

A Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness in Texarkana



5-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness
Texarkana Homeless Coalition

2010 Texarkana Homeless Coalition Officers

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Michelle Miller – Vice President

Rose Stewart – Secretary

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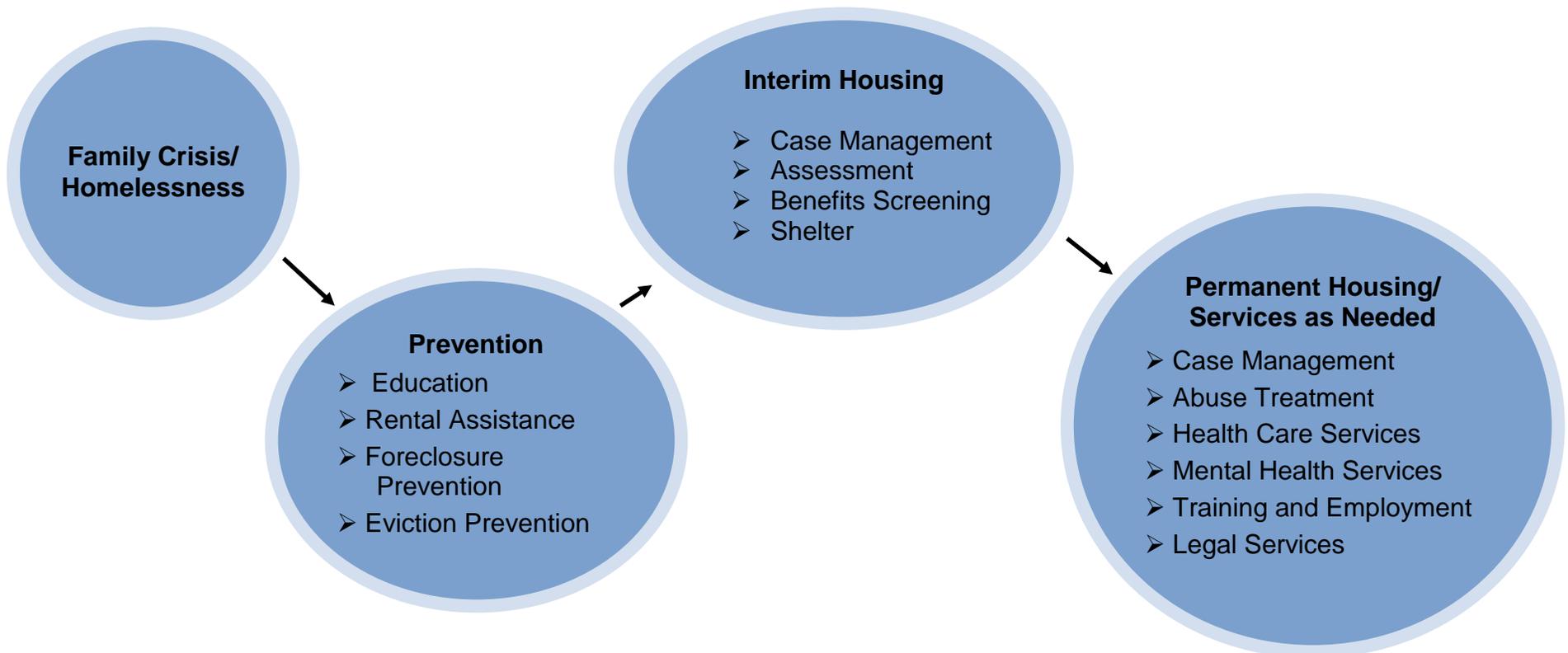
Harvest Texarkana, Michelle Miller - agencyrelations@cableone.net

Executive Summary

This country has seen a growth in homelessness of incomparable magnitude over the last twenty years. Tonight, nearly a million people will be homeless, despite a two-billion-dollar-a year infrastructure designed to deal with the problem. And in Texarkana, approximately 160 persons will be on our streets or in our shelters on any given night. The question becomes how can we address the sometimes overwhelming problem of homelessness in Texarkana in a comprehensive and efficient way?

The **Texarkana Homeless Coalition (THC)**, a collaborative of public and private organizations and individuals that have addressed this issue in Texarkana for more than 15 years, has committed itself to this plan to end homelessness as we know it over the next 5 years. It will require more than just the goodwill of this collaborative. It will take resources not yet realized: the talents, time and treasures of all of Texarkana. We need your help.

Texarkana's Five-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness



Why Have a Plan?

HUD requires it.

- In 2001, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced that it had established the goal of ending chronic homelessness within a decade.

It is a problem we can fix.

- Model programs tested throughout the U.S. found that when chronically homeless persons are provided with **adequate housing and support services**, as many as 80% remain in stable housing.

It saves the taxpayer money.

- Because of their high rates of disability, chronically homeless persons consume over 50% of homeless assistance resources.
- The chronically homeless are also frequent users of expensive public services, including emergency medical care, psychiatric care, law, and criminal justice programs.
- According to a recent estimate by St. Andrew's-Wesley Homelessness and Mental Health Action Group, the public can spend \$55,000 on a person who is homeless and goes through a revolving door of various services or \$37,000 on housing with supports. It costs on average \$18,000 less to house someone with supports.

Chronic Homelessness is a finite problem.

- Because the chronically homeless are the most visible on our streets, it is sometimes hard to believe that they comprise only 15% of the total homeless population.

Why Supportive Housing?

- Not shelters, food-banks, blankets and or soup kitchens but homes. We end homelessness by providing homes with supports so that persons can have the opportunity to re-build their lives.
- Providing people who are chronically homeless with the needed mix of services and support they require, promotes housing stability and breaks the cycle of homelessness
- Supportive Housing allows individuals with special needs to live in an independent setting rather than in an institutionalized setting such as Institutions for Mental Diseases, a psychiatric institution or nursing home
- It helps people recovering from substance abuse to remain clean and sober
- It provides people with a disability or those who have been released from prison with an affordable place to live and services to help them reenter society



PRIORITY ONE: To reduce the number of homeless individuals & families entering the system by (1) educating the general public, community/ social service organizations, individuals, and families regarding the warning signs of homelessness (2) provide information on discharge management, emergency assistance, mental health assistance and various other resources in a timely manner to avoid a housing crisis (3) Better collaboration among homeless providers through the use of HMIS and other data base programs.

Strategy(-ies)	Action(s)	Manager ¹	Implementers	Expected Outcomes	Benchmarks	Completion Date (Estimated)
Promote public awareness and educate public on benefits of prevention and warning signs of homelessness	Distribute books about homelessness to local agencies, churches, and libraries. "Same Kind of Different as Me"	Connie Sloan, THC President	David Orr City of Texarkana, Texas	Public awareness and empathy towards homeless persons	10 books secured through donations for distribution to public	December 1, 2010
	Speak at meetings (Rotary, Kiwanis, etc) and other public functions	Michelle Miller, THC Vice President	Michelle Miller, THC Vice President	Public awareness and empathy towards homeless	5 presentations completed	December 1, 2010
Enhance coordination of emergency assistance and combining it with case management including support for young families and youth (ages 17-25).	Provide a comprehensive list of all programs including rent, mortgage, and utility assistance from all service providers.	Rose Stewart, THC Secretary	Rose Stewart, THC Secretary	A "one stop" list of all emergency assistance programs for timely distribution	1 document	December 1, 2010
	Provide discharge & case management along with emergency assistance (budgeting, goal setting, employment training)	Jennifer Laurent, Randy Sams'	Jennifer Laurent, Randy Sams'	Case management would be required to receive assistance	Agreement signed by all supportive service orgs.	February 1, 2011
	Provide additional beds for youth (ages 17-25)	Jennifer Laurent, Randy Sams'	Jennifer Laurent, Randy Sams'	housing option for foster care youth	Identified facility and bed space	June 1, 2011
Utilize Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) to better serve homeless individuals and families.	Primary care homeless providers join HMIS (Randy Sams, Friendship, Salvation)	Bryan Bixler, Friendship Center	Bryan Bixler, Friendship Center	Better communication and data tracking	The 3 primary care homeless organizations will have HMIS.	December 1, 2010
	Advocate HMIS use by all other organizations (except those for privacy reasons)	Connie Sloan, THC President	Connie Sloan, THC President	Better communication and data tracking	All organizations possible will use HMIS	December 1, 2011
Progress to Date		Barriers and/or Situational Changes			Immediate Next Steps (including potential technical assistance needs)	
¹ The Manager is the individual responsible for coordinating each action. ² The Implementer is the individual (or entity) responsible for carrying-out each action.						

PRIORITY TWO: To help individuals and families exit homelessness through (1) an effective case management system using all available resources (2) Implementation of a “coalition program” to give counseling, guidance, job training and skills development (3) a potential “one-stop-shop” centralized facility for nonprofit providers for effective distribution of services.

Strategy(-ies)	Action(s)	Manager	Implementer	Expected Outcomes	Benchmarks	Completion Date (Estimated)
Establish an effective case management system using all available resources	Develop a case management services document (current services and those needed)			Better information regarding case management	1 document	December 1, 2010
	Develop coalition wide case management program			Better delivery of services to the homeless	Coalition case management program	December 1, 2011
Implementation of a “coalition program” to give counseling, guidance, job training and skills development.	Program setup including agencies, referral system, MOUs, and lesson plans			Steps needed for successful coalition program	Documents for agencies involved, MOUs, and referral sys.	June 1, 2011
	Development of mentoring program, recruit more agency involvement, etc.			Formal and structured mentoring program	1 Program Several supporting documents	January 1, 2012
	Program Launch and facilitate program for first 6 months			Program Facilitation	First graduating participant	December 1, 2012
Explore a potential “one-stop-shop” centralized facility for nonprofit providers for effective distribution of services.	Continue to work with the City of Texarkana, Texas to identify properties			Secure a one stop shop facility location	1 proposed location	June 1, 2011
	Collaborate with outside partners to secure funding			Secure funding	Adequate funding from all available sources	December 1, 2011
Progress to Date		Barriers and/or Situational Changes			Immediate Next Steps (including potential technical assistance needs)	

PRIORITY THREE: Collaborate with local housing authorities and HUD to create transitional housing opportunities and expand affordable permanent housing opportunities for homeless individuals and families.

Strategy(-ies)	Action(s)	Manager	Implementer	Expected Outcomes	Benchmarks	Completion Date (Estimated)
Explore transitional housing opportunities and grant funding for similar projects	Apply for grant funding for transitional housing facility			transitional housing facility	1-2 Grants applied for	June 1, 2011
	Research best other transitional housing facilities and involve THC member orgs in site visits.			transitional housing facility site visits and best practice observations	Best practice document	December 1, 2011
	Establish a transitional housing pilot program			A pilot program to have as a baseline for future projects	1-2 families or individuals placed in program	December 1, 2011
Collaborate with local housing authorities and HUD to expand affordable permanent housing opportunities for homeless individuals and families.	Apply for HUD funding for affordable housing for homeless			Create new housing options for homeless	50 new affordable housing units for homeless	December 1, 2011
	Collaborate with local housing authorities for affordable housing options for homeless			Create new housing options for homeless	Identify 25 affordable housing units for homeless	December 1, 2011
	Re-apply for HUD funding for affordable housing for homeless			Create new housing options for homeless	50 more affordable housing units for homeless	December 1, 2012
	Re-apply for HUD funding for affordable housing for homeless			Create new housing options for homeless	50 more affordable housing units for homeless	December 1, 2013
	Re-apply for HUD funding for affordable housing for homeless			Create new housing options for homeless	50 more affordable housing units for homeless	December 1, 2014
Progress to Date	Barriers and/or Situational Changes			Immediate Next Steps (including potential technical assistance needs)		