



Ending Homelessness: A Blueprint for the Future 2015-2020 GOALS

While Louisville has made progress in addressing and ending homelessness over the past decade, the resources (especially permanent housing) have been too limited and progress for some sub-populations has been much more successful than others. Meanwhile, “Opening Doors, the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness” published in 2010 has helped to refocus national efforts on evidenced-based practices that have been effective in goal setting, benchmark measurement and retooling that must be a part of any plan to not just maintain homeless services but prevent and end homelessness as we know it for thousands of homeless neighbors in Louisville. With these thoughts in mind, Louisville Metro Community Services and Revitalization and The Coalition for the Homeless have created a comprehensive plan to end homelessness. These goals are those established for 2020 with a focus on ending homelessness as quickly as possible as no truly compassionate city would rest while its citizens sleep in shelters or on the streets.

Leadership, Collaboration and Civic Engagement

A national study performed by the Urban Institute showed that those communities making real progress toward lowering the numbers of homeless persons in their communities all had one thing in common – commitment of leadership. Public and private leaders must see ending homelessness as an important goal, speak about it publicly, encourage collaboration and commitment from the community at large.

Goal: To increase leadership, collaboration and civic engagement in our efforts to end homelessness in Louisville.

Short-term Objectives

1. Gain the commitment of the mayor and other city leaders for each phase of ending homelessness beginning with Rx: Housing Veterans in 2015; followed by Rx: Housing the Chronically Homeless, Rx: Housing Youth and Rx: Housing Families. Report quarterly to leaders about the progress to keep their engagement and get their advice and assistance where needed.
2. Engage the commitment of a wide range of participants (business leaders, foundations, educators, etc.) for each phase of ending homelessness and publish their commitments to the community requesting additional assistance from local citizens.
3. Meet annually as partners to update the Continuum of Care, Consolidated Plan and the “Blueprint” plans for the city to insure that all three use the same goals and commitments to end homelessness in Louisville.
4. Increase coordination with the Louisville VA including referrals between the common assessment and VA.



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Access to Stable and Affordable Housing

The most important resource needed to end homelessness is an adequate stock of safe, affordable housing for individuals and families at all income levels. While Louisville has adequate housing stock, renovation is key in many neighborhoods and affordability is unreachable in most neighborhoods without subsidies. Presently, there are over 18,000 on the waiting list for Section 8 subsidies in Metro Louisville.

Goal: Increase access to stable and affordable housing.

Short-term Objectives

1. Access funding to create 200 new permanent supportive housing units for the chronically homeless by 2020 focusing on the “housing first” model.
2. Support efforts by the Louisville VA and Louisville Metro Housing Authority to apply for additional VASH vouchers (or other vouchers to serve homeless veterans) with the goal of acquiring 120 vouchers and 120 Rapid-Rehousing slots for veterans.
3. Advocate for permanent funding for the Louisville Affordable Housing Trust Fund and a commitment for units funded from the fund to serve homeless families.
4. Develop 600 units of permanent housing for homeless families by 2020 focusing on best practices for families and coordinating with the Louisville Metro Housing Authority.
5. Create a “move-up” strategy with the Louisville Metro Housing Authority to allow those stabilized in permanent supportive housing over 2 years to move to Section 8 and free up permanent supportive housing for those in greatest need.
6. Insure adequate services in permanent supportive housing to maintain an 85% rate of those staying in permanent housing over six months.

Economic Security

Over the past two decades incomes have stagnated for the middle class while actually losing ground for those in poverty. While the minimum wage is now \$7.25, the minimum income needed to afford a two-bedroom apartment, utilities and basic needs like food in Louisville is \$14 per hour. Over half of the adults now living in Louisville homeless programs have



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employment income but still became homeless. Therefore, it is key to work toward increasing both employment and mainstream benefit income for the poor in our community in order to prevent and end homelessness.

Goal: Increase economic security.

Short-term Objectives

1. Maintain employment income among homeless adults at 30% or higher.
2. Increase income among homeless adults through benefits to 65% or higher.
3. Work to increase the minimum wage at the local, state and federal level.
4. Continue to support employment and educational programs that help the homeless move from poverty to well paying jobs including the Family Scholar House, Boy's Haven Equestrian Program and Salvation Army Culinary Program.

Health and Stability

Many individuals and families find themselves homeless due to a major health concern. Many others who are homeless are unable to address major health issues or maintain a healthy lifestyle due to living in precarious housing or on the streets. With the creation of the Affordable Care Act and the adoption of Medicaid expansion in Kentucky, we have new tools to address these concerns but must work collaboratively to make the best use of the existing resources.

Goal: Increase health and stability

Short-term Objectives

1. Increase access to Medicaid to achieve a 98% insurance rate for the homeless in Louisville.
2. Help the homeless find a health home or primary care physician.
3. Work with the Cross Functional/Dual Diagnosis Team and Seven Counties ACT team to help the chronically homeless access appropriate health services in an appropriate setting.



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4. Create additional respite beds to address the need and work with Hosparus to insure that homeless persons get timely referrals for their services.
5. Work with Managed Care Organizations to identify high utilizers of the hospitals and Medicaid services and use Medicaid funds to pay for supportive housing services for this target population.

Retool Crisis Response

In order to reach our goal of ending homelessness in Louisville, we must do more than manage the problem. This means we must create systems that make the best use of each dollar committed to the cause, but it also means there is a great need for an increased commitment to support this systems change with real financial resources tied to successful outcomes. New resources will be needed from both federal and private funders to achieve this collective impact and the resources should be tied to measurable outcomes. Additionally, success should be shared through training from outside experts as well as those achieving great outcomes here in our community.

Goal: Retool our crisis response to create collective impact.

Short-term Objectives

1. Work with 2-1-1 and Neighborhood Places to refer individuals and families to homeless prevention services citywide.
2. Maintain Bed One-Stop as centralized in-take.
3. Create a common assessment team that can assess each new person entering the homeless system within 14 days.
4. Make referrals to permanent supportive housing, transitional housing and rapid re-housing based on the common assessment and greatest need versus first come, first served.
5. Maintain a strong and coordinated outreach team that can assessed the needs of those on the streets.
6. Work with technical assistance providers to evaluate our CoC to identify gaps and funding priorities in order to move persons more quickly and successfully through the system. In doing so, insure the percentage of persons moving from transitional to permanent housing is 70% or higher.
7. Increase or improve services to eliminate the wait to access emergency shelter especially for families.



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Timeline

November 2014 – gather commitments and publically call for an end to veteran homelessness

March 2015 – work with technical assistance providers to assess the success of each homeless program and the CoC system against national benchmarks

April 2015 – fully implement the common assessment with referrals to transitional and rapid re-housing

June 2015 – begin program to fund successful programs training others to meet community benchmarks

December 2015 – commit all resources accessed to housing homeless veterans in order to achieve functional zero

January 2016 – evaluate success toward HUD goals and community benchmarks and re-program funding toward programs that can help the community end homelessness more successfully and quickly

March 2016 – gather commitments and publically call for an end to chronic homelessness

December 2016 – commit all resources accessed to housing the chronically homeless in order to achieve functional zero

March 2017 – gather commitments and publically call for an end to youth homelessness

December 2018 – commit all resources accessed to housing homeless youth in order to achieve functional zero

March 2019 – gather commitments and publically call for an end to family homelessness

December 2020 – commit all resources accessed to housing homeless families in order to achieve functional zero