The Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness

Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Commissioner, Department of Education
Katie Clark Sieben, Commissioner, Department of Employment and Economic Development
Ramona Dohman, Commissioner, Department of Public Safety
Dr. Edward Ehlinger, Commissioner, Department of Health
Lucinda Jesson, Commissioner, Department of Human Services
Kevin Lindsey, Commissioner, Department of Human Rights
Larry Pogemiller, Commissioner, Office of Higher Education
Tom Roy, Commissioner, Department of Corrections
Larry Shellito, Commissioner, Department of Veterans Affairs
Tina Smith, former Chief of Staff, Office of Governor Mark Dayton
Mary Tingerthal, Commissioner, Minnesota Housing
Charlie Zelle, Commissioner, Department of Transportation
HEADING HOME: Minnesota’s Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

Two Year Action Plan
12 priority areas of focus
23 strategies, 91 specific action items

PRIORITY: BECAUSE WE ARE POISED TO END VETERANS HOMELESSNESS IN THIS STATE…

• We will aggressively focus on finishing the job by ending homelessness for Veterans on a Veteran-by-Veteran basis. Collaboration between the VA and other homeless service providers will ensure that each Veteran experiencing homelessness has the tools they need to become stably housed.
Our Vision

Housing Stability for All Minnesotans

(Outcome)

- Prevent and End Homelessness for Families with Children and Unaccompanied Youth by 2020

- Finish the Job of Ending Homelessness for Veterans and for People Experiencing Chronic Homelessness by 2015

http://www.headinghomeminnesota.org/our-plan
Focus on Housing Stability

*Housing stability is a platform for better educational outcomes for our children, a stronger workforce both now and in the future, increased public safety, better health, reduced health care costs, and reduced disparities among populations.*
The path to end Veteran homelessness

Veteran PIT Count -- Statewide
Multiple parallel strategies needed

Point-in-Time counts of Veterans experiencing Homelessness, 2009 - 2013

Hennepin County (Minneapolis)
Ramsey County (St. Paul)
Balance of State
Attentive to subpopulations and disparities

MN Homelessness Disparities in 2012

Aging Cohort of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

% Veterans

% Homeless

% Population

Chronic

Others

Men

Women
Key strategies on Veteran homelessness

a. Identify potential affordable and supportive housing resources for Veterans.

b. Determine “Veteran to Veteran” approaches to engage Veterans.

c. Form regional teams of Veterans services and housing/homeless providers.

d. Identify and reach out to all homeless Veterans.

e. Regional teams will meet regularly to discuss cases and form solutions.
Levers for Change

- Prevent homelessness
- Leverage mainstream resources
- Improve coordination/compatibility of resources
- Improve targeting of existing resources
- Use data to drive policy
- Deploy evidence-based solutions
- Reduce disparities
- Align work with the Federal and local plans
- Increase public education, awareness, and engagement
What do we mean by “ending homelessness?”

“Ending Homelessness” means that we will prevent homelessness whenever possible and if a family or individual does become homeless we will have a crisis response system to assess their needs and provide them the opportunity to quickly access stable housing.

*It does not mean that no one ever again will experience homelessness.*

**FOR VETERANS,** ending homelessness means there are fewer than 100 Veterans experiencing homelessness in Minnesota, or that Veterans make up no more than 1% of the total homeless population, whichever is less.
How do we think we can?

Themes common among communities ending Veteran homelessness:

- Communication and integration of services across the community
- Commitment to using Housing First
- Targeting
- Use of data
- Use of mainstream systems
Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness

- Launched by First Lady Michelle Obama on June 4, 2014
- Over 180 Mayors, County Executives, and Governors participating to date
- Intended to create opportunities for peer-to-peer learning and marshal local efforts linked to Federal resources
- Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton and Seven Minnesota Mayors have joined
Managing progress toward the goal

- On a regional basis:
  - Establish a shared by-name registry of every Veteran needing a housing intervention
  - Coordinate with access points to identify Veteran status and housing instability
  - Determine the target monthly housing outcome rate needed to achieve the goal
  - Track actual monthly housing outcome rate to monitor progress toward the goal

- Supporting State and Mayoral leadership commitments
  - Consolidated dashboard showing progress toward goal
  - Routine briefing and communication on progress
The Wrights have flown or they have not flown. They possess a machine or they do not possess one. They are in fact either fliers or liars. It is difficult to fly. It's easy to say, 'We have flown.'

Thank you!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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To read the full plan, visit
http://www.headinghomeminnesota.org/our-plan