

Strategic Objective 3A: Homelessness

End homelessness for Veterans, people experiencing chronic homelessness, families, youth, and children.

OVERVIEW

HUD's annual 'point-in-time' estimates measure the scope of homelessness on a single night in January of each year. Based on data reported by more than 3,000 cities and counties, the January 2013 one-night estimate reveals a 24 percent drop in homelessness among Veterans and a 16 percent reduction among individuals experiencing long-term or chronic homelessness since 2010. HUD's estimate also found the largest decline in the number of persons in families experiencing homelessness since the Department began measuring homelessness in a standard manner in 2005. Overall, a total of 610,042 people experienced homelessness in the United States on a single night in January 2013.

Homelessness among unaccompanied youth is a hidden problem, which HUD and its partners are taking steps to solve. Some subpopulations of youth are at particularly high risk for homelessness, including youth aging out of foster care and LGBTQ youth.

In 2010, the Obama administration released *Opening Doors*³, the first-ever comprehensive federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness. The goals of the plan are to prevent and end Veterans and chronic homelessness by 2015, to prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children by 2020, and to set a path to ending all types of homelessness. HUD remains committed to the goals of *Opening Doors*, but to reach them, the pace of current efforts must accelerate. Over the next five years, HUD will work with its partners to deploy the solutions that we know are effective for the right persons, such as rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing. These tools must be informed by a Housing First approach, where preconditions and barriers to housing entry are removed and people move into housing as quickly as possible.

STRATEGIES

- **Implement the Homelessness Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act** with a focus on technical assistance for prioritized access to housing and use of community data to manage performance. This includes reallocation of transitional housing to permanent supportive housing, prioritizing people experiencing chronic homelessness for permanent supportive housing units made vacant through turnover, and increasing the number of rapid re-housing opportunities for families.
- **Fully engage and leverage mainstream housing assistance**, including housing choice vouchers, public housing, HOME Investment Partnerships and Community Development Block Grants, and multifamily housing. We will build capacity among public housing authorities and multifamily owners to admit homeless households into their units and provide them with vouchers.

³ United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness* (June 2010).

- **Improve data and performance management** through strategies to share data across systems, adoption of a common data standard for housing stability, and use of Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) by homeless programs funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
- **Continue to strengthen collaborations** at all levels of government and with the private sector, including within HUD, and with the US Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), the VA, HHS, the Department of Labor, the Department of Education, the Department of Agriculture, and others.
- **Implement USICH Framework to End Youth Homelessness**, including integrating HMIS and Runaway and Homeless Youth Management Information systems, leveraging HUD's [Point-in-Time count](#) to improve strategies for counting youth, and developing a national study that builds on program data and the HUD count that includes household surveys to get to a confident national estimate of youth homelessness.
- **Promote implementation of coordinated assessment systems for Continuums of Care** through training, technical assistance and guidance by the Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs to better target resources.

LEADING THIS OBJECTIVE

Jennifer Ho, *Senior Advisor on Housing and Services*, Office of the Secretary

MEASURING OUR PROGRESS

To track our progress towards this objective, HUD will monitor completion of the following performance indicators.

★ Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Agency Priority Goal:

In partnership, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) aim to reduce the number of Veterans living on the streets, experiencing homelessness to zero (as measured by the 2016 Point-in-Time count).

- ▶ **Total homeless Veterans temporarily living in shelters or transitional housing** (key measure)
This metric will be measured by the annual [Point-in-Time count](#), a count of homeless persons on a single night in January each year.
- ▶ **Total Veterans living on the streets, experiencing homelessness** (key measure)
This metric will be measured by the annual [Point-in-Time count](#), a count of homeless persons on a single night in January each year.
- ▶ **Veterans placed in permanent housing** (supporting measure shared by VA and HUD)
This includes moves into HUD–Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program, rapid rehousing placements through Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program, and moves from VA residential treatment programs into permanent housing.
- ▶ **Homeless Veterans served with transitional housing through Continuum of Care resources** (supporting measure; HUD only)
- ▶ **Homeless Veterans served with permanent supportive housing through Continuum of Care resources** (supporting measure; HUD only)

Other Measures:

- ▶ Individuals experiencing chronic homelessness
- ▶ Number and percentage of Permanent Supportive Housing units targeted to individuals experiencing chronic homelessness
- ▶ Families experiencing homelessness
- ▶ Admissions of new homeless families into HUD-assisted Housing
- ▶ Percentage of Emergency Solutions Grant dollars dedicated to Rapid Rehousing for homeless families