

The Federal Strategic Plan: What It Means to End Homelessness

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Presenter

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U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

Leading the federal response to homelessness

- Matthew Doherty, Executive Director
- 19 Council member agencies
 - Council Chair: HHS Secretary Sylvia Mathews Burwell
 - Council Vice-Chair: Education Secretary John B. King, Jr.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

U.S. Department of Commerce

U.S. Department of Defense

U.S. Department of Education

U.S. Department of Energy

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

U.S. Department of Interior

U.S. Department of Justice

U.S. Department of Labor

U.S. Department of Transportation

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Corporation for National and Community Service

General Services Administration

Office of Management and Budget

Social Security Administration

United States Postal Service

White House Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives



USICH's Role

- 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

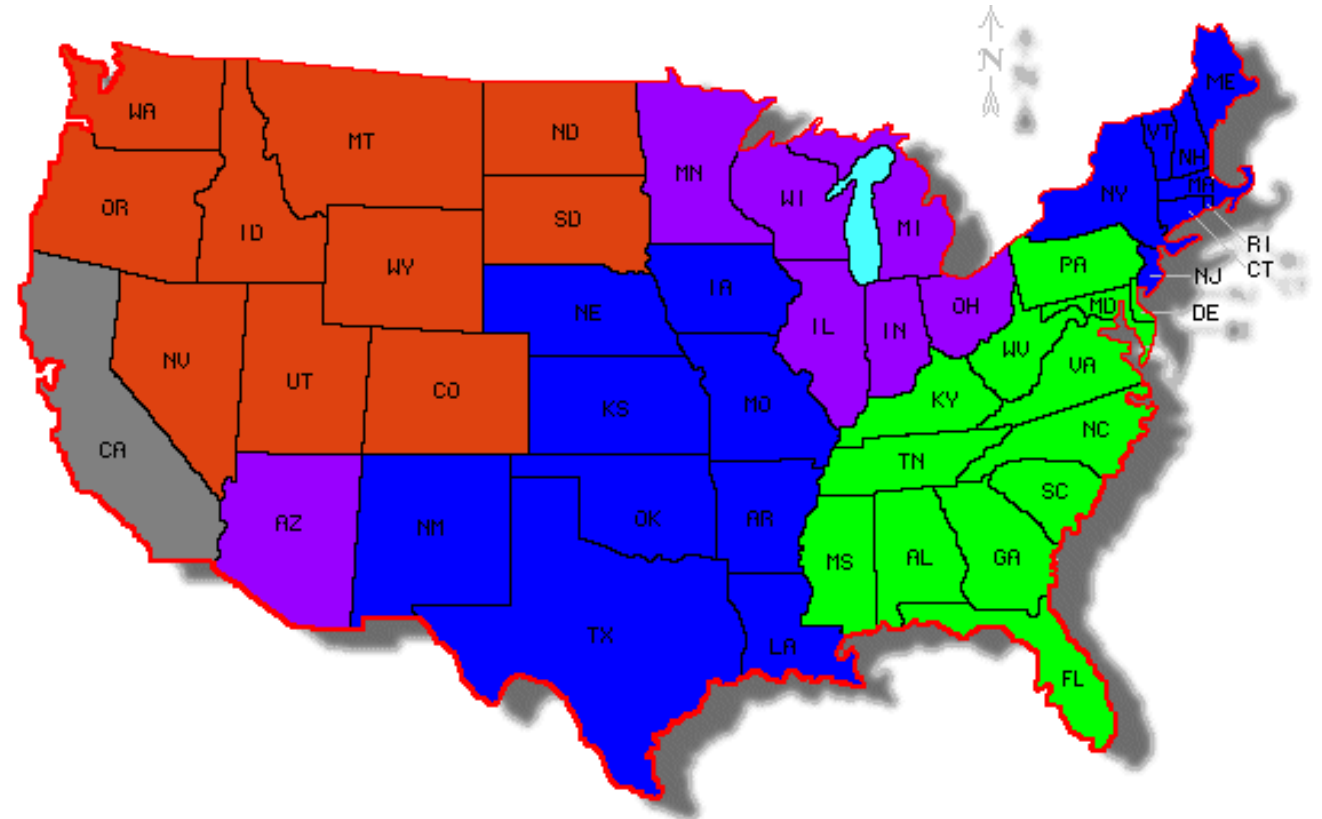


Our Regional Expertise

National Initiatives Team

5 regionally based staff with expertise in state and local implementation

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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



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



Our Results (2010-2015)*

Overall
Homelessness

11%

Veteran
Homelessness*

47%

Chronic
Homelessness

22%

Family
Homelessness

19%

* Veteran data is as of 2016 PIT Count



What Does It Mean to End Homelessness?

- 2015 amendment to *Opening Doors* operationalized what it means to end homelessness
- Termed as “effectively ending homelessness”, ending homelessness means that if homelessness cannot be prevented, it will be **rare, brief, and non-reoccurring**.
- Requires homelessness response systems to be retooled as a crisis response system built upon best practices.



Functional Zero vs. Effectively Ending Homelessness

Function Zero

- Developed by Community Solutions (CS)
- Used in CS Zero 2016 Initiative (end Veteran and chronic homelessness by December 2016)
- A measurement based on average monthly permanent housing placement rate.
- **Functional Zero**: *at any given time the number of sheltered and unsheltered Veterans or chronically homeless individuals will not be greater than the average monthly permanent housing placement rate.*

Effectively Ending Homeless

- Developed by USICH via *Opening Doors*
- Uses metrics established via benchmarks and criteria to assess community systems
- Criteria assesses a community's homelessness crisis response system
- Benchmarks are data points used as quantitative evidence



Ending Veteran Homelessness

Revised benchmarks and criteria released October 2015

Criteria:

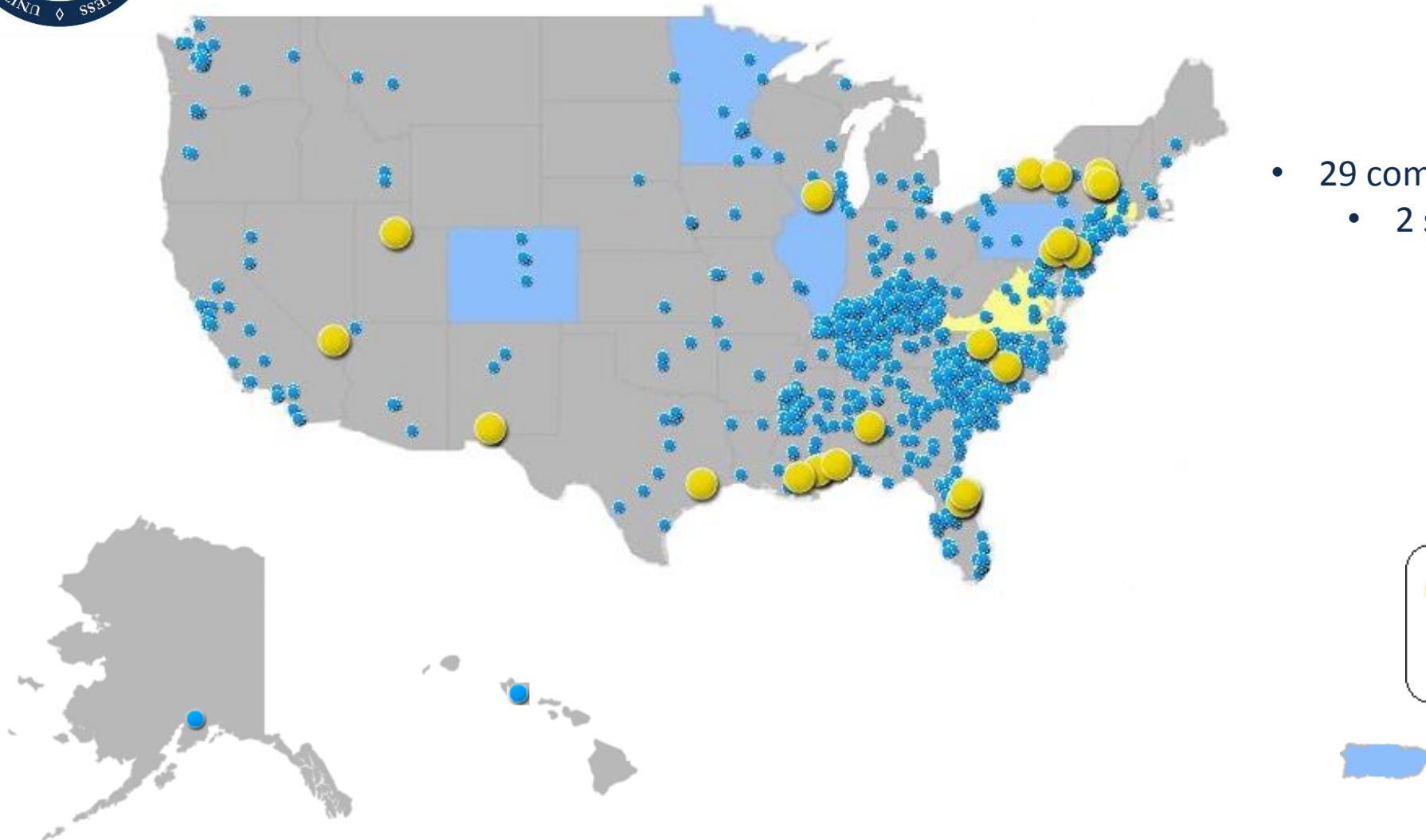
1. By-Name List
2. Use of transitional housing as short-term “bridge” housing
3. Immediate access to low barrier shelter
4. Sufficient resources to house all homeless Veterans
5. Sufficient resources to prevent Veteran homelessness

Benchmarks:

1. Zero chronically homeless Veterans (exceptions allowed)
2. Average time (over 90 day period) from identification to permanent housing placement \leq 90 days (exceptions)
3. Total number of Veterans exiting to permanent housing (over 90 day period) \geq total number of newly identified homeless Veterans
4. Total number of Veterans (over 90 day period) entering service-intensive transitional housing $<$ number of newly identified Veterans



Ending Veteran Homelessness



- 29 communities confirmed
 - 2 states (CT, VA)

● Goal or Milestone Reached

● Mayors' Challenge Participant



Ending Chronic Homelessness

[Benchmarks and criteria released June 2016](#)

Criteria:

1. By Name List
2. Immediate access to shelter
3. Housing First system orientation
4. Access to permanent supportive housing w/ appropriate services
5. Resources to reduce recidivism and also prevent persons from becoming chronically homeless.

Benchmark: Communities will have achieved the benchmark if the number of individuals that continue to experience chronic homelessness does not exceed 0.1% of the total number of individuals reported in the most recent Point-in-Time count, or 3 persons, whichever is greater.



Ending Chronic Homelessness

- [10 Strategies for Ending Chronic Homelessness](#) (released April 2016)
 1. State and local commitment to ending chronic homelessness (development of ICH)
 2. Identify all people experiencing chronic homelessness
 3. Ramp up outreach, in-reach and engagement efforts
 4. Implementing housing first orientation
 5. Set short-term housing placement goals (e.g., 100 day challenges)
 6. Prioritize people experiencing chronic homelessness in existing supportive housing
 7. Project the need for new supportive housing and reallocate funding to support the need
 8. Engage and support Public Housing Authorities and Multifamily Housing Operators in establishing preferences for chronically homeless individuals
 9. Leverage Medicaid and behavioral health funding to support services
 10. Help individuals increase income through connection to employment services, mainstream benefits, and income supports



Key Strategies to Ending Family Homelessness

- Develop a **coordinated assessment** process with the capacity to assess needs and connect families to targeted prevention assistance where possible and temporary shelter as needed.
- Connect families to **housing and services interventions** (rapid re-housing, affordable housing, transitional housing, or permanent supportive housing) most appropriate to their specific strengths and needs.
- Help families connect to the **benefits, employment, and community-based services** needed to sustain housing and achieve stability.
- Develop and build upon **evidence-based practices** for serving families experiencing and at risk of experiencing homelessness

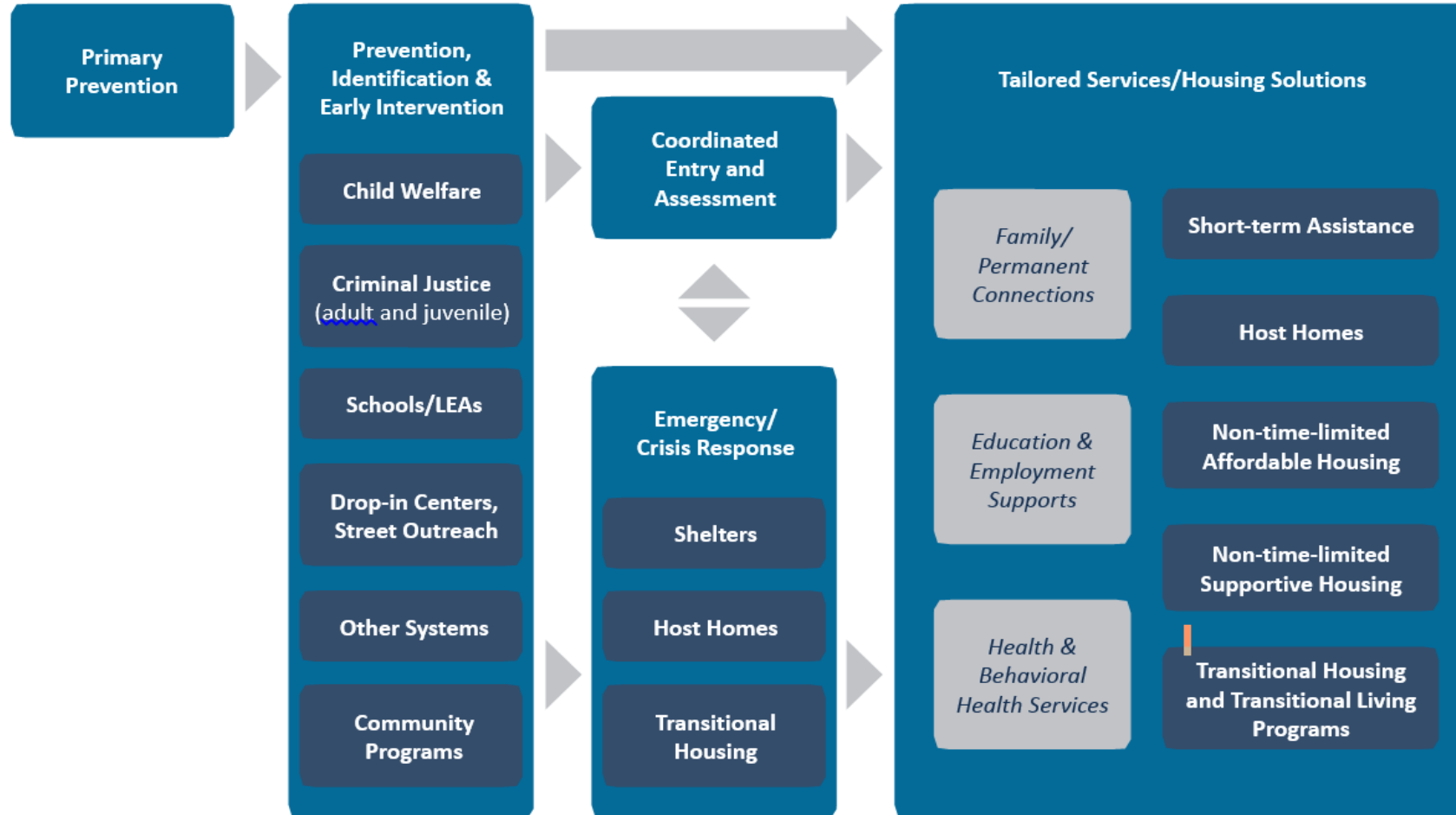


Key Strategies to Ending Youth Homelessness

- USICH developed a [framework](#) for ending youth homelessness based on four (4) primary outcomes:
 1. Stable housing
 2. Permanent connections
 3. Education/employment
 4. Social-emotional well-being



Ending Youth Homelessness: Coordinated Community Response Model



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



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