



Home, Together: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

Department of Agriculture

Department of Commerce

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Department of Health and Human Services

Department of Homeland Security

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Department of the Interior

Department of Justice

Department of Labor

Department of Transportation

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Corporation for National and Community Service

General Services Administration

Office of Management and Budget

Social Security Administration

US Postal Service

White House Faith and Opportunity Initiative

Home. Because we know that the only true end to homelessness is a safe and stable place to call home.

Together. Because the causes of homelessness are complex, and the solutions are going to take all of us, working together, doing our parts, strengthening our communities.

The Plan

The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness leads national efforts to prevent and end homelessness in America. We drive action among the 19 federal member agencies that comprise our Council and foster the efficient use of resources in support of best practices at every level of government and with the private sector.

Originally authorized in 1987, USICH is statutorily charged with developing and regularly updating a national strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness.

Home, Together, available at www.usich.gov/home-together, is the strategic plan adopted by our Council for Fiscal Years 2018-2022.

Through the hard work of communities around the country, we now have proof of something that we didn't before—that ending homelessness is achievable. *Home, Together* builds upon the actions taken across multiple administrations and what we have learned from states and communities over time, and lays out the strategies we know we must advance at the federal level in order to support and accelerate state and local progress.

Consultation with Communities

In order to ensure the plan addressed community-level priorities, USICH consulted with hundreds of people from across the country, including staff from local, state, and national agencies and organizations, community volunteers, advocates, people with past and current experiences of homelessness, and many others. We conducted formal listening sessions in more than 20 communities across the country and received hundreds of comments through an online portal.

Goals

Home, Together has one fundamental goal, which is shared across federal, state, and local partners: **to end homelessness in America**. The plan also sets important population-specific goals that communities can use as a framework to set their own ambitious targets:



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PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS



UNITED STATES INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

- To end homelessness among Veterans
- To end chronic homelessness among people with disabilities
- To end homelessness among families with children
- To end homelessness among unaccompanied youth
- To end homelessness among all other individuals

Achieving these goals as a nation means achieving them in communities that are diverse—in their demographics, in their geographic characteristics, in their progress to date, in their resources, in their housing markets, and many other ways. Therefore, the plan does not set uniform timeframes. Federal partners will continue to work with communities to set their own ambitious goals, tailored to their local conditions, and grounded in their local data.

Objectives

To end homelessness, every community needs to be able to implement a systemic response that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible or, if it can't be prevented, it is a **rare, brief, and one-time experience**. And that systemic response must endure for the long term. The plan's objectives are:

1. Ensure Homelessness is a Rare Experience

Objective 1.1: Collaboratively Build Lasting Systems that End Homelessness

Objective 1.2: Increase Capacity and Strengthen Practices to Prevent Housing Crises and Homelessness

2. Ensure Homelessness is a Brief Experience

Objective 2.1: Identify and Engage All People Experiencing Homelessness

Objective 2.2: Provide Immediate Access to Low-Barrier Emergency Shelter or other Temporary Accommodations to All Who Need It

Objective 2.3: Implement Coordinated Entry to Standardize Assessment and Prioritization Processes and Streamline Connections to Housing and Services

Objective 2.4: Assist People to Move Swiftly into Permanent Housing with Appropriate and Person-Centered Services

3. Ensure Homelessness is a One-Time Experience

Objective 3.1: Prevent Returns to Homelessness through Connections to Adequate Services and Opportunities

4. Sustain an End to Homelessness

Objective 4.1: Sustain Practices and Systems at a Scale Necessary to Respond to Future Needs

Areas of Increased Focus

While our progress is promising, we also know that we have much more work to do, and many more challenges that we must face together. Areas of increased focus include:

- Increasing Affordable Housing Opportunities
- Strengthening Prevention and Diversion Practices
- Creating Solutions for Unsheltered Homelessness
- Tailoring Strategies for Rural Communities
- Helping People Who Exit Homelessness Find Employment Success
- Learning from the Expertise of People with Lived Experience

Driving Increased Progress

Home, Together provides a framework for federal interagency working groups to plan, implement, and assess the impact of their efforts and investments into ending homelessness. Communities can also use the plan to identify and implement their own strategic activities and align their efforts with federal agencies and other partners.