

Presentation to TANF State Directors

September 4, 2014





Roles of USICH

- **Coordinate** the Federal response to homelessness
- **Maximize** the effectiveness of 19 Federal agency partners
- **Share** best practices
- **Drive** collaborative solutions



Opening Doors

No one should experience homelessness.

No one should be without a safe, stable place to call home.

The Plan set forth four bold and ambitious goals:

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

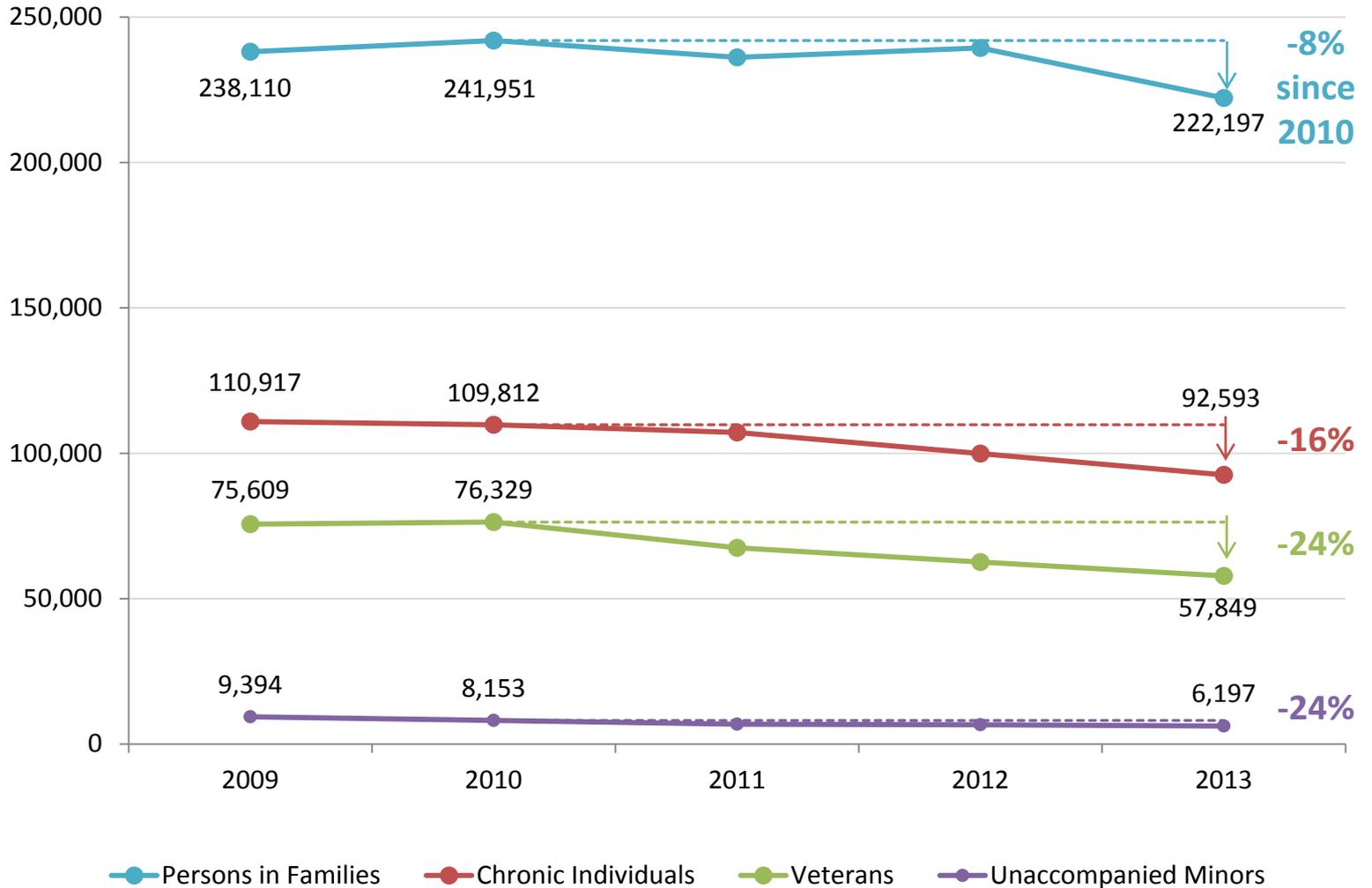


Themes of Opening Doors

- 1. Increase leadership, collaboration, and civic engagement**
- 2. Increase access to stable and affordable housing**
- 3. Increase economic security**
- 4. Improve health and stability**
- 5. Retool the homeless crisis response system**



National PIT Count Trends





Today:

- Review family homeless policy
- Discuss role of mainstream services
- Highlight TANF opportunities





Understanding homeless among families and children

- In 2013, **222,197 people in families** were experiencing homelessness on a single night.
- That equals **70,960 households**
- **130,515 children** under the age of 18 are living in families experiencing homelessness on any given night over the course of a year.
- **80% of families** are headed by a single mother



Our vision: 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.



Key Areas of Action

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

1. Develop a centralized or coordinated entry system
2. Tailor intervention and assistance to unique family needs
3. Improve linkages to local mainstream systems
4. Develop and build upon evidence-based practices



Tailored Intervention and Assistance

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



Connection to Mainstream Resources

- Targeted homeless resources are necessary but not sufficient
- 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 direct access for people experiencing homelessness.



Leveraging TANF

TANF-ACF-IM-2013-01 (Use of TANF Funds to Serve Homeless Families and Families at Risk of Experiencing Homelessness)

Published: February 20, 2013

Audience: Tribal TANF, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Topics: TANF Guidance, TANF Guidance

Types: Information Memoranda (IM)

Tags: Use of Funds

- Address housing needs
- Coordinate services
- Support employment-specific services
- Build important partnerships



State Initiatives

- Massachusetts
- New Jersey
- Utah
- Washington





State Leadership

- Encourage and utilize coordinating bodies like State Interagency Councils
- Evaluate how state governments can better support local units of government
- Provide examples of success and successful practices
- Ensure the adoption and implementation of best practices
- Involve citizens and the private sector



Building Momentum



- 25 communities selected from 50 with largest homeless populations
- Account for 39 percent of homelessness in the nation in 2013



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Leveraging Mainstream Systems Is Critical to Ending Homelessness

July 28, 2014



The USICH Council met on July 18, 2014 to discuss progress and planned actions to increase the degree to which Federal mainstream programs and resources are being brought to bear in efforts to end homelessness.

Contents

- A Message from Leure Green Zeilinger
- Council Focuses on Leveraging Mainstream Systems
- USICH Connects with Public Housing Leaders at NAHRO
- New Study on Housing First in Permanent Supportive Housing
- Preview of USICH Schedule at the National Conference on Ending Homelessness
- News From Our Partners
- WIDA is Lew
- Supportive Services for Veteran Families



Obama Administration Deepens Commitment to End Homelessness

A Message from Leure Green Zeilinger, USICH Executive Director



Council Selects Labor Secretary Thomas Perez as Chair, HHS Secretary Sylvia Mathews Burwell as Vice Chair

Labor Secretary Thomas Perez and HHS Secretary Sylvia Mathews Burwell have been selected to serve as Chair and Vice Chair of the USICH Council.

Every day, all across the country, front-line providers and practitioners, advocates and outreach workers are applying their dedication, skill, and passion to support our nation's Veterans, families, youth and our most vulnerable neighbors to find hope and housing. The Obama Administration is proud of the work communities have done to convert challenges into opportunities and to

end homelessness for as many Americans. In confronting the obstacles and challenges that remain, we are fully your partner.

In the four years since the launch of Opening Doors, together we have shown that homelessness is a solvable problem. Yet, we must work harder, and with stronger partnerships, if we are going to solve it. We need to do more of what works: using data to drive results and implementing evidence-based practices like permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing and community-wide adoption of Housing First. And we need to better leverage the array of mainstream programs in our efforts.

The drum beat from the Administration is quickening and growing louder. President Obama is committed to ending homelessness, not just managing it - leading the Administration to more effective policies and reauthorizing www.usich.gov in real solutions. First Lady Michelle Obama, along with Dr. Jill Biden and Tommy Thayer, are providing more partners in the effort to

MAYORS CHALLENGE TRACKER



156 mayors, 5 governors, and 5 county officials have committed to end homelessness among Veterans in their communities by the end of 2015.

[Click here to learn more about the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness.](#)



Blogs You Might Like

[We Must Increase the Role We Play in Ending Homelessness](#)
by Rachel Prince



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