



## United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

**MISSION:** The mission of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness is to coordinate the federal response to homelessness and to create a national partnership at every level of government and with the private sector to reduce and end homelessness in the nation while maximizing the effectiveness of the Federal Government in contributing to the end of homelessness. In its initiatives, the Council partners with federal, state and local government, advocates, providers and people experiencing homelessness to:

- ◆ Lead the development and implementation of a new Federal strategic plan to end homelessness.
- ◆ Establish and maintain effective, coordinated, and supportive relationships with every Federal agency.
- ◆ Organize and support state/local/communities to effectively implement local plans to end homelessness.
- ◆ Develop means to provide an effective portal to Federal programs and initiatives.
- ◆ Establish and maintain effective communications with Congress.
- ◆ Aggregate and promote research/evaluations and manage accountability/results.
- ◆ Establish effective partnerships with public and private sector stakeholders.

**INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION – FEDERAL:** The Council’s Cabinet Chairperson is Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan. The Council is an independent agency within the federal executive branch, and is composed of 19 Cabinet Secretaries and agency heads.

One example of interagency collaboration is evident in the partnerships between HUD and the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Supported Housing (HUD-VASH) Program. The partnership provides long-term case management, supportive services and permanent housing support to veterans. Eligible homeless veterans receive VA-provided case management and supportive services to maintain stability and recovery from physical and mental health, substance use, and concerns contributing to or resulting from homelessness. HUD provides 20,000 “Housing Choice” Section 8 vouchers for HUD-VASH to participating Public Housing Authorities to assist with rent payment. Goals for the program include promoting veteran recovery and independence to sustain permanent housing in the community for the veteran and the veteran’s family. This program was designed to address the needs of the most vulnerable, homeless veterans.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COLLABORATION:** As part of the Council’s strategy to establish non-partisan, intergovernmental partnerships to end homelessness, governors of 49 states and the three territories have taken steps to create State Interagency Councils on Homelessness. More than 1,000 mayors and county executives are partnered in 10-Year-Plans to End Homelessness. The Council provides technical assistance to states and localities in the development of these initiatives including the expeditious dissemination of innovative best practices that are results-oriented.

**INTERCOMMUNITY COLLABORATION:** To carry out intergovernmental and inter-sector partnership, the Council has developed partnerships with the National Governors Association, U.S. Conference of Mayors; National League of Cities; National Association of Counties; United Way; Chamber of Commerce; International Downtown Association; National Alliance on Mental Illness; and the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT:** To facilitate the Council’s mission at the local and regional level, the Council has Regional Coordinators throughout the country. Each Coordinator is responsible for working with Federal partners, state and local governments, homeless advocates, providers and consumers to encourage and coordinate their collective efforts to end homelessness. The Coordinators facilitate regional Federal interagency councils and provide assistance to develop interagency councils and jurisdictional 10-Year Plans.

For more information, please visit the Council’s website at [www.usich.gov](http://www.usich.gov).

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