

Annual State Coordinators Meeting

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February 26, 2016





U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

Leading the federal response to homelessness

- **Maximize** the effectiveness of 19 Council member agencies
 - Chair: HHS Secretary Sylvia Mathews Burwell
 - Vice-Chair: ED Acting Secretary John King
- **Disseminate** best practices
- **Drive** collaborative solutions



U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

Goals

1. Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in 2015
2. Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness in 2017
3. Prevent and end homelessness among families, children, and youth in 2020
4. Set a path to end all types of homelessness

Action Areas

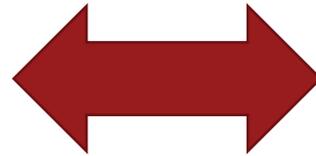
1. Increase Leadership, Collaboration, and Civic Engagement
2. Increase Access to Stable and Affordable Housing
3. Increase Economic Security
4. Improve Health and Stability
5. Retool the Homelessness Crisis Response System



Driving Federal, State, and Local Results

Policy Leadership

- Quarterly Council meetings
- Quarterly council policy group meetings
- Interagency working groups
- Staff liaison to each Council member agency



Field Implementation

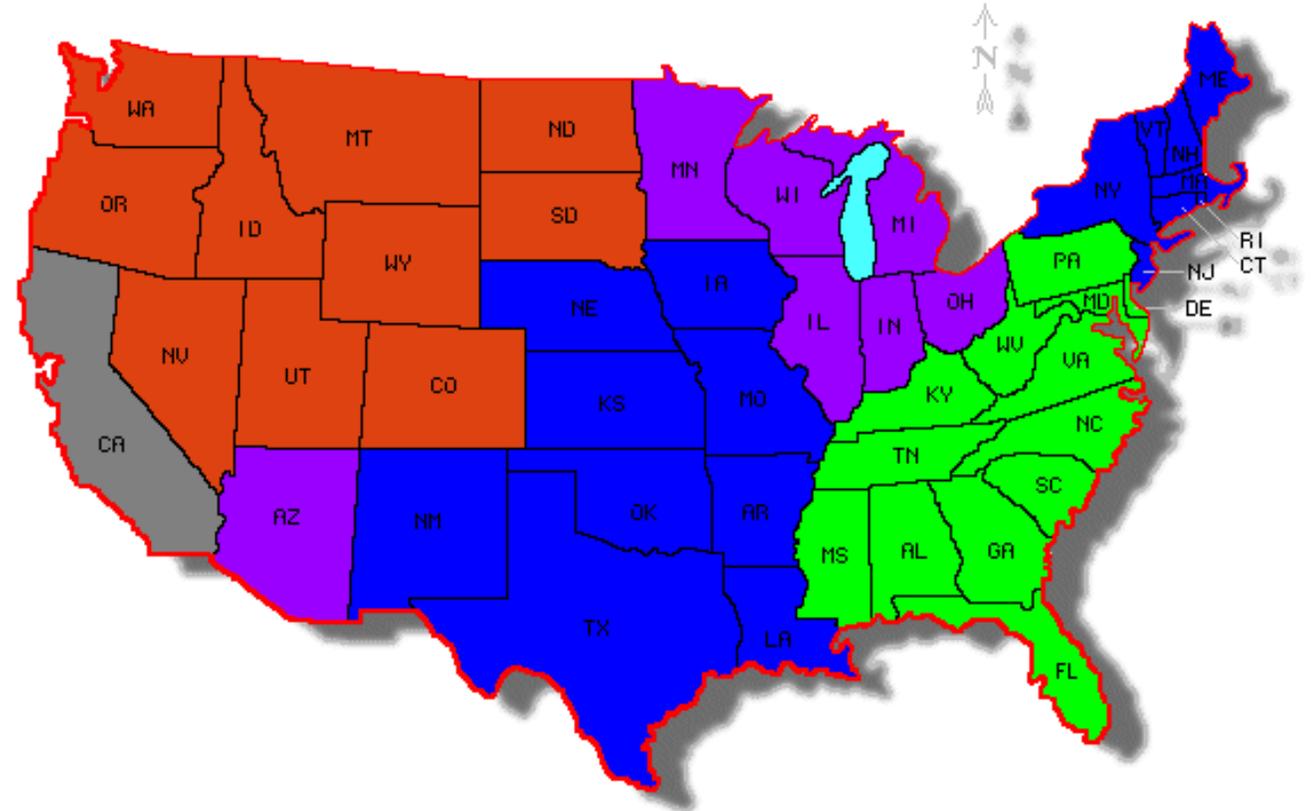
- All 50 states
- 25 priority communities
- Community visits, conferences, action camps and convenings
- Meetings with high ranking state and local officials



Our Regional Expertise

National Initiatives Team
5 regionally based staff
with expertise in state
and local implementation

lwyer



For the expert that covers your jurisdiction,
contact Katie Jennings: (202) 205-4731; katelyn.jennings@usich.gov



Our Work

- Create and Lead a **Common Vision**
- Establish **Policy Priorities** and Align Strategic Actions
- Reduce Fragmentation and **Duplication**
- Drive the National Implementation of **Cost-Effective Solutions**



Family Connection: Key Action Areas

- Ensure **interventions and assistance are tailored** to meet the needs of families
- Use **coordinated entry systems** to target interventions
- Develop and build upon **evidence-based practices** for serving families
- Improve **linkages to mainstream systems** to help families gain access to benefits, employment, and community-based services

Family Connection

Building Systems to End Family Homelessness

Ending homelessness for families and children is a priority for the nation and for every community. By providing the right amount of assistance to help families obtain or regain permanent housing as quickly as possible and ensuring access to services to remain stably housed, achieving an end to family homelessness is possible.

Defining an End to Family Homelessness

Given the current economic realities in most communities, situations in which families experience a crisis and lose their home will likely occur. Recognizing this reality, USICH and federal partners adopted a vision of an end to family homelessness to mean that **no family will be without shelter and homelessness will be a rare and brief occurrence**. To achieve an end to family homelessness, we encourage communities to join us to strengthen our local crisis response systems together.

Working together with our partners at the state, local, and federal level to strengthen the local crisis response systems, we will:

- Ensure that no family is living unsheltered.
- Shorten episodes of family homelessness by providing resources that enable families to safely reenter permanent housing as quickly as possible.
- Link families to the benefits, supports, and community-based services they need to achieve and maintain housing stability, and
- Identify and implement effective prevention methods to help families avoid homelessness.

Key Areas of Action

USICH and federal partners, through a review of research, engagement with communities, and an interagency working group process, identified four key strategy areas for federal, state, and local action to end family homelessness:

1. Develop a centralized or **coordinated entry system** with the capacity to assess needs and connect families to **targeted prevention assistance** where possible and **temporary shelter** as needed;
2. Ensure interventions and assistance are tailored to the needs of families:
 - a) Provide **rapid re-housing** assistance to the majority of families experiencing homelessness,
 - b) Increase access to **affordable housing** and help communities target resources, and
 - c) Direct more **service-intensive housing interventions** to the highest need households;
3. Help families connect to the mainstream resources (benefits, employment, and community-based services) needed to sustain housing and achieve stability. Improve linkages to **local mainstream systems** to help families gain access to these resources more quickly;
4. Develop and build upon **evidence-based practices** for serving families experiencing and at risk of experiencing homelessness.

USICH and federal partners are aligned around this approach and committed to supporting communities and stakeholders through the use of interagency messaging, policies, and technical assistance.



The Plan

Onanna Boats, Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, sets the goal to end family homelessness in 2020.

What We Know

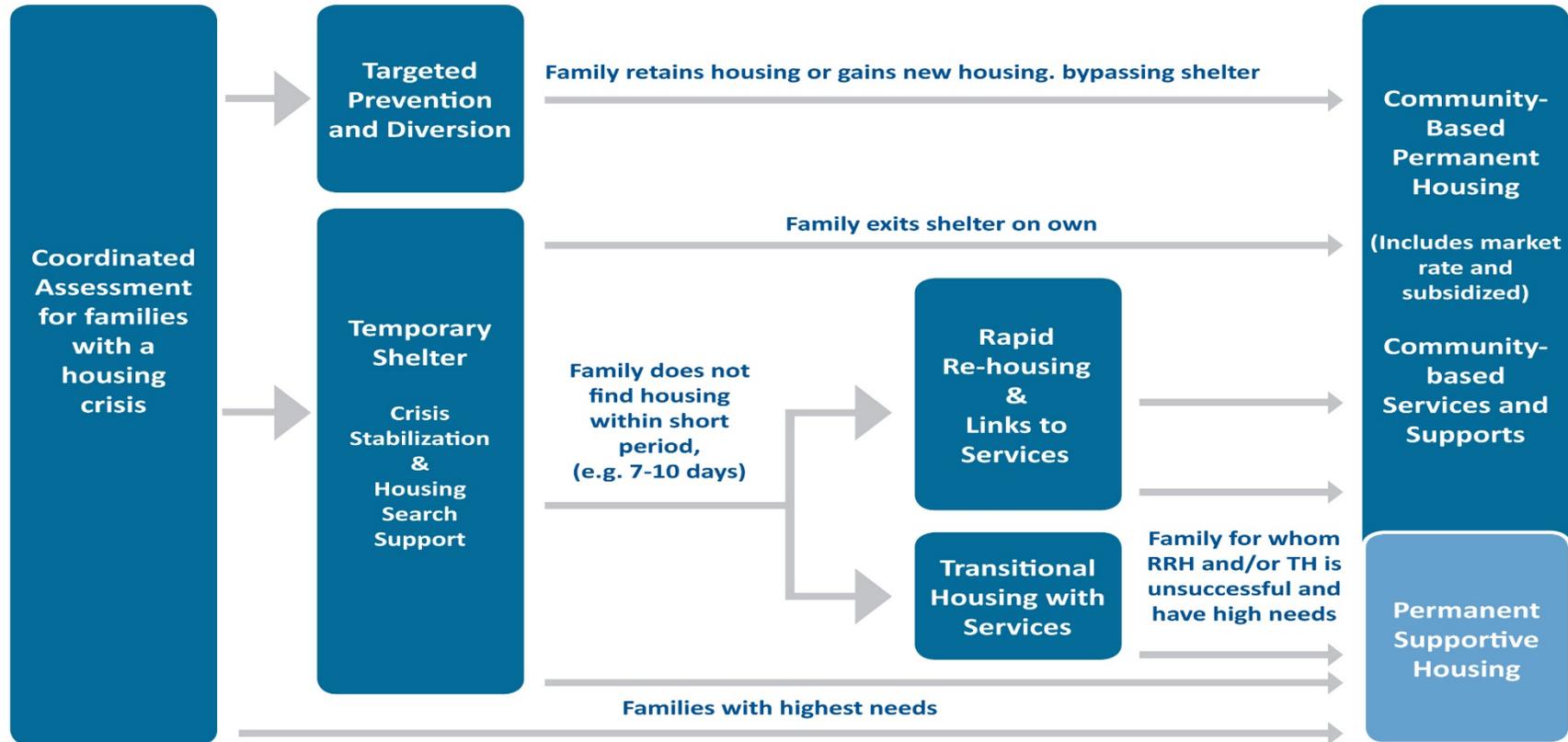
Families experiencing homelessness are very similar to other low-income families. They face many obstacles such as low education level, domestic violence, and mental health issues.

Our Progress

Despite tremendous challenges associated with the recession, *2013 HUD data* on family homelessness indicates a decrease at a point in time. Still, the data on family homelessness points to the need for additional efforts, and increased resources to meet our shared goal.



Crisis Response System for Families





Critical Role of Mainstream Programs

- Increase awareness and understanding of families experiencing homelessness.
- Provide federal guidance and technical assistance to strengthen coordination.
- Build community capacity to provide the right level of services that are tailored to family needs.



The Progress We're Making

Early Childhood

- Child Care and Development Block Grant
- Shelter assessment tool
- Early childhood homelessness state profiles

Domestic Violence

- Domestic Violence and Housing Technical Assistance Consortium
- HUD 2015 Continuum of Care funding solicitation
- Resources on housing models and assessment and referral systems for victims of DV

Access to Benefits and Employment

- Guidance on using TANF funds to address homelessness
- Forthcoming guide TANF agencies to coordinate with housing programs
- WIOA implementation



Discussion



Youth Homelessness: Key Action Areas

#1 - Build the **foundation** for a coordinated and comprehensive community response

#2 - Build the **capacity of local communities** to implement the components of a coordinated and comprehensive community response

Learn more: [Coordinated Community Response to Youth Homelessness](#)

Preventing and Ending Youth Homelessness A Coordinated Community Response

In *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*, we set a national goal to prevent and end youth homelessness in 2020. To get there, it will take all of us—government, non-profits, business, and philanthropy—to make sure every community has the capacity to achieve the goal.

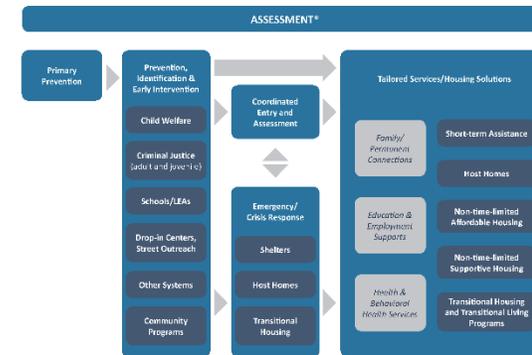
Our understanding of the scope and dynamics of youth homelessness is growing. While we continue to learn more every day, we must act now to build the comprehensive and coordinated response that young people need to end their homelessness forever.

This document provides a preliminary vision for such a response. It draws upon what we know works to end homelessness for other populations, along with strategies that support the unique needs of unaccompanied youth and young adults under 25.

We hope you'll use this document to advance discussions in your communities and build upon the work already underway. To receive additional tools and resources that will be developed to support the implementation of this response, [sign up for our newsletter](#).

Our Preliminary Vision for a Community Response

The Interagency Working Group on Ending Youth Homelessness has developed a shared vision for the community response that will be necessary to prevent and end youth homelessness, illustrated here and described in more detail below.



*Throughout the provision of services, assessment will be ongoing.



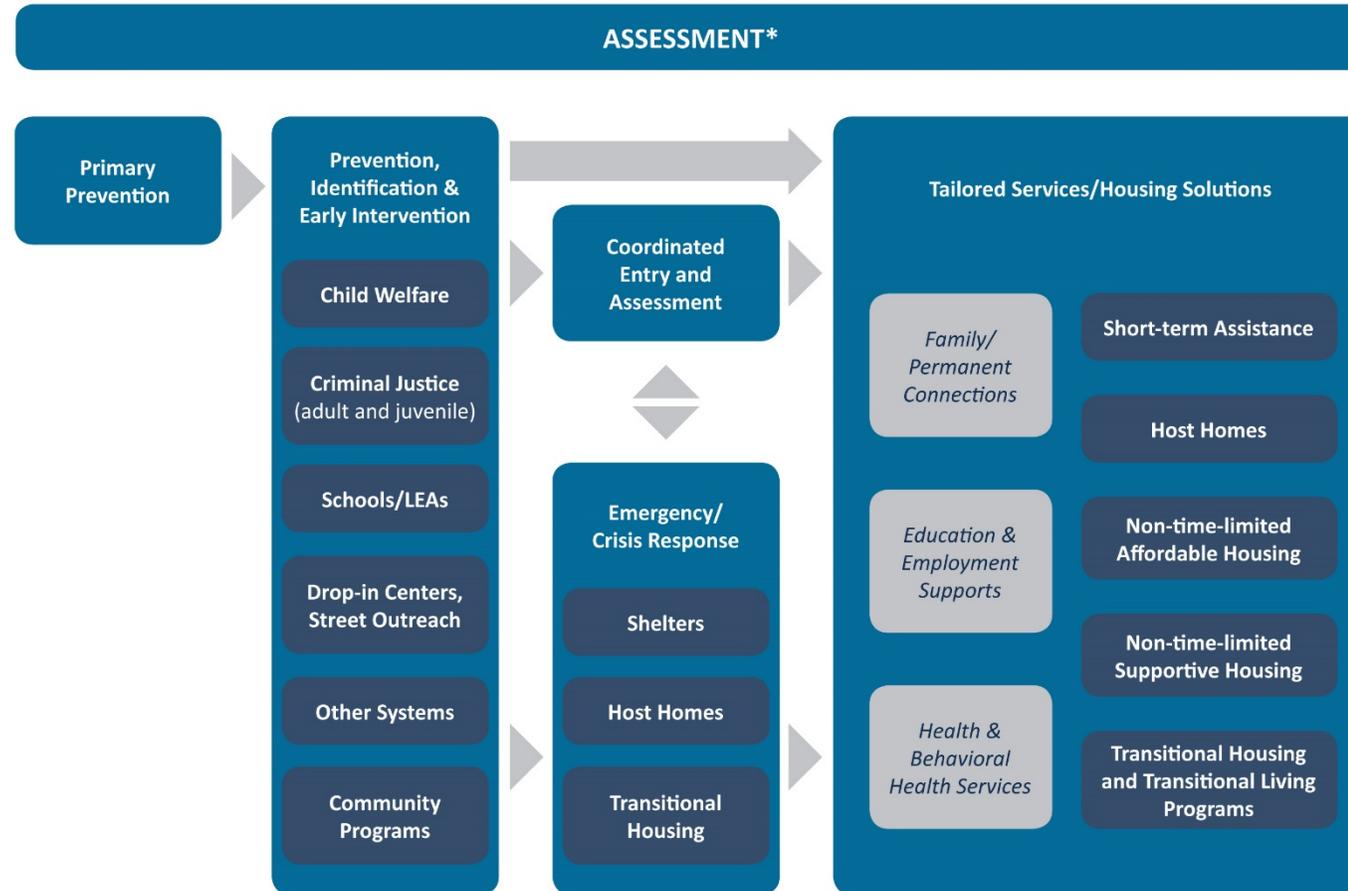
Interagency Working Group on Ending Youth Homelessness

Co-Chairs:
U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness
Department of Health and Human Services
Department of Housing and Urban Development

Members:
Department of Education
Department of Justice
Social Security Administration
Department of Labor



Coordinated Community Response



**Throughout the provision of services, assessment will be ongoing.*



Snapshot of Federal Progress

Driving Policy

- USICH Report to Congress
- A Way Home America
- HUD LGBTQ Youth Homelessness Prevention Pilots
- HHS Youth at-Risk of Homelessness Grants Phase II
- HUD Coordinated Community Response Pilot Demonstration
- ED Chronic Absenteeism Initiative
- ED-HUD collaboration
- Data sharing

Guiding the Field

- ACA enrollment for youth
- Coordinated entry
- Data explainer
- Screening and assessment inventory
- Family intervention strategies
- 2017 PIT count



USICH Priorities in FY 16 and FY 17

- Achieve and sustain an end to veteran homelessness, and translate lessons learned to our work with other populations
- Scale up investments in proven housing interventions and engage mainstream systems to end family homelessness
- Expand supply of supportive housing necessary to end chronic homelessness
- Test models and strengthen community capacity to end youth homelessness
- Provide communities with criteria and benchmarks for ending family, youth, and chronic homelessness



For Discussion

What is the role of State Coordinators in a regional approach to collaboration?



The President's FY 2017 Budget

Families

- **\$11 billion** in mandatory funding to fund short- and long-term rental assistance
- **\$2 billion** to provide emergency assistance to families facing financial crises
- **\$88 million** in tenant-based rental assistance to create 10,000 new targeted vouchers
- **\$24 million** to create 8,000 new units of rapid re-housing
- **\$6 million** of Head Start increase for children experiencing homelessness

Chronic

- **\$330 million** to create 25,500 new supportive housing units

Youth

- **\$25 million** to expand the Youth Homelessness demonstration
- **\$6 million** increase in RHYA, including over **\$2 million** in prevention pilots

Veterans

- **Sustains funding** for targeted homelessness assistance for Veterans at current levels
- **\$12 million** increase for DOL's Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program



Discussion

Where do you need additional guidance from Federal partners?



The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness leads the national effort to prevent and end homelessness in America. We drive action among our 19 Federal member agencies and foster partnerships at every level of government and with the private sector.

We know how to end homelessness in this country. Together, we can make it happen.



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