
Humboldt Housing and Homeless Coalition



September 6, 2011

Introduction

- The Humboldt Housing and Homeless Coalition (HHHC)
- Humboldt County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness
- Point-in-Time Count of homeless population
- Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program

HHHC

Vision:

That all members of our community have access to safe, decent, and affordable housing. The HHHC carries out this vision by facilitating county-wide collaboration to build awareness, support, partnerships, and funding for affordable housing and housing alternatives.

History:

The Humboldt Housing and Homeless Coalition (HHHC) was formed in 2003 as the federally-designated Continuum of Care organization for Humboldt County. Forming the HHHC was necessary to study and ease homelessness in Humboldt County, and to be eligible for federal funding to alleviate homelessness. HHHC member agencies have participated in HUD's annual grant funding competition since 2004.

HHHC Target Population

The HHHC's target population of Humboldt County's homeless residents or persons at-risk of becoming homeless includes a specific focus on:

- Chronically homeless adults and older adults with severe mental illness.
- Humboldt County's transition-age youth with serious emotional disorders.
- Foster youth aging out of Humboldt County's Foster Care System.
- Families.

Components of the HHC

- **HHC General Committee**
- **HHC Executive Committee**
- **Homeless Information Management Systems (HIMS)**
 - Executive Committee
 - Users Group
- **HHC subcommittees**
 - Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP)
 - Employment/Benefits/Services
 - Housing
 - Policy/Advocacy/Leadership/Safety
 - Shelter
- **Point-in-Time Count of the homeless population (bi-annually)**

HHHC Executive Membership

Agency Members of HHHC Executive Committee

- Arcata House
- Redwood Community Action Agency (RCAA)
- North Coast Substance Abuse Council (Crossroads)
- Humboldt County Dept. of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
- North Coast Resource Center
- North Coast Veterans Resource Center
- Women's Crisis Shelter in Southern Humboldt (WISH)
- Humboldt All-Faith Partnership
- Mobile Medical Office
- Housing Authorities of the City of Eureka and County of Humboldt
- Greater Eureka Chamber of Commerce

HHHC General Membership

Outreach and Engagement

- Mobile Medical Office
- North Coast Resource Center
- St. Vincent de Paul
- United Way of the Wine Country
- Family and Community Resource Centers
- Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) – Mobile Engagement Vehicles / Street Outreach Services
- Salvation Army
- Raven Project – RCAA
- North Coast Stand Down
- Food For People
- Fortuna Community Services
- Law Enforcement

HHHC General Membership, cont.

Emergency Shelter

- Eureka Rescue Mission
- Alcohol and Drug Care Services
- Humboldt All-Faith Partnership
- Youth Services Bureau - RCAA
- Women's Crisis Shelter in Southern Humboldt (WISH)
- Humboldt Domestic Violence Services
- Extreme Weather Shelter
- Winter Shelter

HHHC General Membership, cont.

Transitional Housing

- Multiple Assistance Center – RCAA
- North Coast Veterans Resource Center
- North Coast Substance Abuse Council (Crossroads)
- Arcata House
- Launch Pad – RCAA
- Bridge House – RCAA
- Safe Haven - RCAA

HHHC General Membership, cont.

Permanent Supportive Housing

- Arcata House
- Humboldt Housing – DHHS
- Project HART – DHHS
- Comprehensive Community Treatment (CCT) - DHHS
- Humboldt All-Faith Partnership
- Youth Services Bureau – RCAA
- THP+ and THPP Programs - DHHS

HHHC General Membership, cont.

Affordable Housing

- Humboldt Bay Housing Development Corporation
- Community Development Services
- Housing Authority
 - City of Eureka
 - County of Humboldt
- Subsidized Housing
 - Cedar Street Senior Apartments
- Local planners and developers

HHHC General Membership, cont.

Additional Members

- Mel and Grace McLean Foundation
- Legal Services of Northern California
- Consumer Credit Counseling
- St. Joseph Health Care System
- Garberville Community Presbyterian Church
- Humboldt County Library
- Housing For All
- Elected officials – all local jurisdictions and the County Board of Supervisors
- First 5 Humboldt
- Greater Eureka Chamber of Commerce
- Humboldt County Transition Age Youth Collaboration (HCTAYC)
- National Alliance on Mental Illness – Humboldt Chapter

HHHC Funding Accomplishments

- \$3,223,303 received in grant monies from U.S. Housing and Urban Development since 2004.
 - 2004: \$787,625
 - 2006: \$421,507
 - 2007: \$423,833
 - 2008: \$401,584
 - 2009: \$548,917
 - 2010: \$639,837
- Community Development Block Grants from HUD to fund Mobile Medical Office, Humboldt All-Faith Partnership, Redwood Community Action Agency, North Coast Veterans Resource Center, and Arcata House.
- \$1.6 million grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to fund the Homeless and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HRRP).
- Collaborative use of ARRA funds under TANF ECF for homeless prevention and rental assistance.
- \$200,000 Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Grant awarded to North Coast Veterans Resource Center in 2011.
- Received 25 Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers for rental assistance and case management for veterans.
- Continued support from the North Coast Grantmaking Partnership.

HHHC Accomplishments, cont.

- Trainings offered on C4 Yourself, CalFresh food stamps, and the Self-Sufficiency Calculator.
 - Mobile Engagement Vehicle outreach.
 - HHHC website: www.humboldthousing.org
 - Law enforcement outreach
 - Law Enforcement Chiefs Association (LECAH) presentation
 - Crisis Intervention Training twice a year
 - Resource Cards
 - Homeless Court
 - Continued support for Homeless Management Information Systems data collection.
 - Conduct a Point-in-Time Count bi-annually.
 - Increased transitional housing for veterans by 34 units.
 - Continued engagement with elected officials, business community, faith-based organizations, tribes, and concerned citizens.
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HHHC Website

- www.humboldthousing.org
- Homeless outreach services calendar
- Recent news about HHHC developments
- Local agency information
- Data-based reports on local homelessness

Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness

- In 2010, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness released *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*. Humboldt County's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness incorporates the themes and objectives of the federal plan and links the work of the HHHC to the federal plan.

The Opening Doors Strategic Plan is located at: www.usich.gov

Ten Year Plan: Core Strategies

- Develop and maintain data on homelessness and homeless populations.
 - Develop and maintain information on existing programs, services, and resources.
 - Develop and maintain a menu of existing and potential funding sources for housing, shelter, and services.
 - Projects will be developed within available resources.
 - Core principles include mutual agreement, shared resources, coordinated planning, decentralized services and supports, community values, best practices, focus on outcomes.
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Ten Year Plan: Themes & Action Plan

Theme: Leadership, Collaboration, and Civic Engagement

Action Steps:

- *Expand agency use of Homeless Information Management Systems (HMIS)*
 - *Support Community and Family Resource Centers*
 - *Include Veteran services in HMIS*
 - *Include business community and public stakeholders*
 - *Inform and include elected officials*
 - *Keep general public informed; website, informational workshops*
 - *Use data for planning purposes*
 - *Keep informed on pending and enacted legislation*
 - *Advise local officials on issues*
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Ten Year Plan: Themes & Action Plan

Theme: Increase Access to Stable and Affordable Housing

Action Steps:

- *Reduce minimum unit size to reduce housing costs*
- *Reduce minimum building lot size*
- *Create emergency shelter zones*
- *Employ master leasing approach*
- *Increase supply of housing affordable to homeless*
- *Link services to Transitional Housing*
- *Increase number of Permanent Supportive Housing units*
- *Create more decentralized Transitional Housing units*
- *Acquire, construct and rehabilitate permanent housing and existing shelters*

Ten Year Plan: Themes & Action Plan

Theme: Increase Economic Security

Action Steps:

- *Provide services for homeless persons at Job Market*
- *Provide training for case managers on accessing the Job Market*
- *Work with employment organizations*
- *Enhance training opportunities*
- *Increase vocational rehabilitation committee for people with disabilities*
- *Ensure eligible families are enrolled in mainstream benefits*
- *Provide access to services at Resource Centers*
- *Expand street outreach services and further develop engagement strategies*
- *Expand transportation resources*
- *Provide trainings for case managers on how to access mainstream benefits*
- *Partner with schools to support homeless children and families*
- *Include McKinney-Vento reps in schools, in HHHC meetings, and communication*
- *Obtain Benefits Calculator software for Humboldt County*
- *Provide educational forum on CMSP and Medi-Cal for case managers*

Ten Year Plan: Themes & Action Plan

Theme: Improve Health and Stability

Action Steps:

- *Improve access to medical care, mental health and SA services*
- *Expand enrollment in children's health insurance*
- *Increase available transitional units for TAY foster youth*
- *Use Housing Authority programs including FUP and Project-based Section 8*
- *Encourage Law Enforcement participation in Crisis Intervention Training*
- *Develop coordinated system of discharge planning*
- *Reduce unnecessary criminal justice expenditures*
- *Discharge planning for youth leaving foster care system*
- *Improve partnerships between LE and homeless service providers*
- *Target twice a year to have meeting between committee members and LECAH*
- *Create, keep updated & distribute resource lists for officers to hand out*
- *Coordinate with Street Outreach Services*

Ten Year Plan: Themes & Action Plan

Theme: Retool the homeless crisis response system

Action Steps:

- *Provide rental assistance for families at risk of homelessness*
- *Identify SB 2 zones*
- *Improvements to existing shelters*
- *Provide mortgage assistance*
- *Coordinate with public health department and emergency shelters*

Point-in-Time Count

■ 2011:

- Total counted homeless persons in county: 1,626
- Eureka: 60.1%
- Arcata: 15.8%
- Fortuna: 5.6%
- Southern Humboldt: 3.9%
- Other/Unknown: 14.5%

■ 2009:

- Total counted homeless persons in county: 1,913
- Eureka: 51.5%
- Arcata: 13.7%
- Fortuna: 9.5%
- Southern Humboldt: 7.9%
- Other/Unknown: 17.4%

Point-in-Time Count, cont.

Breakdown of 2011 homeless population data:

- 48% are homeless individuals; 52% are part of homeless families
- 28% are children; average age: 8 years old
- 36% are female; 63% are male
- Average age and gender: male, 40 years old
- 66% became homeless in Humboldt County
- 37% are survivors of domestic violence
- 20% are chronically homeless. Chronic homelessness: disabled, and homeless for more than a year; or four episodes of homelessness in three years
- Average age of chronically homeless: 50-59 years old
- 20% served in the U.S. Military
- 50% reported mental health issues
- 58% reported alcohol and/or drug issues

Housing Affordability in Humboldt

Currently in Humboldt County:

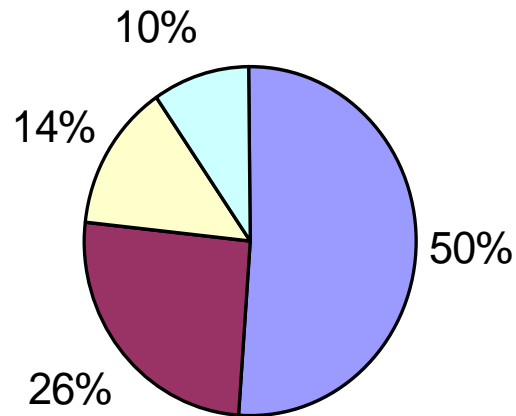
- Fair-market rental value of a one-bedroom unit is \$686 per month.
- 48 percent of the community's homeless citizens earn less than \$400 per month.

Homeless Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP): Humboldt Housing Now!

- Total served: 1,489 persons / 792 households
- Homeless prevention: 801 persons and 385 households served.
- Homeless assistance (rapid re-housing): 688 persons and 407 households served.

HPRP: Humboldt Housing Now!

HPRP Clients Receiving Assistance



■ Single Person ■ Single Parent ■ Two Parents ■ Two Adults, No Children

HPRP: Humboldt Housing Now!

Participating agencies in the HPRP program:

- Alcohol and Drug Care Services
- Arcata House
- Consumer Credit Counseling
- Fortuna Community Services
- Humboldt All-Faith Partnership
- Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services
- Humboldt Domestic Violence Services
- Legal Services of Northern California
- North Coast Substance Abuse Council
- North Coast Veterans Resource Center
- Redwood Community Action Agency
- United Way of the Wine Country
- Women's Crisis Shelter in Southern Humboldt

Rapid Re-Housing: Lessons Learned

- Very large demand for rapid re-housing in Humboldt County.
- The HPRP program demonstrated how effective the rapid re-housing model is in battling homelessness.
- 15% reduction in counted homeless persons between the 2009 and 2011 PIT Counts.

DHHS Housing Support via Recovery

Act

Utilization of funding provided by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009:

- In 2010, 155 families received DHHS assistance to either maintain or secure stable housing.
 - 34 families acquired new housing.
 - 121 families received funding to prevent eviction, thus maintaining their housing.
 - Cost of housing assistance: \$295,343
 - 9-month program; ended 9/30/10

- DHHS provided funding to domestic violence emergency shelters for 19 families from April to September 2010.

County and City Partnerships: Operating Principles

- Mutual agreement between the County, City, and involved stakeholders.
- Shared fiscal and/or other resources that ensure projects and services are fiscally sustainable in terms of ongoing operations and facilities development, maintenance or expansion costs.
- Strategic and coordinated planning across County and City Departments and involved stakeholders based on an agreed-upon process to assure alignment with Ten Year Plan Core Strategies and Operating Principles.

County and City Partnerships: Operating Principles

- Decentralized services and supports to serve the target populations in the communities in which they reside.
- Development of services and supports that reflect the distinct values of each community.
- Services and supports approaches based on “best practices” and/or built upon existing program models that are “promising practices”.
- A focus on outcomes for all new or existing services and supports projects.
- Coordination of all services and supports in each community to reduce fragmentation.

Additional Information

- National Alliance to End Homelessness: www.endhomelessness.org
 - U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness: www.usich.gov
 - National Coalition for the Homeless: www.nationalhomeless.org
 - Corporation for Supportive Housing: www.csh.org
 - Homebase: www.homebaseccc.org
 - North Coast Stand Down: www.northcoaststanddown.org
 - HHHC: www.humboldthousing.org
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