

10-Year Plan Summary: 2005-2011 (Years 1 to 7)

1. Move people into housing first

- A. Since the start of the plan, 12,511 total placements of homeless households into permanent homes have been made. Of this total, approximately 40% were families, 23% were chronically homeless individuals and 21% were survivors of domestic violence. Of those contacted, 84% were still stably housed 12 months after placement.

2. Discharge or release individuals to housing with appropriate services

- A. Oregon Legislature SB 808 was passed, which requires a transition plan to independent living for youth ages 16 and older who are released from DHS care and custody.
- B. Effective June 12, 2012, all Community Corrections departments from 36 counties in Oregon will have access to the Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI) system. The system is a tool to support individuals experiencing homelessness who are released from an institution to more successfully reintegrate into the community and connect to housing and services.
- C. Since its inception in 2005, the Recuperative Care Program has served more than 1,000 medically vulnerable adults, decreasing unnecessary length of stay in the hospital and preventing many unnecessary Emergency Room visits. 100% of adults served were connected to primary health care and 70% left the program to stable housing.

3. Improve outreach

- A. The Key Not A Card (KNAC) program, which ran from 2006 to 2009, placed more than 686 households into permanent housing directly from the streets. Since then, street-to-housing placement has been incorporated as a standard, effective practice for several outreach programs in our community.
- B. Completed the design and ground-breaking of the Bud Clark Commons, which provides a day center for housing and services and 90 beds of emergency shelter for men operated by Transition Projects, and 130 new units of permanent supportive housing operated by Home Forward. In the first 6 months of opening, the day center has served 4,300 unduplicated individuals with basic services. Of these, 290 found permanent housing and 2,000 were connected to social services.
- C. From 2005 to 2008, eight "Project Homeless Connect" events were held, mobilizing more than 3,000 volunteers and 36 businesses to serve about 3,500 homeless people annually.
- D. Provided expanded and enhanced information and referral services for the community through resources such as Housing Connections, a website to help people locate affordable housing, and the Rose City Resource Guide, a comprehensive list of services for people experiencing homelessness and poverty.

4. *Emphasize permanent solutions through homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing*

- A. Since 2007, the Short Term Rent Assistance program (STRA), coordinated by Home Forward, has prevented 4,569 households from becoming homeless through eviction prevention assistance and placed 1,683 households into permanent housing through rental assistance. After 12 months, 79% of households housed through the program are still housed.
- B. The Multnomah County Family Shelter-to-Housing Partnership brings together nonprofit agencies, the faith community and local government to provide year-round shelter and two Winter shelters during winter months. The partnership focuses on moving families quickly from shelter into housing by providing housing placement assistance, day shelter services and nighttime shelter. From July 2010 to June 2012, the partnership successfully placed 246 families (793 people) from shelter into permanent homes.
- C. In 2009, tenant education curriculum “Rent Well” was launched to provide formerly homeless individuals with skills and knowledge to maintain rental housing. Across the four county Portland Metro area, there are currently 253 certified instructors and 72 community agencies.

5. *Increase supply of permanent supportive housing*

- A. 631 publicly-funded affordable housing units are designated as permanent supportive housing (PSH) and supported by Portland’s risk mitigation pool¹. More broadly, at least 3,642 PSH units were in operation or under development within Multnomah County as of January, 2012².
- B. Bridges to Housing, an innovative four-county initiative provides permanent affordable housing, intensive family services and child care services for homeless families with high needs. By 2011, Multnomah County providers served 187 homeless families.
- C. Opened 130 new permanent supportive housing (PSH) units at the Apartments at Bud Clark Commons for homeless individuals with severe health conditions. In partnership with community clinics, 130 residents were housed and connected to a primary health care home. They also received access to mental health services and other essential support.
- D. In 2008, the goal was set to secure 300 additional VASH vouchers for homeless veterans with disabilities over the next five years. To date, 305 VASH vouchers have been secured.

6. *Create innovative new partnerships to end homelessness*

- A. Several new and innovative partnerships among faith communities, government entities and service providers were formed:
 - *The New City Initiative* began in 2010 as a project of JOIN to engage the faith community in ending the cycle of homelessness by building supportive relationships. In 2010-11, a network of more than 20 congregations participated in community-building activities. In 2012, New City launched the Covenant of Hope project in partnership with Human

¹ As part of the regional 10-year Plan to End Homelessness, the Portland Housing Bureau administers a risk-mitigation pool which helps to support affordable housing providers who agree to provide PSH, by offsetting potential increased financial risks (beyond those typical of affordable housing) associated with operating PSH units.

² HUD requires localities applying for Continuum of Care homeless services funding to conduct an annual housing inventory count (HIC) of emergency shelter, transitional, and permanent supportive housing units. These numbers are from the 2010 Multnomah County HIC.

Solutions, whereby congregations provide rent and other support to homeless families. To date, 15 congregations and faith-based organizations have committed more than \$26,000 to sponsor 11 families.

- Multnomah County hired an *Inter-Faith Coordinator* to support greater collaboration among faith groups, government entities and direct service agencies.
 - In 2011, the City of Portland and Multnomah County passed the *Overnight Sleeping Resolution*, which allows faith groups and other nonprofits to create safe spaces for families and individuals to park and sleep in their cars as they access services and long-term housing opportunities.
- B. The City of Portland funded a \$1 Million Special Appropriation for services to adults and youth experiencing homelessness in downtown Portland. In the first year, collaboratives led by JOIN and New Avenues for Youth helped 310 individuals find permanent housing and reached 2,400 youth through outreach. Additionally, 78 people received benefits assistance, 39 youth secured employment and 34 adults were connected to employment training.
- C. Action for Prosperity (AFP), a successful pilot project launched in 2009 with federal stimulus dollars, assists low-income families to stabilize their housing and work towards employment and self-sufficiency. From late 2009 through 2010, 287 families participated in the program. Upon exit, 90% of families were renting or owned their own home, and 60% gained stable employment. In 2011, the effective AFP program model was replicated to help secure a \$1.365 million multi-year federal grant to provide integrated housing and employment services for homeless individuals living with HIV/AIDS.
- D. Leadership from the area's three jurisdictions (Home Forward, Multnomah County, Portland Housing Bureau) formed the "10YP Reset Committee" to look at what the community has accomplished thus far under the 10YP, and to identify areas for improvement and renewed public commitment to ending homelessness. The committee includes leadership from the three jurisdictions, representatives from the faith community, the healthcare sector, the police bureau, the business community, the Coalition of Communities of Color, the Coalition for Homeless Families, the homeless youth system, and four members of the current Coordinating Committee to End Homelessness (CCEH) Steering Committee.

7. Make the rent assistance system more effective

- A. In 2005, the Short-Term Rent Assistance program (STRA) consolidated federal, state and local funding from the City of Portland, City of Gresham, Multnomah County and Home Forward into a single centrally-administered rent assistance program. In 2011, more than \$4 million of consolidated City of Portland, City of Gresham, Multnomah County and federal funds went into STRA. The funds were successfully contracted out to 19 nonprofit providers in the community.
- B. Home Forward significantly increased its commitment of Project-Based Section 8 Vouchers to projects serving households exiting homelessness and/or providing permanent supportive housing. At the end of 2011, 902 vouchers were in use supporting these projects. Over the first seven years of the plan an average of 656 vouchers annually were committed to these projects.

- C. Home Forward's Strategic Operations Plan directs Home Forward to "deploy resources with greater intentionality and alignment with other systems while increasing the number of households served." Home Forward's Strategic Operations Plan sets the stage for Home Forward to build on its existing commitment to the 10-year plan in new and innovative ways.

8. Increase economic opportunity

- A. Since 2005, the City of Portland-funded Economic Opportunity Initiative (EOI) programs have assisted 737 homeless individuals in securing employment and provided services and training to over 1,050.
- B. 6,727 adults experiencing homelessness received employment assistance and training through Central City Concern's Employment Access Center. Of those served through the center, 2,182 secured employment with an average hourly wage of \$9.86.
- C. Central City Concern's Benefits & Entitlements Specialists Team (BEST) program (also known as the Homeless Benefits Recovery Program) supported 882 homeless individuals with disabilities to receive services to expedite their acquisition of benefits and entitlements. Of the 781 claims filed, 580 were awarded, with 101 decisions pending. Since 2008, the program has produced an estimated community benefit of over \$6.6 million in SSA income alone. Funding for the program is provided by the Portland Housing Bureau and Multnomah County.
- D. From 2007-2011, 62% (1,494 of 2,422) of homeless individuals receiving services through HUD McKinney funds secured employment income upon exit.

9. Implement new data technology throughout the homeless system

- A. ServicePoint, Portland/Multnomah County's homeless management information system (HMIS) has greatly enhanced our community's capacity to collect and analyze data through standardized reporting. Currently 76% of shelter and transitional housing beds are included in the HMIS. More than 537 agencies and their programs are using ServicePoint.