



Driving Progress in the Year Ahead: Our Top Priorities for 2019

Together, we are ending homelessness.

Home, Together, the federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness, provides a roadmap of objectives and strategies that we are pursuing over the next four years to help ensure that, in every community, homelessness is a rare, brief, and one-time experience.

During 2019, the team at USICH and our federal partners will be implementing activities across the full range of strategies in *Home, Together*, and will be especially focused on several overarching priorities that are foundational to our future success and that reflect priorities identified by our state and local partners:

- Identifying and implementing strategies to better align affordable housing with efforts to end homelessness
- Supporting communities to test and scale the strongest practices for addressing unsheltered homelessness while retaining focus on permanent housing outcomes
- Strengthening skills and capacity to center racial equity across efforts to prevent and end homelessness, both within USICH and in communities
- Strengthening connections and coordination between homelessness services systems and workforce systems and employment opportunities
- Supporting increased access to and retention within high-quality education programs, including quality child care and early childhood education through elementary, secondary, and post-secondary education
- Expanding our efforts to partner with and learn from the expertise of people with current and past lived experiences of homelessness



Home, Together:
THE FEDERAL STRATEGIC PLAN TO
PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS



UNITED STATES INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

Population-Specific Priorities

As we implement our population-specific work this year, we're prioritizing progress and impact within the following activities:

Ending Homelessness Among Families with Children

- Completing the piloting of the criteria and benchmarks for ending family homelessness
- Disseminating lessons and promising approaches identified through the pilots, including strengthening partnerships between educational systems and homelessness crisis response systems
- Creating awareness of promising approaches to prevention
- Promoting strengthened rapid re-housing practices, especially in challenging housing markets

Ending Youth Homelessness

- Completing the piloting of the criteria and benchmarks for ending youth homelessness
- Disseminating lessons and promising approaches identified through the pilots, including how best to serve the needs of youth of color and youth who identify as LGBTQ
- Supporting communities participating in demonstration and challenge projects to expand the evidence base of strong and innovative practices
- Working with stakeholders to identify federal policy options to better address the full range of needs of youth experiencing homelessness identified through research and data reports

Ending Veteran Homelessness

- Sustaining and increasing momentum, including through continued confirmation of communities' success and lifting up communities' strategies for sustaining their success
- Advancing and strengthening diversion and rapid re-housing practices for Veterans, and applying those lessons to strengthening such interventions for all populations
- Strengthening the implementation of HUD-VASH and other federal programs for Veterans within high-cost housing markets
- Supporting the continued transformation of the Grant and Per Diem program and the implementation of new program models within the program

Ending Homelessness, Including Chronic Homelessness, Among Individual Adults

- Increasing the availability and awareness of data and evidence regarding the individual adult population, including deeper understanding of unsheltered population's characteristics and patterns of homelessness
- Supporting communities to test and scale the strongest practices for addressing unsheltered homelessness
- Building awareness of the criteria and benchmark for ending chronic homelessness and partnering with communities who are ready to have their progress assessed
- Implementing opportunities to scale permanent supportive housing through expanded Section 811 resources and to support services through Medicaid-focused activities

Priorities for Strengthening Components of a Coordinated Community Response

We will also be pursuing activities that continue to strengthen crisis response systems and cross-sector partnerships, including:

Strengthening the Capacity of Communities to Implement Effective Crisis Response Systems

- Describing and advancing the role of diversion within efficient crisis response systems
- Promoting promising practices for the roles of law enforcement within local responses to homelessness
- Promoting strengthened coordinated entry practices across entire systems and for specific subpopulations

Strengthening Connections to Mainstream Systems

- Providing guidance and examples of how communities can better align affordable housing strategies and resources with efforts to prevent and end homelessness
- Encouraging stronger partnerships, coordination, and integration of activities between mainstream systems and coordinated entry systems