



Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

The **United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)** is developing the *first ever Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness* due to Congress on May 20, 2010.

Background

The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness will serve as a roadmap for joint action by Council agencies to guide the development of programs and budget proposals towards a set of measurable targets. The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness will reflect interagency agreement on a set of priorities and strategies the agencies will pursue over a five-year period.

The process to create this Plan is designed to be transparent and provide multiple opportunities for input, feedback and collaboration. Regional stakeholders meetings were held in February and in early March to engage leaders of regional and state interagency councils, as well as stakeholders from throughout the multi-state regions. These meetings were a great opportunity for USICH to hear directly from external and federal government stakeholders regarding challenges, priorities and different perspectives on how to prevent and end homelessness in the United States. The input from these sessions was valuable and will be incorporated into the development of the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.

USICH is centering its plan on the belief – the moral foundation – “no one should experience homelessness – no one should be without a safe, stable place to call home.” The Council has charged the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness’ planning process to align federal resources effectively and appropriately toward four key objectives: 1) finish the job of ending chronic homelessness; 2) prevent and end homelessness among Veterans; 3) prevent and end family homelessness; and 4) set a path to ending all types of homelessness.

USICH will jointly create –

- a set of targeted, solutions-driven goals and collaborative strategies;
- a roadmap for joint action to guide the development of programs and budget proposals toward a set of measurable targets; and
- a set of priorities the agencies will pursue over the five year period – FY 2010 through FY 2014

Federal Agency Workgroups

Members of the workgroups are appointed by members of U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness' Policy Group from within their respective agencies. The following questions are being considered by each workgroup:

- What is the scope of the problem of homelessness? What are causes, costs and contributing factors?
- What strategies are effective at preventing and ending homelessness?
- What role has the Federal government played in advancing effective practices? How has it been effective? How could it be improved?
- What should be the key measurable goals of the Federal Strategic Plan?
- How should we wisely align and cost-effectively deploy Federal resources and practices to reach these goals? What is the appropriate role of the Federal government?

The Families Workgroup is focusing its work on the prevention and elimination of homelessness among families with children. "Families" are broadly defined and inclusive of a range of family structures.

The Youth Workgroup is making a special inquiry into the needs of youth who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, covering both those who are with their families and youth who are unaccompanied.

The Chronically Homeless Workgroup is focusing its work on the prevention and elimination of homelessness among adults with chronic health conditions experiencing long-term or recurrent homelessness.

The Veterans Workgroup is focusing its work on the prevention and elimination of homelessness among adults who have served in the armed forces and their families.

The Community Workgroup is examining states' practices in mobilizing community participation, forging partnerships and aligning resources that have been effective in addressing homelessness. It will look across all populations.

External Stakeholder Input

We highly value the experience and expertise of those who have first-hand experience with homelessness, professionals and volunteers who work on this issue daily, and local and state policy makers.

NAEH FAMILY HOMELESSNESS CONFERENCE, LOS ANGELES, February 10-12

- NAEH Leadership Council: 15 large urban area leaders
- National Funders Meeting
- Invitation-only Stakeholders Meeting (special focus on states not included in Regional Stakeholder Dialogues)
- "Open to All" Stakeholders Meeting

REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUES

Regional stakeholder meetings were scheduled during February and March. They were one-day events divided into two sessions. 1) Regional Federal Interagency Council Members, together with USICH, will host a meeting with the Chair of each State Interagency Council on Homelessness within the region and each State Homeless Education Coordinator. 2) A broad range of community stakeholders have been invited to a meeting facilitated by USICH.

- February 9: Region 1 Boston
- February 22: Region 5 Chicago
- February 23: Region 6 Dallas
- March 2: Region 9 San Francisco
- March 3: Region 10 Seattle
- March 5: Region 2 New York City - Community Stakeholder Meeting

SPECIAL FOCUS GROUPS

Outreach to other national organizations such as the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National Health Care for the Homeless Consumer Advisory Board are also being organized.

ELECTRONIC INPUT

USICH has an online forum open for three weeks beginning March 1 through March 22 for stakeholders and the public to provide input on the Plan at fsp.uservoice.com.

Timeline

Planning by federal interagency workgroups	January - April
Input from regions and community stakeholders	February - March
Electronic input	February
USICH Policy Group final review	April
OMB and agency review	April
USICH approval	May