2010 to 92,593 in 2013
- ▶ A 24 percent decrease in the number of Veterans experiencing homelessness at a point in time, from 76,329 estimated in 2010 to 57,849 in 2013.



## Strategy Measures

One of the critical strategies in *Opening Doors* centers on increasing the number of permanent supportive housing units in the country. As seen in Figure 2, an additional 10,169 units came online between 2012 and 2013—an increase of 4.6 percent. In 2013, 30 percent of the new supportive housing units assisted people experiencing chronic homelessness.

HUD reported that 1,900 new units of permanent supportive housing were funded through its FY 2012 Continuum of Care program competition, of which 100 percent were dedicated to people experiencing chronic homelessness. Overall increases in the number of units as well as improved targeting of existing units to individuals experiencing chronic homelessness are needed if the nation is to meet the *Opening Doors* goal of ending chronic homelessness.

The last measures focus on the number of households exiting homeless assistance programs with earned income and/or mainstream benefits (see Table 6, next page). Baseline data on this measure was captured from 2009 HUD Annual Performance Reports during the creation of *Opening Doors*. In 2012, CoC recipients reported that 56 percent of the homeless population who exited a homeless assistance program funded under prior CoC competitions had at least one non-cash benefit at the time of exit.

**Table 5**

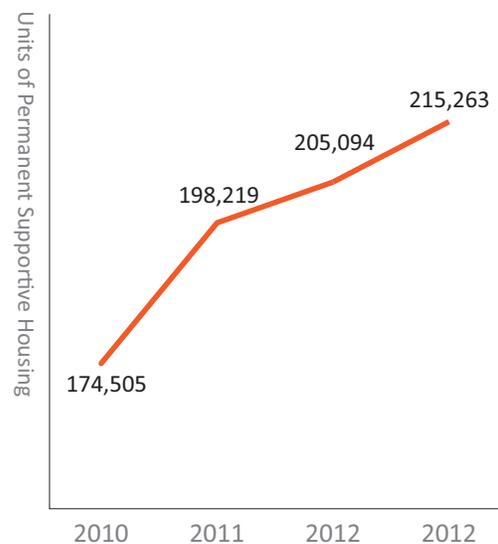
Annual Estimate of Individuals Using Shelter, 2010–2013

	2010	2011	2012	2013	Change 2010–13
<b>Individuals</b>					
Sheltered	212,218	205,834	199,159	203,127	4.3%
Unsheltered	195,748	194,002	195,220	184,718	5.6%
	<b>407,966</b>	<b>399,836</b>	<b>394,379</b>	<b>387,845</b>	<b>4.9%</b>
<b>Persons in Families</b>					
Sheltered	191,325	186,482	190,996	191,571	-0.1%
Unsheltered	50,626	49,699	48,407	30,626	39.5%
	<b>241,951</b>	<b>236,181</b>	<b>239,403</b>	<b>222,197</b>	<b>8.2%</b>
<b>Total Homeless Persons</b>					
Sheltered	43,374	38,971	32,647	29,418	32.2%
Unsheltered	66,438	68,177	67,247	63,175	4.9%
	<b>109,812</b>	<b>107,148</b>	<b>99,894</b>	<b>92,593</b>	<b>15.7%</b>
<b>Veterans</b>					
Sheltered	43,437	40,033	35,143	34,695	20.1%
Unsheltered	32,892	27,462	27,476	23,154	29.6%
	<b>76,329</b>	<b>67,495</b>	<b>62,619</b>	<b>52,849</b>	<b>24.2%</b>

Source:  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development,  
<http://www.hudhre.info/index.cfm?do=viewCoCMapsAndReports>

**Figure 2**

*Opening Doors* Performance: Permanent Supportive Housing Inventory, 2010–2013



Source:  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development,  
Housing Inventory Chart (HIC) Data, 2009–2013

**Table 6**

## Persons Assisted by Targeted Federal Homeless Assistance Programs

Department	Program	Appropriations			Number of Homeless Persons Assisted, 2011–2012 <sup>*</sup>
		FY 2011	FY 2012	<i>post-sequestration</i> FY 2013	
<b>Education</b>	Education for Homeless Children and Youth	\$65.3 M	\$65.2 M	\$61.8 M	Update not available
<b>Health and Human Services</b>	Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals	\$36.75 M	\$40.62 M	\$40 M	5,857
	Health Care for the Homeless	\$214.6 M	\$217.7 M	\$258 M	823,993
	Projects for the Assistance in Transition from Homelessness	\$64.9 M	\$64.7 M	\$61.4 M	103,259
	Runaway and Homeless Youth	\$115.5 M	\$115.3 M	\$115 M	41,894
	Services in Supportive Housing	\$33.1 M	\$32.9 M	\$33 M	5,494
<b>Homeland Security</b>	Emergency Food and Shelter Program	\$119.76 M	\$120 M	\$113.8 M	Not applicable
<b>Housing and Urban Development</b>	Homeless Assistance Grants (ESG, SHP, S+C, Section 8 SRO)	\$1.905 B	\$1.901 B	\$1.933 B	800,000
	Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program	N/A ( <i>Recovery Act Funded</i> )			1.4 million <sup>a</sup> <i>Total assisted 8/09–9/12</i>
	HUD-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)	\$50 M	\$75 M	\$75 M	50,000 housed <sup>b</sup> <i>Through 12/12</i>
<b>Justice</b>	Transitional Housing Assistance Grants to Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking	\$17.964 M	\$25 M	\$23.28 M	66,832 <sup>c</sup>
<b>Labor</b>	Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program	\$36.3 M	\$38.2 M	\$36.1 M	16,412 <sup>d</sup>
<b>Veterans Affairs</b>	Case Management for HUD-VASH	\$120 M	\$202 M	\$245 M	48,174 <sup>e</sup>
	Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans	\$222 M	\$219 M	\$234 M	8,358
	Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem	\$172 M	\$234 M	\$235 M	35,187 <sup>f</sup>
	Healthcare for Homeless Veterans	\$201 M	\$119 M	\$137 M	119,563
	Veterans Justice Outreach Initiative	\$22 M	\$22 M	\$20.8 M	66,074 <i>cumulative through FY13</i>
	Supportive Services for Veterans' Families	\$60 M	\$100 M	\$300 M	35,653 in FY12 <sup>f</sup> <i>includes others within Veteran's household</i>
	Homeless Veterans Supported Employment Program	\$23 M	\$32 M	\$26.3 M	12,815
	National Call Center for Homeless Veterans	\$5 M	\$3 M	\$4.9 M	80,558
HUD/VA Prevention Pilot <i>(includes Veterans and members of household)</i>	\$1.25 M	\$1.5 M	\$1.5 M	3,613 <sup>g</sup>	

**Notes**

- \* Agencies reported number of individuals assisted by their programs during the most recent year for which data was available at the time this report was compiled. For most agencies, this was 2012.
- a. These are time-limited appropriations, not ongoing programs.
- b. The number used here is actual number housed at the end of each fiscal year, not total served.
- c. 66,832 is the number of survivors, their children, and other dependents served by Transitional Housing grantees from January-June 2012.
- d. This figure is from 2011.
- e. This figure is through June 2013.
- f. These figures are through May 2013.
- g. This figure is through April 2013.

## Progress Across Plan Themes

The following is a review of activities and accomplishments by USICH staff and Council member agencies during the period. This summary is organized by the five themes that capture the 10 objectives in *Opening Doors*.

### Increasing Leadership, Collaboration, and Civic Engagement

A key theme of *Opening Doors* is promoting collaborative leadership at all levels of government and across all sectors. These goals include promoting cross-agency and cross-sector collaboration to leverage resources, and strengthening the capacity of public and private organizations to implement successful interventions and systems to prevent and end homelessness.

The Council modeled cross-agency collaboration through its regular interagency meetings. The Council fulfilled its Congressional requirement to meet four times per year, and the meetings had significant Cabinet-level participation. The Council meeting held in September 2012 included a discussion on strategies to address family homelessness with a panel of national experts and was made public via a webcast. In December 2012, the Council approved a set of strategic approaches for accelerating progress on *Opening Doors*. In April 2013, the Council focused on the adoption of Federal strategies and actions to accelerate progress on ending chronic homelessness. The July 2013 meeting included a discussion of a new framework for ending family homelessness and opportunities within the Affordable Care Act to prevent and end homelessness.

The work of Council agencies to implement *Opening Doors* included many examples of cross-agency efforts to coordinate and target information and resources. Important examples of collaboration among Federal agencies during the reporting period include:

- ▶ **Technical Assistance and Policy Advisement to Priority Communities:** Through work in several high priority communities with high prevalence of homelessness, USICH provided and coordinated technical assistance around ways to improve interagency collaboration, to strengthen program performance, and to better coordinate Federal, State, and local resources. In several communities, including Atlanta, Boston, Detroit, Fresno, Houston, New York, and New Orleans, USICH's regional coordinators convened several federally-funded technical assistance organizations to coordinate their efforts and ensure that technical assistance resources were being used efficiently and were directed at communities' highest priority needs. In addition, regional coordinators connected several communities with USICH's Washington-based policy staff to provide policy guidance and advisement on a variety of topics. For example, USICH national policy staff provided guidance to such communities as Phoenix, Arizona; Memphis, Tennessee; Alaska; and Washington State regarding

*HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan, VA Secretary Erik Shinkseki, and USICH Executive Director Barbara Poppe discuss family homelessness at a Council meeting*



leveraging Medicaid financing for services in permanent supportive housing. USICH policy staff also provided guidance to several communities, including Los Angeles and New York, regarding the importance of counting youth experiencing homelessness in annual PIT counts and strategies for implementing USICH's *Framework to End Youth Homelessness*. In addition, USICH's regional coordinators and policy staff worked collaboratively with VA staff on the development of a data-driven methodology for assessing whether there are gaps in the resources available and targeted for ending Veteran homelessness within communities, including both VA and non-VA resources. The methodology has now been rolled out to all VA Medical Centers (VAMCs) across the country, and USICH staff will work with many of those VAMCs as they engage community partners to implement community-specific strategies for closing any gaps identified, which could include realignment of existing resources, performance improvements in existing programs, and/or the strategic use of any newly-committed VA or non-VA resources.

- ▶ **Veterans Homelessness Prevention Demonstration Program (VHPD):** This three-year pilot, initiated in 2011, is focused on understanding the unique needs of this new cohort of Veterans, and supported efforts to identify, conduct outreach, and assist them in regaining and maintaining housing stability. Through HUD housing assistance, VA case management services, and DOL employment counseling, this three-agency partnership with five communities provided combined services for Veterans who are at a high risk of becoming homeless. The communities participating in this demonstration were strategically selected due to their proximity to a military base, concentration of returning Veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan, and availability of resources. As the lead agency, HUD awarded \$10 million in grants to five agencies for the provision of housing assistance and supportive services to prevent Veterans and their families from becoming homeless, or reduce the length of time Veterans and their families are homeless. VA received \$5 million to provide and coordinate outreach and to ensure Veterans engage in VA treatment, services and benefits. Each local VAMC has identified a VHPD team to work with the local CoC grantee, Vet Center staff and DOL. DOL assisted Veterans in gaining access to mainstream education and job training programs through One Stop Career Centers, Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialists, local Veterans' Employment Representative Programs, and Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Programs. VHPD is projected to provide services to over 800 Veteran families. An interim report on the program's first year of operation was released in September 2013. (See Resources, p. 34)
- ▶ **Policy Academies to End Chronic Homelessness:** HHS' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), with support from other HHS agencies, HUD, and USICH, developed and offered State Policy Academies on Ending Chronic Homelessness in four States: California, Georgia, Louisiana, and Washington. The policy academies included three phases of work: planning for change; refining and implementing strategies; and sustaining and measuring progress. The policy academies featured three in-person meetings per State with Federal faculty and local stakeholders, virtual meetings of State teams, and peer-to-peer exchanges across States through webinars that built their capacity to implement strategies to end chronic homelessness.
- ▶ **Veteran and Acceleration Boot Camps:** In partnership with the national nonprofit Community Solutions and the Rapid Results Institute, HUD, VA, and USICH held a second series of boot camps in 35 communities across the country. These multi-day events were funded by HUD and private funders and focused on improving communities' housing placement rates for Veterans and

persons who experience chronic homelessness in order to achieve the goals of *Opening Doors*. USICH and its Federal partners helped to identify target communities, assisted with curriculum development, and continued to support local implementation of plans by community teams following their participation in the intensive boot camp events.

- ▶ **Dedicating Opportunities to End Homelessness Initiative:** In September 2012, USICH and HUD launched the Dedicating Opportunities to End Homelessness initiative in 10 communities across the country: Atlanta, Chicago, Fresno, Houston, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Seattle, and Tampa. The initiative is a place-based strategy that has a primary objective of seeking to leverage additional commitments of mainstream HUD-funded housing units and resources in support of each community's local plans to end homelessness. Communities in the initiative used a new "Strategic Planning Guide" analytic tool to estimate housing needs and to develop strategies for increasing access to housing in order to help meet the goals established in *Opening Doors*.
- ▶ **Solving Veterans Homelessness as One Los Angeles:** USICH, VA, HUD, and HHS jointly launched the Solving Veterans Homelessness as One Los Angeles initiative, focused on setting goals and determining the strategies necessary to end Veterans homelessness in Los Angeles County. Federal staff formed a national leadership team, and USICH, VA, and HUD collaboratively convened local agencies and organizations to form a local leadership team for the initiative. The local and national leadership teams convened in Los Angeles on several occasions to officially launch the initiative, define roles for the two teams, analyze and reach consensus regarding the scope and characteristics of Veteran homelessness in the county, and to develop local strategies to reduce Veterans homelessness in Los Angeles through continued Federal-local partnerships.

### *Civic Engagement and Capacity Building*

Building the capacity of stakeholders at the Federal, State, and local level to understand the extent and causes of homelessness and the effective solutions is a critical part of USICH's mission to achieve the goals of *Opening Doors*. During the past year, USICH created or supported guidance, tools, and venues to build capacity and engagement including:

- ▶ **Solutions Database:** The commitment to end homelessness compels communities to focus their resources on solutions that work, while encouraging well-designed innovations for continuous improvement. In April 2013, USICH launched the Solutions Database (see Resources, p.34) on its website. The database is a searchable source of up-to-date information drawn from around the country that Federal, State, and local partners can use to further their collaborative efforts to end homelessness. The database is searchable by plan objective, population, and location. It includes 58 profiles of important practices and programs, including tips for replicating and information about results, as well as links to help users find more information or resources. The database includes evidence-based practices, promising practices, model programs, and emerging approaches.
- ▶ **Youth Framework:** USICH released the *USICH Framework to End Youth Homelessness: A Resource Text for Dialogue and Action* in February 2013.<sup>11</sup> This document describes the youth framework adopted by the Council, which outlines strategies to improve our understanding of youth homelessness by getting better data and building the capacity of programs to effectively serve

youth experiencing homelessness. The framework also includes a preliminary intervention model that looks at youth through the lens of risk and protective factors, focusing particularly on high-risk populations such as youth involved in the foster care or juvenile justice systems, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer (LGBTQ) youth, and pregnant and parenting youth. It emphasizes the need for communities to assess their response to youth homelessness at system and youth levels. The framework also guided the Youth Count! initiative described below, and has informed and been referenced by new grant opportunities from the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families (ACYF) focused on youth connected to the child welfare system at risk of or experiencing homelessness and community responses to homelessness among LGBTQ youth. More than 10 communities are currently exploring how the youth framework can inform and guide their efforts to end youth homelessness.

- ▶ **Online Engagement:** USICH continued to add features to its website. In the last year, USICH has created new online tools ranging from a compendium on guidance for Federal mainstream programs to an in-depth guidebook dedicated to informing Public Housing Authorities of best practices to preventing and ending homelessness, all of which were disseminated through our online newsletter and social media outlets. USICH has also hosted 10 webinars in the last year and participated in numerous others, where staff served as expert panelists or moderators. Every webinar hosted or moderated by USICH is available on the USICH website. (See Resources, p. 34.)

Collecting data and using it strategically to inform efforts to end homelessness is also a key objective of *Opening Doors*. Several efforts were directed at improving the quality and utilization of national data including:

- ▶ **Youth Count!** In September 2012, USICH, HHS, HUD, and ED launched *Youth Count!*, an interagency initiative to develop promising strategies for counting unaccompanied homeless youth. *Youth Count!* was designed to learn how best to collect data on unaccompanied homeless youth through innovative implementations of HUD's 2013 PIT Count. Nine study sites participated in *Youth Count!* including Boston, Cleveland, Hennepin County, Houston, Los Angeles, New York City, Seattle, Washington State, and Winston-Salem. The Federal partners worked with the Urban Institute to conduct the cross-site evaluation of Youth Count!, which was funded by the United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack County; Sisters of Charity Foundation; Hennepin County Administrator's Office; Funders Together of Houston, including, di Portanova Foundation, Frees Foundation, Simmons Foundation, and United Way of Houston; California Wellness Foundation; Buckhantz Foundation; True Colors Fund; The Palette Fund; Weston Milliken; Gill Foundation; Arcus Foundation; United Way of King County; Raikes Family Foundation; and the Medina Foundation.
- ▶ **PIT Count Engagement:** Federal agency leadership and staff participated in 2013 PIT Count around the country at unprecedented levels, including in most Priority Communities and *Youth Count!* sites. Participating in local PIT Counts provided an opportunity for strengthened community engagement, as well as advancing Federal and local partnerships and observing PIT Count methodologies, including identifying strong practices that can be shared with other communities. The Corporation for National Community Service (CNCS) promoted volunteering in the 2013 PIT Count as part of the 2013 Martin Luther King, Jr. National Day of Service.
- ▶ **PIT Count Improvements:** HUD and VA, with support from USICH, the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the Census Bureau, have implemented strategies to improve the PIT count. These improvements include revised guidance for communities and sample survey instruments that have been reviewed by

survey methodology experts from the Census Bureau, the development of a mobile application to support community PIT count data collection and technical assistance to help selected communities conduct unsheltered counts as part of their 2014 PIT count.

VA offered opportunities for a select group of HUD CoCs to apply for funding to plan and execute unsheltered counts in January 2014. Twenty-five urban CoCs, including the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), and four rural CoCs were offered opportunities to apply for funding with VA. The urban communities were selected because they accounted for the majority of homeless Veterans in the U.S. Because of the importance of securing reliable data from rural areas, four CoCs in rural areas were also offered the opportunity to apply for funding. Continuums of Care in 14 urban and two rural areas applied for and were subsequently awarded contracts.

- ▶ **American Journal of Public Health:** VA and HUD participated in providing content for a special supplemental issue of the *American Journal of Public Health*, which unveils the latest in public health efforts and progress addressing homelessness. Published December 2013, the themed issue includes research, commentaries, and briefs that discuss homelessness and public health, monitor trends in homelessness and investigate potential mitigating factors associated with homelessness. The issue includes a contribution from VA Secretary Shinseki and HUD Secretary Donovan. (See Resources, p. 34.)
- ▶ **International Homelessness Research Conference:** VA's National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans and the University of Pennsylvania hosted a two-day conference showcasing the latest research from Australia, Canada, Europe, and the U.S. in advancing the policy and practice of homelessness crisis response systems in June 2013. The conference featured keynotes profiling homelessness policy and research from around the globe. Sessions focused on studies of fidelity to permanent supportive housing, ways the research community can advance the cause of ending homelessness, and presentations on key interventions being tested internationally, such as rapid re-housing, programs for youth and families, and Critical Time Intervention.
- ▶ **SSVF Evaluation:** In 2013, VA published the *Effectiveness of Permanent Housing Program FY 2012 Report*, summarizing outcomes from Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program's first year. SSVF is VA's rapid re-housing and homelessness-prevention program, which draws upon the strength of community agencies to provide focused, rapid, and flexible services to vulnerable Veterans and their families. The report indicated that 86 percent of households successfully exited to permanent housing, at an average cost of only \$2,800 per household and median engagement of only 93 days. These results are also notable since three quarters of participants qualified as extremely low income and nearly half (46 percent) of adult participants had a disabling condition.
- ▶ **Family Options Study:** In 2013, HUD published the interim report for the Family Options Study, which is a random assignment study comparing the outcomes of four housing and services interventions for families experiencing homelessness: 1) community-based rapid re-housing, 2) project-based transitional housing, 3) subsidy only (primarily in the form of a Housing Choice Voucher), and 4) usual care (emergency shelter). Families were interviewed at baseline, and will be tracked for three years following random assignment, with follow-up interviews being conducted with both the adult head-of-household, as well as a cohort of over 2,500 sample children, at both 18 months and 36 months after random assignment. The interim report released

*86 percent of Veteran households successfully exited to permanent housing, at an average cost of only \$2,800 per household.*

*HUD-VASH exceeded its performance goal... with more than two thirds of new vouchers going to Veterans experiencing chronic homelessness*

in 2013 describes the baseline characteristics of the more than 2,300 families enrolled in the study and the housing and services interventions the families were offered. The report also describes the study's design and implementation, and provides preliminary information about the extent to which families have enrolled in the assigned interventions. The key findings at this stage of the study relate to families' enrollment in the different interventions being studied—both the barriers presented by stringent eligibility criteria of programs that often screen households out of assistance, and the choices made by households to reject the intervention offered. A subsequent report in 2014 will document the impacts of the four interventions 18 months after random assignment, as well as their relative costs. A report published in 2016 will report on the 36-month outcomes for both families and children.

### Increasing Access to Affordable and Supportive Housing

Securing stable and affordable housing is fundamental to exiting homelessness. In some cases it is the only step needed, while for others housing stability needs to be supported with time-limited or ongoing services. *Opening Doors* recognizes that ending homelessness relies on a range of housing solutions, from market-rate to affordable housing with subsidized rents to permanent supportive housing with tailored services attached. Increasing the stock of affordable and supportive housing is central to achieving the Plan's goals. During the third year of implementation of *Opening Doors*, USICH and its Federal partners continued to advance these objectives:

- ▶ **New Permanent Supportive Housing:** HUD's Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPs) continued to build the national permanent supportive housing inventory by providing incentives for the creation of permanent supportive housing through its annual CoC competition. In 2012, HUD awarded grants to create an additional 1,900 units of permanent supportive housing.
- ▶ **Expansion of HUD-VASH program for homeless Veterans:** In May 2013, HUD and VA announced an additional \$60 million awarded to public housing agencies to provide permanent supportive housing to over 8,600 homeless Veterans through the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program, which combines rental assistance from HUD with case management and clinical services provided by VA. In August and September 2013, HUD awarded two additional rounds of vouchers totaling \$8 million to provide housing and clinical services for 1,230 Veterans who are currently experiencing homelessness. Since 2008, more than 58,000 vouchers have been awarded to provide homes to formerly homeless Veterans, and HUD-VASH has exceeded its performance goal for targeting vouchers to Veterans experiencing chronic homelessness, with more than two thirds of new vouchers going to Veterans experiencing chronic homelessness.
- ▶ **Increase Access to Mainstream Affordable PHA Housing:** HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH) published a notice in June 2013 outlining strategies that public housing agencies (PHAs) can pursue to expand housing options for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.<sup>12</sup> This notice clarifies the definition of homelessness for the purpose of PHA reporting, and provides guidance on HUD policies and program regulations related to establishing a preference for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. It also encourages PHAs to examine their screening and assessment practices so as not to make access to affordable housing more difficult for persons experiencing homelessness. This notice was followed by a letter from HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan and Assistant Secretary Sandra Henriquez of HUD's Office of Public and Indian

Housing encouraging public housing agencies to contribute to efforts to end homelessness. HUD also released a set of frequently asked questions providing more detailed explanations of the guidance in its notice on PHAs roles in ending homelessness, and the Office of Public and Indian Housing and Office of Community Planning and Development's Special Needs Assistance Program jointly produced a webinar series that included Ending Homelessness through the Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing Programs, PHA 101: A Guide for CoCs Understanding PHA Programs and Policies, Implementing a Move-Up Strategy, and CoC 101: A Guide for PHA's Understanding of CoC Functions and Partnerships. USICH also published a PHA Guidebook that provides guidance and best practices that PHAs can use to strengthen their collaborative efforts.<sup>13</sup>

- ▶ **Expanded Rental Assistance for People with Disabilities:** HUD and HHS announced nearly \$98 million in funding through the Section 811 Project Rental Assistance Demonstration for 13 State housing agencies for rental assistance to extremely low-income persons with disabilities, many of whom are transitioning out of institutional settings or are experiencing chronic homelessness. The announcement reinforced the guiding principles of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the landmark 1999 Supreme Court ruling in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, which required State and local governments to provide services in the most integrated settings appropriate to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities.
- ▶ **Guidance to Support Community Integration for People with Disabilities:** HUD released guidance regarding HUD's role in supporting State efforts under the *Olmstead* mandate to create integrated community-based housing options for people with disabilities who are transitioning from, or at serious risk of entering, institutions and other restrictive, segregated settings.<sup>14</sup> The guidance emphasizes the role that HUD-assisted housing can and should play in supporting the right of people with disabilities to live in the most integrated, least restrictive settings possible.

## Increasing Economic Security

*Opening Doors* recognizes that economic security is key to ending and preventing homelessness. Plan objectives focus on increasing meaningful and sustainable employment opportunities for all sectors of our society, improving access to mainstream workforce and income support programs to reduce financial vulnerability to homelessness. USICH and its Federal partners have made the following advances in the last year:

- ▶ **Veterans Reintegration Grants:** On June 27, 2013, DOL announced almost \$29 million in Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) awards to 121 organizations to provide more than 14,000 Veterans with job training, job placement, housing and other services. The HVRP grants aim to help Veterans who are experiencing homelessness reintegrate into society and the labor force, providing effective services to address the complex challenges they often confront. The services include job placement, on-the-job training, career counseling, life skills training, money management mentoring, and help in finding housing. Funds were awarded on a competitive basis to State and local workforce investment boards, local public agencies and nonprofit organizations, including faith-based and community organizations.
- ▶ **Veterans Access to Benefits Plan 2.0:** In May 2013, VA convened an employment and job-training work group that identified 17 recommendations to improve Veterans' access to VA employment

*Evidence shows that the solution to chronic homelessness is permanent supportive housing*

and job-training programs. Those recommendations are currently in concurrence for implementation VA-wide. Beginning in November 2013, DOL joined VA's employment and job-training work group to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of both of their agencies' respective programs' eligibility requirements with the intent of decreasing barriers to access. By the second quarter of 2014 the two agencies expect to have a joint report on the recommendations ready for their agencies' senior leadership concurrence before implementation of any recommendations.

- ▶ **Expanding Access to Social Security Benefits:** HHS, through SAMHSA, continued to operate the SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Initiative which disseminates best practices for improving access to SSI/SSDI benefits for eligible disabled individuals experiencing homelessness through federally funded technical assistance. In February 2013, the Social Security Administration (SSA) hosted a forum for homelessness advocates and other non-profits about ways to improve access to SSI and SSDI for people experiencing homelessness. The discussion included topics such as the broader promotion of SOAR best practices and the development of new ways to streamline the application and approval process. Approximately 70 people attended the forum. SSA, SAMHSA, VA, and USICH are working on a best practices model for connecting people experiencing homelessness with SSI and SSDI benefits.

## Improving Health and Stability

Homelessness is often precipitated by, and exacerbates, health crises. People experiencing homelessness have a higher prevalence of many chronic conditions and illnesses, and also face a higher risk of premature death. For people experiencing chronic homelessness, ending homelessness often entails addressing both the housing crisis and health challenges. Health Care for the Homeless programs are a critical part of the health care safety net, providing life-saving health to people experiencing homelessness. Evidence also shows that the solution to chronic homelessness is permanent supportive housing, which integrates housing with access to coordinated health care and other supportive services. The Affordable Care Act creates unprecedented opportunities to improve health among people experiencing homelessness and advance the integration of health and housing. During the last year, USICH and Council agencies worked to leverage these opportunities.

### *Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act*

The Affordable Care Act presents a significant opportunity to help prevent and end homelessness in America. The law expands Medicaid eligibility to individuals with incomes at or below 133 percent of the Federal poverty level for States that choose to expand their Medicaid program. The ACA's opportunities include increased health insurance coverage for people experiencing or who are at risk of homelessness through Medicaid expansion, creating payment models that incentivize health outcomes and quality, as well as new health care delivery approaches that improve the quality and coordination of care with greater emphasis on addressing social determinants of health, such as housing instability. HHS and USICH have worked closely to leverage these opportunities to benefit people or at risk of homelessness. The following advances were made in the last year:

- ▶ **Streamlined Health Insurance Application:** As part of its ongoing effort to implement the Affordable Care Act, the HHS Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released its streamlined application for health insurance, including private plans in the Health Insurance Marketplace, Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and tax credits to help pay for premiums. This new streamlined application significantly reduced the application length. Also, the application does not require applicants to specify a permanent address, a change that could be especially significant for people experiencing homelessness.
- ▶ **Case Studies and Convening of Six Communities on Medicaid and Supportive Housing:** HHS/ASPE has been conducting case studies of six communities to gather information about how states are creating permanent supportive housing by coordinating Medicaid-financed services with affordable housing. These six communities are Illinois, Connecticut, Washington, and Louisiana, Los Angeles, and the District of Columbia. With help from the Corporation for Supportive Housing and USICH, HHS/ASPE convened these six communities in Chicago in the summer of 2012 to share lessons and discuss challenges related to the use of Medicaid to finance services in permanent supportive housing. Insights from this convening will inform HHS’ final report which will be released in early 2014.
- ▶ **CNCS Social Innovation Fund Launches Supportive Housing Demonstration for Medicaid Super-Utilizers:** The Corporation for National and Community Services awarded a Social Innovation Fund grant to the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) to launch a national demonstration focused on individuals experiencing homelessness who are typically high users of emergency departments and hospital inpatient services. These individuals contribute to a disproportionate share of Medicaid spending. With this grant, CSH selected subgrantees in four communities—San Francisco, Los Angeles, Ann Arbor, and Connecticut—who will provide permanent supportive housing to 549 individuals identified as health care super-utilizers. A team of researchers at New York University is conducting a rigorous evaluation to test the potential of permanent supportive housing as a strategy for containing Medicaid costs while ending homelessness and improving health among these super-utilizers. Officials from HUD, HHS/ASPE, and USICH are serving on an advisory board for this initiative.

### *Family and Youth Stability*

Ending family and youth homelessness by 2020 is one of the four goals of the *Opening Doors*. During the 2012-2013 plan year, additional focus was brought to the needs of these populations. In June 2012, the Council approved a framework for ending youth homelessness. A unique set of strategies is required to end homelessness for this population. Families with children also require additional support and have specific needs including care for children. USICH and its Federal partners have made the following advances in the last year:

- ▶ **Child Welfare Housing Demonstration:** In October 2012, HHS awarded grants to child welfare agencies and organizations to provide supportive housing that integrates health and social services for targeted high-need families in the child welfare system. HHS/ACYF is providing five grantees \$1 million per year for up to five years. Additionally, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Casey Family Programs, and Edna McConnell Clark Foundation are providing at least \$10 million over the five years for technical assistance and national evaluation of the effectiveness of the supportive housing models.

- ▶ **Resources for Early Childhood Programs:** HHS/ACF issued a letter and recommendations for early childhood and education programs—particularly Head Start and Child Care Development Fund grantees—to support improving policies and programs for young children experiencing homelessness or children living in unstable environments. Resources include a letter, a description of policies and procedures, a document describing strategies, and a resource list.
- ▶ **Child Welfare Planning Grants:** In October 2013, HHS/ACYF awarded approximately \$13 million in planning grants to support agencies to build the capacity of child welfare systems to prevent long-term homelessness among the most at-risk youth/young adults with child welfare involvement.<sup>15</sup> Eighteen grantees received funding for two years. The core activities developed will support implementation of the USICH youth intervention model and are expected to produce outcomes in the areas of: stable housing, permanent connections, education/employment, and social-emotional well-being.
- ▶ **Access to Pre-School Programs:** ED released new non-regulatory guidance on how to use Title I Part A funds to implement high-quality pre-school programs. Although children experiencing homelessness are automatically eligible for placement in pre-school programs, waiting lists often make it difficult for these families to get the necessary resources. The guidance addresses how to overcome this challenge by utilizing homeless liaisons and modifying program administration for this vulnerable population. ED also provided technical assistance through the National Center for Homeless Education on coordinating across its programs and with HHS-funded programs to provide early care and education for young children experiencing homelessness. These programs included the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth grants; Elementary and Secondary Education Act Title I, Part A-funded pre-school and set-asides for homeless children and youth, and early intervention and special education services authorized under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Parts B and C. HHS-funded programs include Head Start, the Child Care Development Fund block grants, and Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Programs.

### *Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness and Incarceration*

People leaving incarceration and re-entering the community often fall into homelessness. Federal activities related specifically to the relationship between homelessness and reentry included:

- ▶ **Reentry Council:** The Federal Interagency Reentry Council brought together relevant Federal agencies in an effort to assist individuals returning from prison to become productive, tax-paying citizens, save taxpayer dollars by lowering the direct and collateral costs of incarceration, and make safer and healthier communities. Since there is a reciprocal relationship between incarceration and homelessness, USICH and its member agencies have been active members of this group. The reentry council continued to develop reentry myth busters, and fact sheets clarifying existing Federal policies that affect formerly incarcerated individuals and their families. This year, the reentry council released a series of snapshots capturing reentry council activities around a variety of priority areas including housing and homelessness.
- ▶ **Reentry Grants:** DOJ's Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) recently made seven awards totaling approximately \$7 million under its FY 2013 Second Chance

Act Reentry Program for Adult Offenders with Co-Occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Health Disorders and its Two-Phase Adult Reentry Demonstration. These grant programs were designed to improve outcomes for adults leaving correctional settings through evidence-based services and treatments delivered during and after incarceration, including services that support housing stability, reduce recidivism, and promote public safety. The FY 2013 grantees are focused on collaboration between State and community reentry efforts and efforts to end chronic homelessness, as well as the use of funds to support permanent supportive housing services.

- ▶ **Veterans Justice Outreach:** The Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) program aims to prevent homelessness by providing outreach and linkage to VA services for Veterans who are in the early stages of their involvement with the justice system, including Veterans Treatment Courts, drug courts, and mental health courts, as well as in local jails. VJO Specialists worked with teams at every VA medical center to ensure that eligible justice-involved Veterans receive appropriate clinical care, often including mental health and substance use disorder services. This outreach initiative involved collaboration among VA Medical Center points of contact, local law enforcement, and treatment services to provide for the needs of Veterans helping to avoid subsequent arrests and involvement with the criminal justice system.

*Federal funding and guidance is supporting communities in their efforts to retool their crisis response systems*

## Retooling the Homeless Crisis Response System

In order to effectively prevent and end homelessness, each community should have an effective crisis response system that provides temporary shelter and housing as needed and moves households out of homelessness as quickly as possible. This system must be able to connect people experiencing homelessness or at risk of losing housing to the housing and services they need to achieve stability. Retooling the crisis response system means that each community has a coordinated assessment system that provides an entry point to the programs needed to end homelessness, and a way to assess and provide appropriate support or resources to each household. Federal funding and guidance is supporting communities in their efforts to retool their crisis response systems. This year, Federal efforts to support this objective included:

- ▶ **Continuum of Care Regulations, Guidance, and Technical Assistance:** HUD published the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Interim Rule, which became effective on August 30, 2012. The new regulations focus on the implementation of the new CoC program and implementation of the HEARTH Act amendments to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.<sup>16</sup> HUD has continued to publish guidance and offer technical assistance to CoCs to improve outcomes and align with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, including the creation of centralized or coordinated assessment systems in each community and the use of performance measurement data to evaluate programs and make funding decisions.
- ▶ **Rural Housing Stability Program:** HUD released a proposed rule for the Rural Housing Stability Assistance Program (RHSP) on March 27, 2013. The purpose of the RHSP is to rehouse or improve the housing situations of individuals and families who are homeless or in the worst housing situations in a geographic area, stabilize the housing of individuals and families who are in imminent danger of losing housing, and improve the ability of the lowest-income residents of the community to afford stable housing. The proposed rule also includes a new proposed definition of “chronically homeless.”

- ▶ **Continuum of Care Planning Awards:** CoC planning activities are an eligible use of CoC program funds. The first CoC program planning grants were awarded in FY 2012 and will help communities create the capacity needed to implement collaborative planning processes, create effective strategies, use resources effectively in support of best practices, meet the requirements of McKinney-Vento, and achieve the goals of *Opening Doors*. Two hundred and eleven communities across the country received such planning grants.
- ▶ **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Guidance on Addressing Family Homelessness:** In February 2013, the HHS/ACF Office of Family Assistance (OFA) published *Use of TANF Funds to Serve Homeless Families and Families at Risk of Experiencing Homelessness*, an information memorandum designed to encourage TANF program agencies to serve families experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness. This document outlines various allowable uses of TANF to serve these populations, including rapid re-housing and employment support. It also encourages collaboration between TANF agencies and homeless service providers.
- ▶ **Expansion of Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program:** In the first two years of operation, SSVF has served significantly more participants than expected. In 2013, SSVF provided assistance to over 60,000 Veterans and their family members, including more than 13,800 children. Services provided to these Veteran families were highly effective. The *Effectiveness of Permanent Housing Program FY 2012 Report*, summarized above, documented that 86 percent of those discharged from SSVF exited into permanent housing. Growth of this program builds on these proven results. In FY 2014, SSVF is expected to serve approximately 100,000 to 125,000 participants. Funding History is as follows:
  - 2013 (for FY 2014 services): \$300 million
  - 2012 (for FY 2013 services): \$100 million
  - 2011 (for FY 2012 services): \$61 million
- ▶ **Expansion of Transition in Place for Veterans:** The VA expanded the scope of its Grant and Per Diem (GPD) program, to encourage grantees to implement a Transition-in-Place model. This enables Veterans to access permanent housing quickly and tailor the supportive services to the needs of the Veteran as their lives become more stabilized. The Veteran maintains close ties to the local VA to make sure that other needed services are being provided on an as-needed basis. In FY 2013, VA awarded \$28.4 million in grants to fund 38 GPD projects in 25 states and the District of Columbia, of which 31 of the projects were for Transition-in-Place projects. Furthermore, in FY 2013, 13,838 Veterans were discharged to permanent housing and 45,609 unique Veterans received services through the GPD program.



## Federal Assistance Required

*Per the Council's reporting requirements outlined in the McKinney-Vento legislation, this section of the report examines the level of Federal assistance needed moving forward. Despite the economic challenges the country has faced during the three years of Opening Doors implementation, commitment to the goals in the Plan remains strong. Congressional support for Opening Doors is vital in our efforts to invest in cost effective and proven solutions across the country. The President's FY 2014 Budget demonstrates an unwavering commitment to the goals of Opening Doors. Overall, the President's Budget requested \$5.3 billion in homeless programs across all Federal agencies, a 21.1 percent increase over the previously enacted Fiscal Year 2012 budget. Ending homelessness will require an equal commitment on the part of Congress. Providing assistance for America's most vulnerable citizens, people without the safety and security of a home, has always been a bipartisan priority. Investing in solutions to homelessness is critical if we are to end homelessness in America. Studies show that doing nothing, not investing in solutions that prevent and end homelessness, is actually more costly to communities. Many people who are experiencing chronic homelessness, for example, use publicly funded services so often that they are called "super-utilizers." Instead of paying for long hospital stays or incarcerations, it is to invest in proven solutions that will prevent and end homelessness in the long-run, thereby greatly cutting the cost to taxpayers.*

### Federal Investments

Preventing and ending homelessness in America requires partnerships at all levels of government as well as with the nonprofit and private sectors. The Council acknowledges the very challenging fiscal environment we are operating in and understands that Congress and the Administration need to make difficult budget decisions. The Obama Administration is committed to working with Congress to identify what can be done in the upcoming year together to advance the national goals laid out in *Opening Doors*. At the same time, Federal agencies are exploring ways to increase the impact of existing targeted homeless programs and increase the use of mainstream programs or other types of targeted programs to help prevent and end homelessness.

Since *Opening Doors* was adopted, homelessness has decreased for every population, even in the wake of a major recession. Despite the progress, additional acceleration is needed across all populations. We have made the most progress on Veteran homelessness—a 24 percent reduction since 2010—where we have had bipartisan support for needed investments. HUD-VASH, SSVF, and Grant and Per Diem transitional

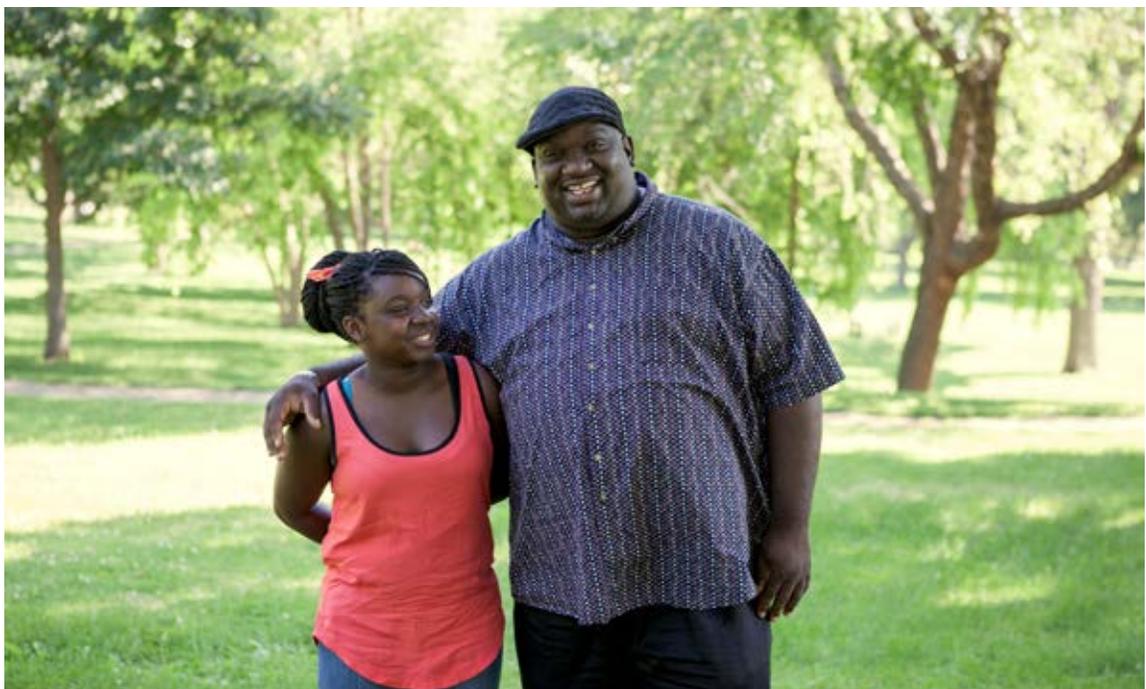
housing targeted programs for Veterans experiencing homelessness received increases in funding. The goals of *Opening Doors* remain achievable with the needed strategic investments directed toward evidence-based practices and supported through strong partnerships between Federal agencies, State and local governments, and the private sector. Conversely, sequestration and funding cuts threaten to further hamper our progress against the *Opening Doors* goals

## Barriers

Progress is being made to advance the goals set forth in *Opening Doors*, most notably in the reduction in Veterans experiencing homelessness. To achieve all of the goals, significant barriers must be overcome.

The supply of affordable housing continues to fall far short of need. This shortage is one of the greatest obstacles to preventing and ending homelessness in all its forms. As HUD's *Worst Case Housing Needs 2011 Report*<sup>17</sup> found, that year there were 8.5 million households with the "worst case housing needs"—defined as very low-income renters who had no government housing assistance and paid more than half of their incomes towards rent or lived in severely substandard conditions. The number of these households grew by 19 percent from 2009 to 2011 and by 43 percent since 2007. It is also important for communities to consider ways to target existing affordable housing to prevent and end homelessness. Efforts are being made to increase investments in affordable housing, and additional resources are needed.

Ending homelessness requires a combination of the right resources deployed in the smartest ways to communities across the country based on need. It requires strengthened capacity, strong partnerships, and sustained effort. It requires taking the necessary steps so that in a country as great as ours, no one experiences homelessness—no one is without a safe, stable place to call home.



## Conclusion

Since the launch of *Opening Doors*, a strong and growing commitment among Federal, State, and local governments, private business, nonprofit organizations, and philanthropic organizations to prevent and end homelessness has demonstrated that solving homelessness is possible. Never before have there been such strong partnerships at both the Federal and local levels. Never before has Federal investment been directed so strongly to proven practices. Never before have communities been so focused on a systems approach to preventing and ending homelessness. The result is impressive—significant decreases in homelessness despite an economy that is slowly but steadily recovering.

Progress on ending homelessness among Veterans continues. In fact, some communities are on track to end Veteran homelessness ahead of 2015, the goal established in *Opening Doors*. The President and Congress have worked in a bipartisan manner to fund programs aimed at ending Veteran homelessness. Collaboration across Federal agencies has been unprecedented. VA medical centers are working with community partners to implement best practices—Housing First permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing — that are making it possible to reach more Veterans more efficiently and more effectively.

Progress on ending chronic homelessness has been steady, but slower than on Veterans, with less incremental Federal funding for permanent supportive housing than the President requested. The Affordable Care Act has presented new opportunities to address the health challenges associated with chronic homelessness. These opportunities are just beginning, with impacts to be felt in 2014 and beyond. Council partners at HUD, HHS, and Social Security have developed innovative and collaborative efforts to leverage mainstream and homeless specific funding to accelerate progress on chronic homelessness. Communities across the country are stepping up their efforts to rehouse those on the streets the longest. The evidence that permanent supportive housing is a cost-effective solution that saves taxpayer dollars in institutional and high cost settings continues to mount, but to finish the job of ending chronic homelessness, communities will need additional resources to create more permanent supportive housing at a scale sufficient to meet the needs of vulnerable and disabled Americans.

There is a growing body of evaluation and research demonstrating that rapid re-housing is an effective means of solving homelessness among families and other populations. Through rapid re-housing, families and individuals receive assistance quickly and are able to regain both a place to live and control of their lives in a short amount of time. HHS, HUD, VA, and USICH have joined forces to promote expansion of rapid re-housing as a part of community coordinated systems that quickly assess families and individuals and link them to the best housing option. The growing affordable housing gap threatens future progress on family homelessness.

To improve the national and local response to youth homelessness, better data on the magnitude of the problem and the interventions that work is needed. To that end, Federal agencies coordinated with philanthropic organizations on an innovative initiative to help communities improve their ability to capture data about youth who are experiencing homelessness. This effort was an important step

forward, yet much work remains to be done to meet the goal of ending homelessness among youth by 2020. The United States cannot afford to see young people lose their opportunities to succeed because they lack a home.

The progress documented in this report affirms that homelessness is solvable and *Opening Doors* is serving its intended purpose of providing a framework for operationalizing the solutions. The continued implementation of *Opening Doors* and a full investment in its strategies is essential to ensure attainment of the goals. The 19 Council agencies will continue to share knowledge, commitment, and resources to fulfill the shared vision that no one should be without a safe stable place to call home.



## Endnotes

1. As reflected in the 2016 point-in-time count
2. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). 2012 Point-in-Time Estimates of Homelessness: Vol. 1 of the *2012 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR)*. (Washington, D.C. December 2012).
3. Although the HEARTH Act extends the definition of chronic homelessness to include both individuals and families, the Administration's goal of ending chronic homelessness by 2015 as stated in *Opening Doors* focuses on single individuals experiencing chronic homelessness. Families experiencing chronic homelessness are included in the goal of ending family homelessness by 2020.
4. 2012 *AHAR*.
5. U.S. Census Bureau. (2010).
6. Adapted from Exhibit 1.4, *Estimates of Homeless People by State 2013*. Data source: PIT 2007–2013; Puerto Rico and U.S. territories were excluded. HUD. 2013 Point-in-Time Estimates of Homelessness: Vol. 1, the *2013 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress*. (Washington, D.C., December 2013).
7. 2012 *AHAR*.
8. The disability rate among the general U.S. population cited in the HUD AHAR is based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS asks survey respondents about the presence of six different disability types. Although this definition of disability differs from the one used in HUD's definition of chronic homelessness, both definitions use a broader construct of disability that permits a useful comparison of prevalence rates.
9. The McKinney-Vento definition of "enrolled student" includes those students attending classes and participating fully in school activities. For data collection purposes, an enrolled student includes any child for whom a current enrollment record exists.
10. National Center for Homeless Education. *Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program Data Collection Summary*. (2013).
11. USICH. *Framework to End Youth Homelessness: A Resource Text for Dialogue and Action*. February 2012.
12. HUD, Office of Public and Indian Housing. Notice PIH 2013-15 (HA): "Guidance on housing individuals and families experiencing homelessness through the Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher programs." June 10, 2013.
13. See full list of URLs, next page.
14. HUD. "Statement of the Department of Housing and Urban Development on the Role of Housing in Accomplishing the Goals of *Olmstead*." Washington, DC, June 2013.
15. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families. "Funding Opportunity Announcement HHS-2013-ACF-ACYF-CA-0636. Planning Grants to Develop a Model of Intervention for Youth/Young Adults with Child Welfare Involvement At-Risk of Homelessness." June 7, 2013.
16. Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH): CoC Program Interim Rule. 77 Fed. Reg. 147 (July 31, 2012).
17. HUD. *Worst Case Housing Needs 2011: Report to Congress*. August 2013.

# Resources

## Census Bureau

- ▶ Interactive Population Map, 2010 Census. <http://www.census.gov/2010census/popmap/>

## HHS

- ▶ Planning Grants to Develop a Model of Intervention for Youth/Young Adults with Child Welfare Involvement At-Risk of Homelessness. June 7, 2013. <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/foa/view/HHS-2013-ACF-ACYF-CA-0636>

## HUD

- ▶ Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH): CoC Program Interim Rule. <https://www.onecpd.info/resources/documents/CoCProgramInterimRule.pdf>

## Office of Community Planning and Development

- ▶ *Volume 1 of the 2012 Annual Homeless Assessment Report* (Washington, D.C. December 2012) [https://www.onecpd.info/resources/documents/2012AHAR\\_PITEstimates.pdf](https://www.onecpd.info/resources/documents/2012AHAR_PITEstimates.pdf)
- ▶ *2013 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress*. (Washington, D.C. December 2013) <https://www.onecpd.info/resources/documents/AHAR-2013-Part1.pdf>

## Office of Policy Development and Research

- ▶ *Veterans Homelessness Prevention Demonstration Evaluation, Interim Report*. September 2013. [http://www.huduser.org/publications/pdf/HUD519\\_VHPD\\_InterimReport.pdf](http://www.huduser.org/publications/pdf/HUD519_VHPD_InterimReport.pdf)
- ▶ *Worst Case Housing Needs 2011: Report to Congress*. August 2013. [http://www.huduser.org/portal/publications/affhsg/wc\\_HsgNeeds11\\_report.html](http://www.huduser.org/portal/publications/affhsg/wc_HsgNeeds11_report.html)

## Office of Public and Indian Housing

- ▶ Notice PIH 2013-15 (HA), Guidance on housing individuals and families experiencing homelessness through the Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher programs. June 10, 2013. <http://portal.hud.gov/huddoc/pih2013-15.pdf>
- ▶ Letter from Secretary Donovan and Assistant Secretary Henriquez [http://usich.gov/media\\_center/news/hud\\_issues\\_letter\\_encouraging\\_phas\\_to\\_help\\_end\\_homelessness](http://usich.gov/media_center/news/hud_issues_letter_encouraging_phas_to_help_end_homelessness)
- ▶ Frequently-Asked Questions: [http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=PIH2013-15HomelessQAs.pdf&utm\\_source=Nov+PHA+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=Nov+PHA+Newsletter&utm\\_medium=archive](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=PIH2013-15HomelessQAs.pdf&utm_source=Nov+PHA+Newsletter&utm_campaign=Nov+PHA+Newsletter&utm_medium=archive)

## Webinars

- ▶ “Ending Homelessness through the Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing Programs”  
[https://www.onecpd.info/training-events/courses/overview-of-pih-notice-2013-15-guidance-on-housing-individuals-and-families-experiencing-homelessness/?utm\\_source=Nov+PHA+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=Nov+PHA+Newsletter&utm\\_medium=archive](https://www.onecpd.info/training-events/courses/overview-of-pih-notice-2013-15-guidance-on-housing-individuals-and-families-experiencing-homelessness/?utm_source=Nov+PHA+Newsletter&utm_campaign=Nov+PHA+Newsletter&utm_medium=archive)
- ▶ “PHA 101: A Guide for CoCs Understanding PHA Programs and Policies”  
[https://www.onecpd.info/training-events/courses/coc-101-for-phas-webinar/?utm\\_source=Nov+PHA+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=Nov+PHA+Newsletter&utm\\_medium=archive](https://www.onecpd.info/training-events/courses/coc-101-for-phas-webinar/?utm_source=Nov+PHA+Newsletter&utm_campaign=Nov+PHA+Newsletter&utm_medium=archive)
- ▶ “CoC 101: A Guide for PHA’s Understanding of CoC Functions and Partnerships”  
<https://www.onecpd.info/training-events/courses/coc-101-for-phas-webinar/>

## Joint Projects

### HUD and VA

- ▶ *American Journal of Public Health*. Volume 103, Issue S2 (December 2013)  
<http://ajph.aphapublications.org/toc/ajph/103/S2>

### USICH

- ▶ *Framework to End Youth Homelessness: A Resource Text for Dialogue and Action*. February 2012.  
[http://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset\\_library/USICH\\_Youth\\_Framework\\_\\_FINAL\\_02\\_13\\_131.pdf](http://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/USICH_Youth_Framework__FINAL_02_13_131.pdf)
- ▶ Media Center, Video and Webinars. [http://usich.gov/media\\_center/videos\\_and\\_webinars](http://usich.gov/media_center/videos_and_webinars)
- ▶ *PHA Guidebook to Ending Homelessness*. 2013. [http://usich.gov/usich\\_resources/pha\\_portal/](http://usich.gov/usich_resources/pha_portal/)
- ▶ The Solutions Database: [http://usich.gov/usich\\_resources/solutions/explore](http://usich.gov/usich_resources/solutions/explore)

### VA

- ▶ *Effectiveness of Permanent Housing Program FY 2012 Report*  
[http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/docs/SSVF/Effectiveness\\_of\\_SSVF\\_Program\\_Report\\_FY2012.pdf](http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/docs/SSVF/Effectiveness_of_SSVF_Program_Report_FY2012.pdf)







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