

Creating Strong Partnerships and Implementing Effective Programming for Families Experiencing or at Risk of Homelessness

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September 24, 2014

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Roles of USICH

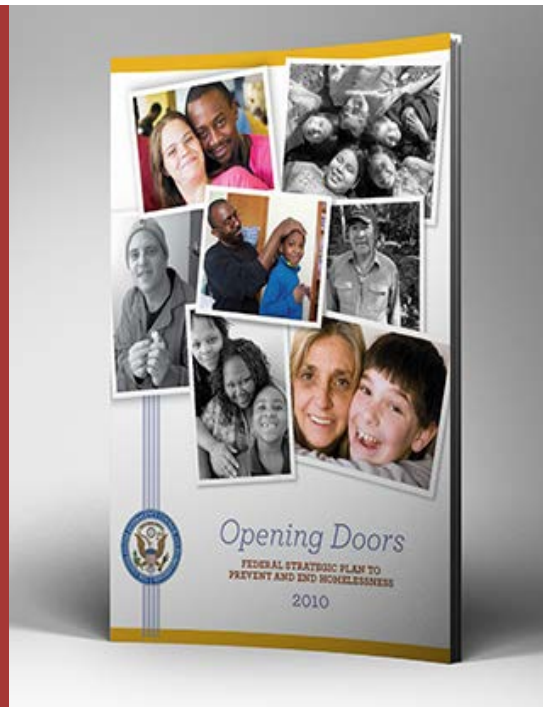
- **Coordinates** the Federal response to homelessness
- **Maximizes** the effectiveness of 19 Federal agency partners
- **Shares** best practices
- **Drives** collaborative solutions



Opening Doors

No one should experience homelessness and no one should be without a safe, stable place to call home.

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The Plan set forth four bold and ambitious goals:

1. Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness in 2016
2. Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in 2015
3. **Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children in 2020**
4. Set a path to ending all types of homelessness



Defining an End to Family Homelessness

Working together with our partners at the State, local, and Federal level to strengthen the local crisis response systems, we will:

- Ensure that no family is living unsheltered;
- Shorten episodes of family homelessness by providing resources that enable families to safely reenter permanent housing as quickly as possible;
- Link families to the benefits, supports, and community-based services they need to achieve and maintain housing stability; and
- Identify and implement effective prevention methods to help families avoid homelessness.



Family Connection: Building Systems to End Family Homelessness

A resource to help communities and stakeholders build and implement an effective housing crisis response system for families.

The thumbnail shows the cover of the report "Family Connection: Building Systems to End Family Homelessness". It features the USICH logo at the top right and a blue header with the title. The main content area is white with a green box containing key action items. On the right side, there are three vertical sections: "The Plan", "What We Know", and "Our Progress", each with a "Learn More" link.

Family Connection Building Systems to End Family Homelessness



Ending homelessness for families and children is a priority for the nation and for every community. By providing the right amount of assistance to help families obtain, or regain permanent housing as quickly as possible and ensuring access to services to remain stably housed, achieving an end to family homelessness is possible.

Defining an End to Family Homelessness

Given the current economic realities in many communities, situations in which families experience a crisis and lose their homes will likely occur. Recognizing this reality, USICH and Federal partners adopted a vision of an end to family homelessness to ensure that no family will be without shelter and homelessness will be a rare and brief experience. To achieve an end to family homelessness, we encourage communities to join us to strengthen our local homelessness systems together.

Working together with our partners at the state, local, and Federal level to strengthen the local crisis response systems, we will:

- 1. Ensure that no family is living unsheltered.
- 2. Maximize episodes of family homelessness by ensuring resources that enable families to safely reenter permanent housing as quickly as possible.
- 3. Link families to the benefits, supports, and community-based services they need to achieve long-term housing stability, and
- 4. Identify and implement effective prevention strategies to help families avoid homelessness.

Key Areas of Action

USICH and Federal partners, through a review of research, engagement with communities, and an interagency working group process, identified four key strategy areas for federal, state, and local action to end family homelessness:

- 1) Develop a national or coordinated [policy action](#) with the capacity to assist mobile and transient families to [access permanent solutions](#) where possible and [temporary shelter](#) (as needed).
- 2) Ensure interventions and resources are tailored to the needs of families:
 - a) [Provide rapid re-housing](#) assistance to the majority of families experiencing homelessness.
 - b) [Provide access to affordable housing](#), and help communities target resources, and
 - c) [Direct more family-intensive housing interventions](#) to the highest need households.

The Plan

Creating (from Federal Strategic Plan) and the State Strategic Action Plan) and family homelessness to 2025. [Learn More.](#)

What We Know

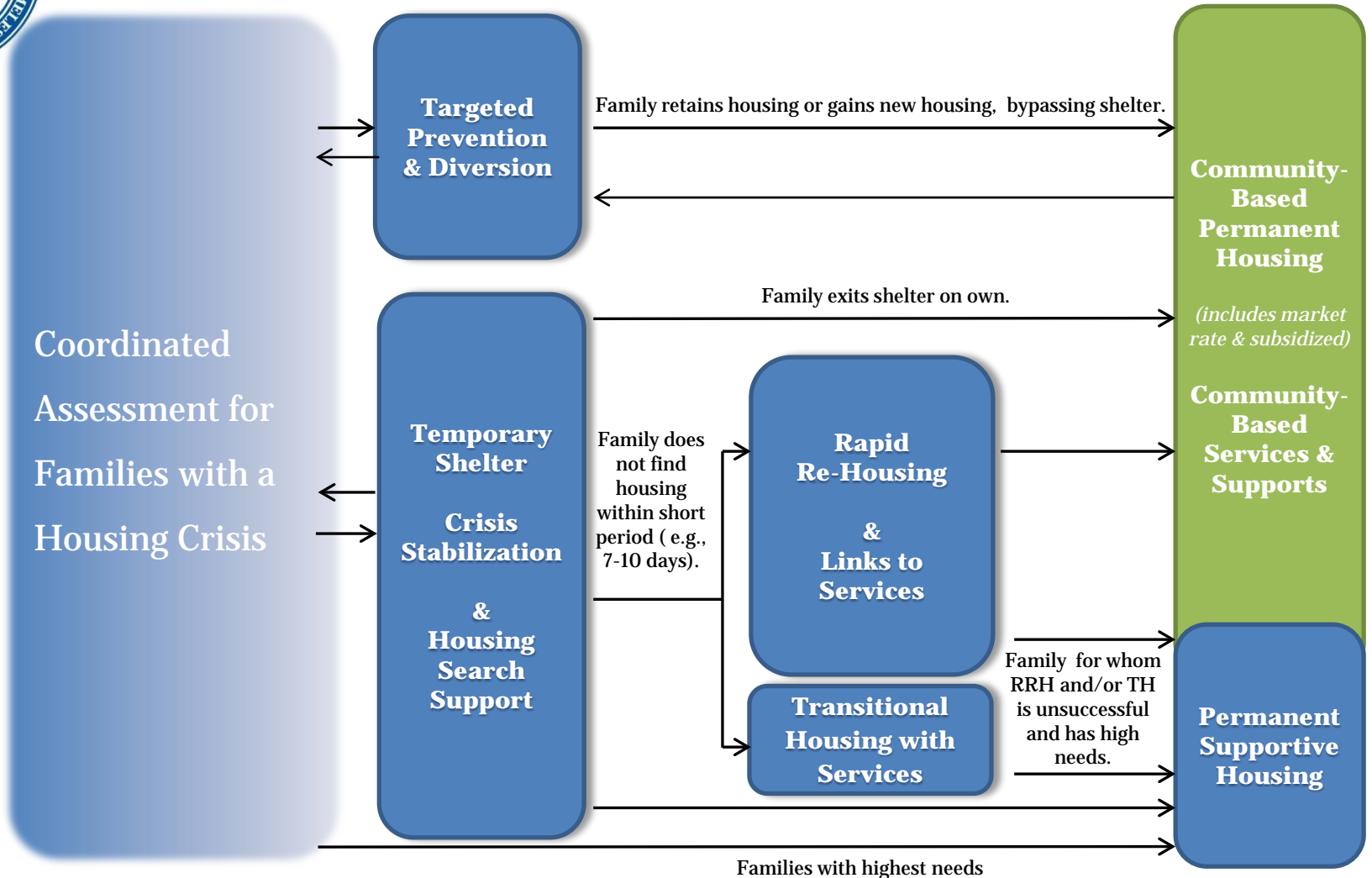
Families experiencing homelessness are more likely to enter the justice system. [Learn More.](#)

Our Progress

Despite continued challenges associated with homelessness, 2023 still saw an end to family homelessness indicate a decrease in a preliminary. [Learn More.](#)



Crisis Response System





Key Areas of Action

Four key strategy areas for Federal, State, and local action to end family homelessness:

- 1. Develop a centralized or coordinated assessment system;**
- 2. Ensure interventions and assistance are tailored to meet the needs of families;**
- 3. Improve linkages to local mainstream systems to help families gain access to benefits, employment, and community-based services more quickly;**
- 4. Develop and build upon evidence-based practices for serving families experiencing or at-risk of experiencing homelessness.**



Coordinated Assessment

- Provide prevention and diversion assistance including a combination of financial assistance, mediation, housing location and supports.
- Provide temporary shelter with stabilization services. This may include school or early childhood care and learning, benefits, and health insurance.
- Provide connections to permanent housing and community-based services.
- Administer early childhood developmental and behavioral screenings.
- Ensure safety for survivors of domestic violence.



Tailored Intervention and Assistance

- Increase access to affordable housing and help target resources.
- Provide rapid re-housing assistance to the majority of families experiencing homelessness.
- Direct more service-intensive housing interventions like permanent supportive housing and transitional housing to the highest need households.



Connection to Mainstream Resources

- Targeted homeless resources are necessary but insufficient; leveraging mainstream resources is key.
- Develop strategies to improve access to and coordination with mainstream housing, schools and early childhood education, workforce programs, and TANF and other non-cash benefits.
- Engage, educate, and assist State and local partners to create better access for people experiencing homelessness.



Evidence Based Practices

- Evidence and data is available on practices that improve the effectiveness of interventions that support families.
- Enhancing services through implementation of evidence-based practice can lead to improved outcomes for parents and children:
 - Trauma informed care
 - Nurse family partnerships
 - Pre-natal and infant care
 - Early childhood education and school partnerships
- We are committed to learning more about successful prevention strategies and what works best for who



TANF Information Memorandum

- Issued by the ACF in February 2013
- Emphasizes the importance of addressing family homelessness with allowable uses of TANF funds
- Provides community examples

**Temporary Assistance for
Needy Families
Information Memorandum**

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Family Assistance
Washington, DC 20447

No. TANF-ACF-IM-2013-01

Date: February 20, 2013

TO: State, Territory, and Tribal agencies administering the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program

SUBJECT: USE OF TANF FUNDS TO SERVE HOMELESS FAMILIES AND FAMILIES AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

REFERENCE: Title IV-A, section 404 (a)(1) of the Social Security Act

PURPOSE: This Information Memorandum discusses the importance of addressing family homelessness with allowable uses of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds for families experiencing and at risk of experiencing homelessness.

BACKGROUND: According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), on a single night in January 2012 there were 239,403 persons in families experiencing homelessness.

The characteristics of families experiencing homelessness are very similar to other poor families with housing. The typical family experiencing homelessness is headed by a single mother under 30 with two young children, and a majority of children in these households are age five or under. Studies show that homeless children and children in low-income households, who may be at-risk of homelessness, have poorer physical and mental health (e.g., asthma, anxiety, depression) and are more likely to be delayed developmentally than their higher-income peers. Due to their high mobility, homeless children are less likely to have a regular source of medical care and are more likely to perform poorly in school.

This common profile of these families suggests that many of them may be eligible for TANF. They are extremely poor. Preliminary data from HUD's current multi-city study *The Impact of Housing and Services Interventions on Homeless Families* shows that the annual median income of homeless families is under \$7,500, and nearly a third of these families report annual incomes below \$5,000. The study indicates that 41 percent of families receive TANF cash assistance. Many others may be income-eligible, but are not receiving TANF support.



Resources for Serving Families Experiencing Homelessness

- [Family Connection: Building Systems to End Family Homelessness](#)
- [TANF IM](#)
- [Core Components of Rapid Re-housing](#)
- [Building Partnerships to Address Family Homelessness](#)
- [Promising Practices for Children Experiencing Homelessness: A Look at Two States](#)
- [Birth to Five: Watch Me Thrive! A Housing and Shelter Provider's Guide to Developmental and Behavioral Health Screening](#)



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