

Fact Sheet

Statistics on Homelessness – The Solution

- Causes of homelessness include:
 - Eroding Work Opportunities
 - Decline in Wages
 - Domestic Violence
 - Mental Illness
 - Addiction Disorders
 - Decline in Public Assistance
 - Lack of Affordable Housing
 - Lack of Affordable Health Care

A collaborative community response to address these problems with viable and sustainable solutions will help to end homelessness.

Solutions

Maintain a Housing First Policy, an approach that centers on providing people who are homeless with housing quickly and then supplying services as needed. Many studies conclude that services are more effective when people are in their own home.

The goals of Oakland County's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness include:

- Develop and implement a county-wide prevention plan to end homelessness,
- Develop a minimum of 30 new affordable housing units per year,
- Maintain the existing supply of affordable housing,
- Advocate for the removal of barriers to affordable housing ,
- Have all homeless service providers participate in the Homeless Management Information System,

- Create additional affordable housing for families with children,
- Increase the supply of affordable housing for the chronically homeless to a minimum of 12 units per year,
- Create an effective discharge policy for jails, foster care, mental health and health care,
- Strengthen job training and placement links,
- Maintain effective links to mainstream resources,
- Create an effective outreach program to locate and build trust among the chronically homeless, and
- Meet the needs for housing and treatment for people with drug and alcohol problems

How to End Homelessness – The Ten Essentials

Courtesy of the National Alliance to End Homelessness

Step 1 – Plan

Your community has a set of strategies focused on ending homelessness. A wide range of players has made funding and implementation commitments to these strategies.

Step 2 – Data

Your community has a homelessness management information system that can be analyzed to assess how long people are homeless, what their needs are, what the causes of homelessness are, how people interact with

mainstream systems of care, the effectiveness of interventions, and the number of homeless people.

Step 3 – Emergency Prevention

Your community has in place an emergency homelessness prevention program that includes rent, mortgage, and utility assistance, case management, landlord or lender intervention, and other strategies to prevent eviction and homelessness.

Step 4 – Systems Prevention

Mainstream programs that provide care and services to low-income people consistently assess and respond to their housing needs. Ensuring that public institutions (hospitals, prisons, jails, mental health facilities) are discharging people into housing is equally important.

Step 5 – Outreach

Your community has an outreach and engagement system designed to reduce barriers and encourage homeless people to enter appropriate housing linked with appropriate services.

Step 6 – Shorten Homelessness

The shelter and transitional housing system in your community is organized to minimize the length of time people remain homeless, and the number of times they become homeless. Outcome measures are a key component of this effort.

Step 7 – Rapid Re-Housing

Your community has housing search and housing placement services available to rapidly re-house all people losing their housing or who are homeless and who want permanent housing.

Step 8 – Services

Once households are re-housed, they have rapid access to services.

Mainstream programs such as TANF, SSI, Medicaid, and others

Step 9 – Permanent Housing

Your community has a sufficient supply affordable housing and permanent supportive housing to meet the needs of extremely low-income households and chronically homeless people.

Step 10 – Income

When it is necessary in order to obtain housing, your community assists homeless people to secure enough income to afford rent, by rapidly linking them with employment and/or benefits. It also connects them to opportunities for increasing their incomes after housing placement.