

**HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS  
PLAN ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 10, 2012 WITH SUPPORTING ACTIONS**

**1. Goal 1: Retool the Homeless Crisis Response System**

- a. Objective 1: Refocus homeless services into a crisis response system that prevents homelessness and rapidly returns people experiencing homelessness to stable housing.
  - i. Strategy 1: Promote best practices for crisis response programs (e.g., transition in place, prevention of homelessness, and rapid rehousing).
  - ii. Strategy 2: Use mainstream resources to provide housing stabilization assistance.
  - iii. Strategy 3: Develop implementation strategies for the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act that sustain best practices.
  - iv. Strategy 4: Increase number and diversity of community stakeholders.
  - v. Strategy 5: Review and develop strategies which assist homeless non-residents in accessing the most appropriate resources.
  - vi. Strategy 6: Continue to support the State-wide outreach network which engages and identifies unsheltered homeless persons (see Hawaii's Homeless Assistance Act).
  - vii. Strategy 7: Develop and implement a comprehensive plan of education and communications for the general public and organizations such as, Neighborhood Boards, to facilitate community understanding and engagement on homelessness.
  
- b. Objective 2: Ensure that all critical services are prioritized for funding.
  - i. Strategy 1: Conduct fiscal mapping study for all services which address homelessness.
  - ii. Strategy 2: Based on the fiscal mapping study, develop a comprehensive revenue plan which includes federal, state, counties, service providers, business community, philanthropic organizations, and the faith community.
  
- c. Objective 3: Ensure that all information systems are appropriately integrated to improve effectiveness and efficiency of service provision to those who are homeless and to better support providers who serve the homeless.
  - i. Strategy 1: Identify ways to track those who are homeless through various service systems to establish baseline cost utilization, e.g., improve linkages between HMIS and various data systems.
  - ii. Strategy 2: Track service effectiveness and cost savings resulting from coordination of outcome oriented interventions.

## **2. Goal 2: Increase Access to Stable and Affordable Housing**

- d. Objective 4: Create and preserve affordable housing for people at 50% and below of area median income.
  - i. Strategy 1: Support additional rental housing subsidies through federal, state, local and private resources.
  - ii. Strategy 2: Expand the supply of affordable rental housing where they are most needed through federal, state, local and private efforts and partnerships.
- e. Objective 5: Create and preserve permanent supportive housing options for people who are homeless and have special needs, e.g., mentally ill, medically frail, physically disabled, elderly, released offenders and substance affected.
  - i. Strategy 1: Improve access to and use of supportive housing by encouraging prioritization and matching people with appropriate levels of support to prevent or escape homelessness.
  - ii. Strategy 2: Expand the supply of permanent supportive housing through federal, state, local and private resources.
- f. Objective 6: Improve access to government-funded affordable housing by eliminating barriers.
  - i. Strategy 1: Review government policies and practices in government funded affordable housing (including Hawaii Public Housing Authority – HPHA) which impact eligibility and eviction.
  - ii. Strategy 2: Coordinate with HPHA to prepare new tenants for public housing and promote the transition of people in public housing to other forms of permanent housing in order to improve access for others in need.
  - iii. Strategy 3: Streamline administrative processes in order to place tenants into public housing as quickly as possible.

## **3. Goal 3: Increase Economic Stability and Self-sufficiency**

- g. Objective 7: Increase meaningful and sustainable employment for people experiencing or most at risk of homelessness.
  - i. Strategy 1: Ensure that job development and training programs include opportunities for people who are experiencing or most at risk of homelessness.
  - ii. Strategy 2: Review government program policies, procedures, and regulations to identify and remove barriers and improve access to employment (e.g., criminal history barriers).
  - iii. Strategy 3: Develop and disseminate best practices on helping people with histories of homelessness and barriers to employment enter the workforce.

- iv. Strategy 4: Improve coordination and integration of employment programs with homeless assistance programs, victim assistance programs, and housing and permanent supportive housing programs.
  - v. Strategy 5: Develop job opportunities appropriate for a range of homeless individuals.
- h. Objective 8: Improve access to appropriate mainstream programs and services to reduce people's financial vulnerability to homelessness.
- i. Strategy 1: Promote the use of best practices in expedited access to income and work supports for people experiencing homelessness.
  - ii. Strategy 2: Review state program policies, procedures, and regulations to identify and remove barriers and improve access to income support.
  - iii. Strategy 3: Coordinate with a variety of agencies – federal and state – to ensure that those who are homeless and those at risk of homelessness receive available and adequate services and/or benefits.
  - iv. Strategy 4: Coordinate with various agencies, State and Federal, to promote employment and released offenders.

#### **4. Goal 4: Improve Health and Stability**

- g. Objective 9: Integrate primary and behavioral health care services with homeless assistance programs and housing.
- i. Strategy 1: Encourage partnerships between housing providers and health and behavioral health care providers to co-locate or coordinate health, behavioral health, safety, and wellness services with housing.
  - ii. Strategy 2: Seek opportunities to establish medical respite programs (transition program for the medically fragile) to accommodate people being discharged from hospitals experiencing homelessness with complex health needs.
  - iii. Strategy 3: Increase availability of and accessibility to health services for special populations (e.g., co-occurring disorders including mental illness, substance abuse, developmental disability, and medical frailty).
  - iv. Strategy 4: Improve access to child and family services that improve early child development, educational stability, youth development, and quality of life for families.
  - v. Strategy 5: Increase accessibility and availability of health services in rural and underserved areas.
  - vi. Strategy 6: Identify more accessible resources for dental care and promote utilization.
  - vii. Strategy 7: Create specialized service packages for community re-entry for populations such as families, veterans, disabled, youth aging out of systems, mentally ill offenders, and sex offenders so the individual does not revert back to harmful behaviors especially after successful discharge from substance abuse treatment.

- h. Objective 10: Advance health and stability for youth aging out of systems such as foster care and juvenile justice.
  - i. Strategy 1: Establish arrangement to provide for reporting of Department of Human Services and Office of Youth Services efforts (youth aging out of foster care and youth aging out of juvenile justice system, respectively) to the HICH.
  - ii. Strategy 2: Have Hawaii Continua of Care revisit Transition Age Youth (TAY) task force recommendations and prioritize actions.
  
- i. Objective 11: Advance health and stability for people experiencing homelessness who have frequent contact with hospitals and the criminal justice system.
  - i. Strategy 1: Improve discharge planning from medical centers, emergency departments, psychiatric facilities, jails, and prisons to connect people to housing, health and behavioral health support, income and work support, and health coverage prior to discharge.
  - ii. Strategy 2: Promote targeted outreach strategies to identify the most vulnerable homeless people and connect them to the housing and support they need.
  - iii. Strategy 3: Increase the number of jail diversion programs that are linked to housing and support.