



United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

Preventing and Ending Homelessness in the United States

Since its creation by the landmark Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act in 1987, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) has coordinated the Federal response to homelessness by creating partnerships 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.

Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

On June 22, 2010, USICH and its 19 member agencies released *Opening Doors*, the nation's first-ever comprehensive plan to prevent and end homelessness. The plan was amended on September 12, 2012. *Opening Doors* serves as a roadmap for joint action by the Federal government and its partners at the State and local levels.

Opening Doors has four key goals:

- Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness in five years
- Prevent and end Veterans' homelessness in five years
- Prevent and end homelessness among families, youth, and children in 10 years
- Set a path to ending all types of homelessness

The Plan presents 58 strategies based on best practices from around the country that build upon the lesson that mainstream housing, health, education, and human service programs must be fully engaged and coordinated to prevent and end homelessness.

Building on the momentum generated across the country by the release of *Opening Doors*, USICH and its 19 member agencies have immediately turned from the development of *Opening Doors* to action.

Interagency Leadership and Collaboration

USICH is an independent agency within the Federal executive branch and is composed of 19 Cabinet secretaries and agency heads. The Council annually elects a chairperson and a vice chairperson from among its members.

The current chairperson is Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan; Department of Labor Secretary Thomas E. Perez serves as the vice chairperson. The executive director of USICH is Laura Green Zeilinger, who provides the Council with expertise in the most effective ways to prevent and end homelessness.

USICH works to prevent and end homelessness by partnering with Federal, State, and local government, advocates, service providers, and people experiencing homelessness to:

- ❖ Establish and maintain effective, coordinated, and supportive relationships with every Federal agency
- ❖ Organize and support States and communities to effectively implement local plans to end homelessness
- ❖ Develop an effective portal to Federal programs and initiatives
- ❖ Establish and maintain productive communications with Congress
- ❖ Disseminate relevant research and promote evidence-based approaches
- ❖ Establish partnerships with public and private-sector stakeholders
- ❖ Monitor, evaluate, and recommend improvements
- ❖ Provide professional and technical assistance to States, local governments, and other public and private nonprofit organizations

For more information, visit the Council's website at www.usich.gov

Department
of Agriculture

Department of
Commerce

Department
of Defense

Department
of Education

Department
of Energy

Department of
Health and Human
Services

Department
of Homeland
Security

Department
of Housing and
Urban Development

Department
of the Interior

Department
of Justice

Department of Labor

Department
of Transportation

Department of
Veterans Affairs

Corporation for
National and
Community Service

General Services
Administration

Office of
Management and
Budget

Social Security
Administration

US Postal Service

White House Office
of Faith-Based
and Community
Initiatives

Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness

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VISION

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

GOALS

- Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness by 2010
- Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans by 2015
- Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children by 2020
- Set a path to ending all types of homelessness

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

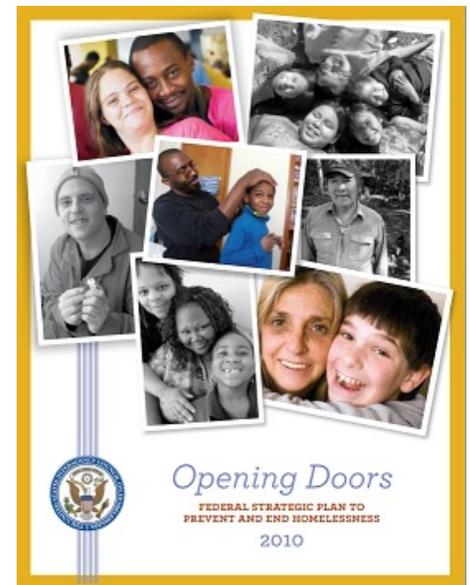
Objective 7: Integrate primary and behavioral health care services with homeless assistance programs and housing to reduce people's vulnerability to and the impacts of homelessness

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



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