

The Plan



Heather's baby at youth center

Heather is a teen mother who lives in supportive housing. The caring people who work with her have helped her learn how to be a good mom to her baby.

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 in 5 years**
 - ▶ **Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in 5 years**
 - ▶ **Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children in 10 years**
 - ▶ **Set a path to ending all types of homelessness**
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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:* 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 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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This Plan creates the framework for accomplishing the ambitious goals of preventing and ending homelessness. The objectives identify high level actions or system change needed to facilitate increased access to housing, economic security, health, and stability for specific populations. The strategies articulate steps that could be taken collaboratively by federal, state, and local leaders to address the differentiated needs of the populations identified.

What follows is a discussion of each objective, including the logic for the objective, its strategies, the lead federal agencies, and key partners. Following each objective are the strategies needed to accomplish that particular objective.

There are Signature Initiatives presented throughout related to Veterans, families with children, people experiencing chronic homelessness, and youth. These initiatives highlight new collaborative activity currently being undertaken by federal agencies and other partners. They focus on the target populations for the Plan. They will create opportunities for shared learning about specific strategies and approaches. They may also inform future policy and budget processes.

The table on the following page shows how different population groups are targeted within each of the strategies.

USICH staff are working in partnership with the 19 Council member agencies and with other key stakeholders to begin the planning that could operationalize each strategy. Through the planning and implementation process, the feasibility of the strategies will be assessed with some strategies taking longer to operationalize. Some strategies may prove not to be feasible to implement at scale.



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Photographer: Cathy ten Broeke

Beth and her four children, ages 6, 7, 12, and 15, live in a duplex provided by the American Indian Community Housing Organization in Duluth, Minnesota. Beth and her children became homeless when she left an abusive marriage after more than ten years and now she and her children are starting over. She works a reception job, and staff are helping her build her resume. Beth is also an artist, making moccasins, beadwork, pencil drawings, and acrylic on canvas. "Since I've been in this housing I can do some of these things again. In a year I'll have canvases all over the place."

POPULATIONS SUPPORTED BY THE PLAN'S STRATEGIES

OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES	Veterans	Families	Youth	Chronic	All
1. Promote Collaborative Leadership					
a. Educate the public	•	•	•	•	•
b. Engage state/local/tribal leaders	•	•	•	•	•
c. Update and implement state/local plans	•	•	•	•	•
d. Involve citizens and private sector	•	•	•	•	•
e. Test, model interagency collaboration	•	•	•	•	•
f. Reward collaborating communities	•	•	•	•	•
g. Recognize savings across partners	•	•	•	•	•
h. Engage Congressional committees	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Signature Initiative: Veterans</i>	•	•		•	
2. Strengthen Capacity and Knowledge					
a. Compile research	•	•	•	•	•
b. Coordinate federal technical assistance	•	•	•	•	•
c. More readily available info on best practices	•	•	•	•	•
d. More readily available info on special populations	•	•	•	•	•
e. Needs of rural and tribal communities	•	•	•	•	•
f. Inventory federal emergency response programs	•	•	•	•	•
g. Increase use of HMIS	•	•	•	•	•
h. Create a common data standard and uniform performance measures if feasible	•	•	•	•	•
3. Provide Affordable Housing					
a. Support rental housing subsidies	•	•	•	•	•
b. Expand supply of affordable rental homes	•	•	•	•	•
c. Improve access to assistance	•	•	•	•	•
d. Increase service-enriched housing	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Signature Initiative: Families with Children</i>	•	•	•		
4. Provide Permanent Supportive Housing					
a. Improve access to and use of supportive housing	•	•	•	•	•
b. Protocols and incentives to free up units	•	•	•	•	•
c. Expand supply of supportive housing	•	•	•	•	•
d. Assess options for supportive housing service funding	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Signature Initiative: Chronic Homelessness</i>	•			•	
5. Increase Economic Security					
a. Job development focus on homelessness	•	•	•	•	•
b. Improve access to work supports	•	•	•	•	•
c. Best practices to help people enter workforce	•	•	•	•	•
d. Coordinate/integrate employment programs	•	•	•	•	•
e. Increase work for Veterans	•	•		•	

OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES (cont'd)	Veterans	Families	Youth	Chronic	All
6. Reduce Financial Vulnerability					
a. Best practices in access to income/work supports	•	•	•	•	•
b. Improve access to income supports	•	•	•	•	•
c. Enhance public info and call center for Veterans	•	•		•	
d. Create pathways to financial independence	•	•	•	•	•
e. Prepare for Medicaid expansion	•	•	•	•	•
7. Integrate Health Care with Housing					
a. Co-locate housing and health care	•	•	•	•	•
b. Build upon successful service delivery models	•	•	•	•	•
c. Evaluate effectiveness of medical home model	•	•	•	•	•
d. Establish medical respite programs	•	•	•	•	•
e. Increase availability of behavioral health services	•	•	•	•	•
f. Improve access to child and family services	•	•	•		
8. Advance Health and Housing Stability for Youth					
a. Improve discharge planning			•		
b. Improve access for youth			•		
c. Promote targeted outreach strategies			•		
<i>Signature Initiative: Youth</i>			•		
9. Advance Health and Housing Stability for Adults					
a. Improve discharge planning	•	•		•	•
b. Promote targeted outreach strategies	•	•		•	•
c. Increase number of jail diversion courts	•	•		•	•
d. Define approaches to reduce criminalization	•	•	•	•	•
10. Transform Crisis Response Systems					
a. Promote best practices in crisis response	•	•	•	•	•
b. Use mainstream resources for housing stability	•	•	•	•	•
c. Implementation strategies for HEARTH Act	•	•	•	•	•
d. Ensure continuity through HPRP services	•	•	•	•	•
e. Ensure prevention in place-based strategies	•	•	•	•	•