HUMBOLDT COUNTY TEN YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS: Action Steps Update 2010

ACTION STEPS DEVELOPED BY HUMBOLDT HOUSING AND HOMELESS COALITION

Annual Update

JULY 2011

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES



HUMBOLDT COUNTY TEN YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS: Action Steps 2010

HUMBOLDT COUNTY

After approval and publication of *Humboldt County Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness: Phase 1* in 2009, the HHHC set up four subcommittees to set goals, strategies and action steps to solve homelessness in Humboldt County. The work of the subcommittees follows the themes and objectives outlined in the federal plan.

Other community groups and individuals worked on similar projects to solve homelessness and presented their efforts to the HHHC. The Eureka Chamber of Commerce Subgroup on Homelessness was noteworthy in its effort to provide input from and connection to business leaders for the HHHC.

Member agencies have been active in addressing the problems presented in Phase 1 and in response to the significant numbers of individuals and families without homes identified in the 2009 Point in Time Count. Much has been accomplished. Several notable examples are the HPRP program and the successful HUD application process to bring federal housing funds into Humboldt County.

Working together as a group, the HHHC applied for and received \$1.6 million to operate Humboldt Housing Now! Humboldt Housing Now! is an example of the retooling of traditional homeless services into a crisis response system known as HPRP: Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program.

In this county, the HPRP program was co-located and operated in conjunction with the county's Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Temporary Aid to Needy Families Emergency Contingency Fund (TANF ECF) program to cover up to four month's of back rent and/or utilities for families in economic crisis, and security deposits and rent to re-house families that lost their housing. The TANF ECF program ended September 30, 2010 when ARRA funding expired but Humboldt Housing Now! continues to serve individuals and families. This integrated effort of county government and private, non-profit organizations was the only one in the state and received high marks during last auditor visit to the project. Outcomes for the two intertwined projects are presented below:

ARRA-TANF-ECF funding Outcomes: 7/1/2009 – 9/30/2010 Housing (rent assistance, eviction prevention, utilities)

> Families served: 155

> Amount expended: \$295,344

Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) 2010 Humboldt Housing Now!

	528 families (1,007 persons) received homeless prevention and housing
	assistance.
	36-month grant of \$1,600,000.
	\$976,879 expended after 16 months.
	\$629,121 remaining for the next 20 months.
	Homeless Prevention: 734 persons in 348 households
	Rapid Rehousing: 273 persons in 180 households
	Security and/or Utility Deposits: 386 persons in 196 households
	Legal Services: 160 persons in 80 households
	Credit Repair/Counseling: 14 persons in 12 households
П	Case Management Services: 1.007 persons in 528 households

Each year, the HHHC works as a group to report progress and to apply for funding from HUD available to Continuums of Care. This funding supports housing programs and supportive services in the community. The chart on the following page shows funding contributed by HUD to solve homelessness in Humboldt County.

Humboldt Housing and Homeless Coalition (HHHC) McKinney-Vento, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Grant Funding

Year	Organization Receiving Funds	Amount	Purpose
2004	Redwood Community Action Agency	\$354,222	Transitional Housing
2004	Arcata House	\$318,326	Supportive Housing
2004	Redwood Community Action Agency	\$115,077	Transitional Housing
2004	Total amount granted to HHHC:	\$787,625	
2005	Total amount granted to HHHC:	\$0	Missed cutoff by one point
	3		•
2006	North Coast Substance Abuse Council	\$219,454	Substance Abuse Treatment
2006	Humboldt Bay Housing Dev. Corp.	\$119,700	Supportive Housing
2006	DHHS	\$82,353	HMIS
2006	Total amount granted to HHHC:	\$421,507	
	3		
2007	Humboldt Bay Housing Dev. Corp.	\$121,428	Supportive Housing
2007	Arcata House	\$264,046	Supportive Housing
2007	Redwood Community Action Agency	\$38,359	Transitional Housing
2007	Total amount granted to HHHC:	\$423,833	<u> </u>
	3		
2008	Redwood Community Action Agency	\$156,433	Transitional Housing
2008	Arcata House	\$108,844	Supportive Housing
2008	DHHS	\$82,353	HMIS
2008	DHHS	\$53,954	Supportive Housing
	Total amount granted to HHHC:	\$401,584	
2009	Arcata House	\$146,450	Supportive Housing
2009	DHHS	\$82,353	HMIS
2009	DHHS	\$53,954	Supportive Housing
2009	North Coast Substance Abuse Council	\$109,727	Substance Abuse Treatment
2009	Redwood Community Action Agency	\$156,433	Transitional Housing
	Total amount granted to HHHC:	\$548,917	
2010	Arcata House	\$207,164	Supportive Housing
2010	Arcata House	\$27,562	Supportive Services
2010	DHHS	\$82,353	HMIS
2010	North Coast Substance Abuse Council	\$109,727	Substance Abuse Treatment
2010	Redwood Community Action Agency	\$156,433	Transitional Housing
2010	Humboldt Bay Housing Dev. Corp.	\$56,598	Supportive Services
2010	Total amount granted to HHHC:	\$639,837	
Since 2004	Total amount granted to HHHC:	\$3,223,303	

REPORTS AND UPDATES

This is the first Annual Update to Humboldt County's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness. Future Annual Updates will note Actions Steps progress, additional strategies added, strategies rejected or modified, and new action steps identified. Annual Updates will also address any changes in federal direction and Humboldt County response to changes or mandates. Annual Updates will also provide an updated count of supportive housing built in Humboldt County, one of the federal measures of community progress.

Since this is the first Annual Update, it will include all accomplishments and progress on action steps that has been achieved since 2009, bringing the Plan to date.

THEME: LEADERSHIP, COLLABORATION, AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Objective One: Provide and promote collaborative leadership at all levels of government and across all sectors to inspire and energize Americans to commit to preventing and ending homelessness

Federal emphasis on "breaking down the silos" calling for interdisciplinary, interagency, and intergovernmental action with citizen- including those with first-hand experience of homelessness- and private sector – businesses, non-profits, faith-based organizations, foundations, and volunteers – involvement. Build broad support for strategies.

- Request resolutions in support of the Ten Year Plan from local jurisdictions
- Expand use of Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
- Engage philanthropic, corporate and developer communities to take action to invest resources reducing or preventing homelessness in Humboldt County
- Continue to support Community and Family Resource Centers (FRCs) and support the development of new FRCs as resources allow
- Include public stakeholders that have been involved in other plans

Action Steps	Progress through 2010
Expand use of HMIS	HMIS continued; change to new vendor
	(Bowman, ServicePoint) accomplished, all
	HUD-funded agencies now participate
Support Community and Family	DHHS support continued for Family
Resource Centers	Resource Centers, Mobile Engagement
	Vehicles began visiting CRC's and FRC's
	on regular schedule to provide better
	access to mainstream benefits
Include Veteran services in HMIS	Veterans' groups participate in HHHC.

	Plans developed to include groups in HMIS during 2011.
Include business community and other public stakeholders	Initial contact with business community, some attendance at General meeting
Inform and include elected officials	Full HHHC agency presentation to city and county elected officials during 2010

Objective Two: Strengthen the capacity of public and private organizations by increasing knowledge about collaboration, homelessness, and successful interventions to prevent and end homelessness

Federal emphasis on building capacity for research and data, adoption of best practices and evidence-driven approaches while keeping individuals safe from any harm that could be caused by tracking. A special note on tracking a family's housing status when accessing mainstream programs to better understand role of mainstream programs in preventing and ending homelessness.

- Provide informational workshops for Cities, community organizations and members of the public
- Strategically use data to track needs, document outcomes and develop appropriate and effective programs
- Advise local officials on homelessness and policy issues that impact service delivery in communities
- Provide educational opportunities to potential funders, developers, and citizens about the impact of homelessness in Humboldt County and opportunities to assist in this effort
- Seek to develop sustainable funding and service capacity to develop a continuously updated website that provides centralized information to Humboldt County stakeholders, Cities and County service providers about housing availability and service and program information.

Action Steps	Progress through 2010
Develop a website for the HHHC	Website funded by McLean Foundation and
	developed: www.humboldthousing.org
Provide informational	Full agency presentation to city and county elected
workshops to general public and	officials, workshops at HHHC General meetings:
elected officials	CalFresh, CIV and C4 Yourself, Self Sufficiency
	Benefits Calculator
Use data for planning purposes	Conducted PIT counts in 2007 and 2009. Collected
	and used data in HUD C of C grant process
Keep informed on pending &	Sent alerts on issues of homelessness out to mailing
enacted legislation	list
Advise local officials on issues	Some informal; working on more formal process for
	elected officials. HHHC members met with Police
	Chief's Association (LICHA).

THEME: INCREASE ACCESS TO STABLE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Objective Three: Provide affordable housing to people experiencing or most at risk of homelessness

Federal emphasis on expansion of supply of affordable (cost of housing not more than 30 percent of income) housing where most need, preservation of existing affordable housing, additional rental subsidies, more housing for extremely low income, "triaging" those who need long-term assistance, those needing targeted short-term assistance and those who can resolve situation on their own or with mainstream supports. Pay attention to most vulnerable: children and families, unaccompanied youth, people with disabling conditions, and frail elders.

- Assess the feasibility of reducing minimum unit size to allow for motel conversion to affordable housing
- Work with Cities and County to identify parcels/zones where emergency shelters can be sited
- Assess the feasibility of Cities or communities to reduce minimum building lot size to encourage development of more low-income housing
- Assess the feasibility of Cities or communities to increase number of parcels zoned for multifamily development.
- Create more low-income, very low-income, and extremely low-income housing units in communities across Humboldt County
- Increase the supply of housing affordable to those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness
- Prevent deterioration of existing housing stock in order to keep those living in it from becoming homeless
- With Cities, assess the possibilities of the use of surplus or abandoned property for renovation for low-income housing units
- Use a master leasing approach to secure additional affordable housing for homeless individuals and families

Action Steps	Progress Though 2010
Reduce minimum unit size to reduce	Unit size reduced to 150 sf (not incl.
housing costs	kitchen cabinets or bath area) in Arcata;
	pending for County; no minimum in
	Fortuna; 640 sf in Eureka
Reduce minimum building lot size	Pending for County and Fortuna; in Arcata
	is currently 5,000 sf for second unit
Create emergency shelter zones	Created in Arcata and Eureka; pending for
	County
Employ master leasing approach	In use by HAFP; being researched by
	Humboldt County Counsel for County
	projects

Increase supply of housing affordable	Some increase in number of clean & sober
to homeless	housing beds; some increases to income
	support and assistance programs through
	ARRA funding

Objective Four: Provide permanent supportive housing to prevent and end chronic homelessness

Federal emphasis on increasing supply of permanent supportive housing; development of collaborative and coordinated sustainable sources of funding for supportive services, including use of state Medicaid and TANF programs.

- Create more decentralized community-based transitional housing units linked to supportive services where possible
- Create more permanent supportive housing units across Humboldt County for disabled individuals
- With Cities, coordinate to identify and apply for additional available public and private funding for permanent housing acquisition, construction, and rehabilitation.

Action Steps	Progress Though 2010
Increase number of PSH units	Secured funding for 66 units of new
	permanent supportive housing
Create more decentralized Transitional	New housing for Veterans near
Housing units	completion, will add 34 units or more. An
	additional 40 units in planning stages in
	Arcata. HAFP added 6 beds near Arcata
Acquire, construct and rehabilitate	CDBG funded improvements to transitional
permanent housing and existing	programs at RCAA and Humboldt All Faith
shelters	Partnership. CDBG also funded purchase
	of medical clinic building for Mobile
	Medical Office, Health Care for Homeless
	grantee. HAFP added 9 beds to Arcata
	Night Shelter
Link services to Transitional Housing	Respite care in Transitional Housing for
	homeless discharged from hospitals with
	intensive personal care services through
	CMSP grant.

THEME: INCREASE ECONOMIC SECURITY

 Objective Five: Increase meaningful and sustainable employment for people experiencing or most at risk of homelessness

Federal emphasis on programs and projects to connect people to employment and greater collaboration between jobs programs and housing and homeless services; develop and disseminate best practices on helping people with histories of homelessness enter the workforce; increase opportunities for work and support recovery for Veterans.

- Assist homeless people in accessing services at the Job Center
- Enhance training and educational opportunities to eligible populations
- Work with employment organizations and educational institutions to increase earning potential opportunities of individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- Assess opportunities to increase access to services and supports through affordable, available transportation which allows homeless persons to utilize services, search for housing and travel to work

Action Steps	Progress Though 2010
Provide services for homeless	Available on individual basis
persons at Job Center	
Provide training for case	Training provided by Job Market to YSB case
managers on accessing the Job	managers on services available to homeless
Market	youth. Job Market and Welfare-to-Work services
	presented to all MAC staff in on-site training
	followed by a field trip to service offices.
Work with employment	ARRA funding provided public and private
organizations	employment through two local employment
	agencies
Enhance training opportunities	ETD provides training through Displaced
	Workers program; ARRA jobs – Private and
	public sector - provide work experience and on
	the job training to unemployed parents
Increase vocational rehabilitation	None
committee for people with	
disabilities	

Objective Six: Improve access to mainstream programs and services to reduce people's financial vulnerability to homelessness

Federal emphasis on health care including behavioral health care, income support, and work support; reducing structural, capacity and eligibility barriers in process of obtaining mainstream programs and services; use of best practices like SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery Initiative) and HOPE (Homeless Outreach and Projects and Evaluation Initiative); preparation for Medicaid expansion to effectively enroll newly eligible people; improve use of federal nutrition programs.

Strategies from 10 Year Plan, Phase 1, 2009:

- Enhance referral assistance for people applying for benefits from Social Security and Veteran's Administration
- Partner with schools to ensure all homeless children and their families receive services where possible
- Expand street outreach services to underserved demographic groups and geographic areas within the county
- Ensure that families that are eligible for mainstream benefits and services are enrolled
- Continue to support and expand Transportation Assistance Program (TAP) referral network.
- Provide those families at risk of becoming homeless with access to services through community resource centers
- Provide training and updates to service providers on landlord/tenant law, housing rights, domestic violence laws, consumer rights, support and custody issues, and public benefits
- Coordinate opportunities for homeless people to access medical care and mental health and substance abuse treatment services
- Increase access to services and supports through transportation

Action Steps	Progress Though 2010
Expand street outreach services and develop engagement strategies at points of contact with homeless individuals	DHHS offered access to mainstream benefits to homeless and geographically isolated populations through increased schedules of Street Outreach Services and Mobile Engagement Vehicles. NCRC increased engagement services at facility and developed engagement strategies for outreach to chronically homeless individuals. YSB's RAVEN street outreach to youth was refunded in 2010 for three years.
Provide access to services at Resource Centers	DHHS Mobile Engagement Vehicles (MEV) began regularly scheduled visits to Resource Centers. NCRC and HAFP partner to provide nightly emergency shelter in Arcata for up to 20 people with access linked to NCRC. NCRC operates project designed to engage homeless people and link to services and support.

Annual Update 2010 Rev2 Page 10 of 14 pages 7/6/11

Ensure eligible families are	Expanded outreach for CalFresh through project with
enrolled in mainstream benefits	Food for People; combined screening for ARRA
	funded housing included screening for benefits
Expand transportation resources	Bus tickets provided by DHHS in various programs
for homeless individuals and	for local and long distance transportation (TAP). Bus
families	tickets provided for all youth in YSB residential
	programs.
Provide series of regular trainings	Presentations held on CalFresh, MediCal, CMSP,
for case managers on how to	CIV and C4 Yourself, Self Sufficiency Calculator and
access mainstream benefits	Housing Authority programs
Partner with schools to support	Homeless Education Project. California Wellness
homeless children and families	Foundation provides funding for YSB case manager
	to do on-site homeless prevention at Eureka and
	Fortuna high schools.
Include McKinney-Vento reps in	Invited and attended several HHHC General
schools in HHHC meetings and	meetings; included in all mailings. YSB has formal
communication	agreement with McK-V school liaisons to provide
	resources to youth in its programs.
Obtain Benefits Calculator	United Way obtained this for community use.
software for Humboldt County	
Provide educational forum on	Presentation was provided by DHHS staff.
CMSP and Medi-Cal for case	
managers	

THEME: IMPROVE HEALTH AND STABILITY

Objective Seven: Integrate primary and behavioral health care services with homeless assistance programs and housing to reduce people's vulnerability to and the impacts of homelessness

Federal emphasis on housing integrated with health care, including behavioral health; respite care for persons without stable housing, integrating social services with health care, improve access to child and family services and services for youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness; Medicaid-funded Assertive Community Treatment Teams.

- Within available resources and eligible populations, coordinate opportunities for homeless people to access medical care and mental health and substance abuse treatment services
- Increase the number of families receiving children's health insurance through Children's Health Initiative (CHI) within available resources to prevent financial hardship due to lack of insurance

Action Steps	Progress Though 2010
Improve access to medical care, mental health and SA services	Added mental health clinician to SOS and MEV to serve homeless and outlying communities. Mobile Medical Office got Health Care for Homeless Grant renewed for additional 3 years. Crisis Intervention Training for law enforcement officers held every 6 months, over 240 officers throughout county have received training.
Expand enrollment in children's health insurance	Enrollment opportunities added to MEV schedule; annual trainings for application assistors

Objective Eight: Advance health and housing stability for youth aging out of systems such as foster care and juvenile justice

Federal emphasis on improving discharge planning for youth aging-out of systems and targeted outreach strategies to identify youth experiencing homelessness and connect them to housing and support they need.

Strategies from 10 Year Plan, Phase 1, 2009:

• Increase availability of transitional housing units for Humboldt County Transition Age Foster Youth

Action Steps	Progress Though 2010
Increase available transitional	RCAA/YSB and Remi-Vista contracts with County
housing units for TAY foster	DHHS through the THP-Plus program to provide
youth	14 transitional living beds and services for youth exiting the foster care system. YSB's RAVEN street outreach and Our House emergency shelter for youth refunded in 2010 for 3 years. RCAA/YSB submitted application to state HCD to add six additional Transitional Housing units for youth ages 18-24; pending.
Use Housing Authority programs	DHHS developed application with Housing
including FUP and Project based	Authority to fund 25 new Section 8 certificates to
Section 8	support family unification and TAY

Objective Nine: Advance health and housing stability for people experiencing homelessness who have frequent contact with hospitals and criminal justice

Federal emphasis on people with serious mental illness who are homeless and frequently incarcerated, improved discharge planning from hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, jails and prisons; increasing number of jail diversion programs; developing acceptable community alternatives to "criminalization" of street homelessness; and use of targeted outreach strategies.

- Develop coordinated system of discharge planning for people leaving psychiatric facilities and the foster care system
- Reduce panhandling, loitering, and street crime
- Reduce unnecessary criminal justice expenditures related to homelessness
- Improve partnerships between law enforcement and homeless service resources in each community
- Continue to encourage law enforcement participation in Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training
- Support Homeless Court in Humboldt County.

Action Steps	Progress Though 2010
Encourage Law Enforcement participation in Crisis Intervention Training	CIT presented every six months, over 240 officers have received training.
Develop coordinated system of discharge planning Reduce unnecessary criminal	Some initial efforts by hospitals using respite care for homeless patients. Trained officers work with Mental Health crisis team
justice expenditures	to divert to Same Day Services or Psychiatric Emergency Services when necessary. Support for Homeless Court has continued.
Discharge planning for youth leaving foster care system	RCAA/YSB and Remi Vista contract with DHHS through THP-Plus program to provide 14 transitional living beds and services for youth leaving the foster care system.
Improve partnerships between LE and homeless service providers	Homeless service providers have participated in CIT when space is available. Monthly meetings between Mental Health Branch staff, SOS and law enforcement agencies.
Target twice a year to have meeting between committee members and LICHA	One meeting held.
Create, keep updated and distribute business card sized resource lists that officers can hand out	Provided by Humboldt County Human Rights Commission to law enforcement and others.
Coordinate with Street Outreach Services	SOS and EPD often respond together on situations involving homeless.

THEME: RETOOL THE HOMELESS CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM

Objective Ten: Transform homeless services to crisis response systems that prevent homelessness and rapidly return people who experience homelessness to stable housing

Federal emphasis on moving away from linear "continuum of care" model to Housing First/HPRP model that focuses on preventing homelessness and rapidly returning people who become homeless to housing; developing cultural competence in shelters and housing programs; retooling transitional housing and shelters into pathways to permanent housing; using street outreach programs to connect youth and adults to services and housing; lowering barriers to housing such as sobriety.

- Work with Cities and County to identify parcels/zones where emergency shelter can be sited without conditional use permits per SB 2
- Develop plans with Cities to increase emergency shelter beds that provide temporary lodging until transitional and permanent supportive housing units can be developed
- Secure funding for improvements to existing shelters where possible.
- Adopt Housing First/Rapid Re-housing models within available resources to ensure rapid placement from homelessness into housing
- Provide rental or mortgage assistance and other supportive services for eligible families at risk of homelessness within available resources
- Expand rental subsidies and diversion options for those eligible (e.g. MHSA, General Relief, etc.)

Action Steps	Progress Though 2010
Provide rental assistance for eligible families at risk of	Collaborative community grant for Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing for \$1.6 million with RCAA as Lead
homelessness	Agency. DHHS TANF-ECF funding for homeless prevention and rent/utility assistance. These collaborative, cooperative and co-located programs assisted over 600 families.
Identify SB 2 zones	Established in Eureka and Arcata; pending for County and Fortuna
Provide mortgage assistance	Provided by RCAA during 2010
Improvements to existing shelters	CDBG funded improvements to transitional programs at RCAA and Humboldt All Faith Partnership. CDBG also funded purchase of medical clinic building for Mobile Medical Office, Health Care for Homeless grantee. Community organizations (Rotary, Kiwanis, Soroptomists, McLean Foundation, HAF) provide \$65,000 towards renovation of YSB Launch Pad building.
Coordinate with public health department and emergency shelters	Public Health Officer provided information to Shelter subcommittee on health requirements for emergency shelter.