

HOMELESS

SPECIFIC HOMELESS PREVENTION ELEMENTS

1. *Sources of Funds—Identify the private and public resources that the jurisdiction expects to receive during the next year to address homeless needs and to prevent homelessness. These include the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act programs, other special federal, state and local and private funds targeted to homeless individuals and families with children, especially the chronically homeless, the HUD formula programs, and any publicly-owned land or property. Please describe, briefly, the jurisdiction’s plan for the investment and use of funds directed toward homelessness.*
2. *Homelessness—In a narrative, describe how the action plan will address the specific objectives of the Strategic Plan and, ultimately, the priority needs identified. Please also identify potential obstacles to completing these action steps.*
3. *Chronic homelessness—The jurisdiction must describe the specific planned action steps it will take over the next year aimed at eliminating chronic homelessness by 2012. Again, please identify barriers to achieving this.*
4. *Homelessness Prevention—The jurisdiction must describe its planned action steps over the next year to address the individual and families with children at imminent risk of becoming homeless.*
5. *Discharge Coordination Policy—Explain planned activities to implement a cohesive, community-wide Discharge Coordination Policy, and how, in the coming year, the community will move toward such a policy.*

HOMELESS NEEDS

The City utilizes CDBG and ESG funds for a number of special needs housing centers and shelters in the area. CDBG and ESG funds will be used to provide operating assistance for homeless shelters, assistance to prevent homelessness, supportive services for homeless persons and rapid re-housing assistance. During the City’s January 2012 Winter Point-In-Time (PIT) Count, 1370 people were counted as sheltered and 136 people were counted as unsheltered. The City is positioned to be one of the first cities to declare an end to eliminating chronic homelessness.

The following table outlines the specific homeless priorities and accomplishment goals that the City of St. Louis plans to achieve through projects supported during the 2012 Program Year.

ACTIVITY	ACCOMPLISHMENT UNITS	GOAL	SOURCE OF FUNDS
Homeless Facilities (Not operating Costs)	01-People	21,000	ESG, Other HUD, State, Grantee, Local
Operating Costs of Homeless/AIDS Patients Programs	01-People	14,000	CDBG, State, Grantee, Local

SOURCES OF FUNDS

The following table illustrates the sources of funds anticipated in 2012 to satisfy the homeless priorities shown above:

SOURCE OF FUNDS	FUNDING TYPE	AMOUNT
Dept. of Housing and Urban Development	CDBG	\$350,000
McKinney ó Vento Emergency Shelter Grant	ESG	\$1,543,959
Supportive Housing Program	Other HUD	\$9,965,500
Missouri Emergency Shelter Grant	State	\$75,000
Missouri Housing Development Commission	State	\$290,000
Homeless Challenge Program	Grantee	\$145,000
Domestic Violence Fund	Grantee	\$100,000
Affordable Housing Commission	Grantee	\$1,000,000
City of St. Louis (General Revenue)	Grantee	\$341,900
Miscellaneous Grants/Donations ¹	Local/Private	\$4,000,000
In-Kind Services	Local/Private	\$135,000
Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing	ARRA	\$2,500,000
TOTAL		\$20,446,359

Emergency shelter, shelter for victims of domestic violence, transitional housing, and permanent housing for persons with disabilities and their families are provided through the use of these resources. Along with housing, supportive services in mental health counseling and treatment, substance abuse counseling and treatment, and living and employment skills are provided to clients to assist them in gaining self-sufficiency. In each of the past three years, Homeless Services has increased the amount of permanent supportive housing available which, over time, will alleviate the crowding of shelters and provide long-term housing for the chronically homeless. The City will use at least 40% of the funds toward homeless prevention and rapid rehousing.

¹ Each of these grants entails matching funds (or in-kind services) ranging from 25% to 75% depending on the program. Sponsoring agencies who receive grant funds through the City of St. Louis Department of Human Services provide these matching funds. During the application process, each applicant is required to attach a letter guaranteeing that the match requirement will be met. In addition, grant contracts contain language outlining match obligations and proper documentation.

HOMELESSNESS

The amended 2012 Action Plan will address the following objectives of the Strategic Plan:

- Transitional Housing on Non-Disabled Individuals: Over the past five years, the City of St. Louis has made permanent supportive housing for disabled individuals and families a priority. There is a gap in transitional housing for single person that do not fit into an identified subpopulation (i.e. families, HIV/AIDS, veterans, disabled, etc.). Rapid re-housing funds will allow the City to close this gap in housing and services. In 2011, the City submitted a transitional housing project to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the Continuum of Care Supportive Housing application. Salvation Army was the project sponsor. The project proposed 24 units of transitional housing.

On November 1, 2011, the Water Tower Transitional Housing Program opened. The program has seven units of transitional housing for large families (21 bedrooms, 38 beds).

Gateway 180: Homelessness Reversed and Grace Hill Settlement House together provide an outstanding infrastructure to the work of providing transitional housing to larger families. Gateway 180 has the ability to stabilize and rapidly re-house larger families through its emergency shelter services, preparing them for success in transitional housing. Grace Hill has available housing in the Water Tower neighborhood and a new service building and health care center located in close proximity. Participants in the Water Tower Transitional Housing Project have convenient access to the services that are necessary for a family to move from transitional to independent, permanent housing. Health care, childcare, life-skills, and other services already delivered by Grace Hill Settlement House are offered to participants, strengthening their efforts to create change in their lives and to move into independent housing.

Grace Hill provides the lease units and serves as landlord. Gateway 180 leases the units from Grace Hill and manages the units as transitional housing with the support of Grace Hill and other service providers in the Continuum of Care. Gateway 180 will maintain an office within walking distance of the units so that clients can easily access services and Gateway 180 can closely supervise and manage the transitional housing units.

- Homeless Prevention for Individuals and Families and Rapid Re-Housing for Individuals and Families: In July 2009, the City received \$8,453,865 from HUD via Title XII of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. In October 2009, the City of St. Louis took a giant leap in the battle of ending long term homelessness for families and individuals residing on the streets and in emergency shelters for months and even years by implementing the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP).

Title XII of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 created funding for homelessness prevention, referred to by HUD as the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP). HPRP funds provide temporary financial assistance and housing relocation and stabilization services to individuals and families who are homeless or would be homeless but for this assistance. Resources are targeted and prioritized to serve households that are most in need of this temporary assistance and are most likely to achieve stable housing, whether subsidized or unsubsidized, outside of HPRP after the program concludes.

The funds are intended to target two populations of persons facing housing instability: (1) individuals and families who are currently in housing but are at risk of becoming homeless and need temporary rent or utility assistance to prevent them from becoming homeless or assistance to move to another unit (prevention); and (2) individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness (residing in emergency or transitional shelters or on the street) and need temporary assistance in order to obtain housing and retain it (rapid rehousing).

As of September 30, 2011, HPRP has served 3,296 households (7,912 persons) through the prevention program and the rapid re-housing program. The City of St. Louis is on target to exceed its original three year goals of providing homeless prevention services to 3,000 households (affecting 10,000 residents) and providing rapid re-housing services to 350 households (affecting 1,000 residents) by 2012.

In March 2011, the Continuum of Care began the planning of rapidly re-housing 57 homeless persons residing in make-shift tent near the Mississippi riverfront. Many are disabled and suffered from mental illness. The strategy, **WELCOME HOME, NEIGHBOR**, has four parts: initial census count, commitment of resources, intensive outreach/engagement, and evaluation.

WELCOME HOME, NEIGHBOR brings together the St. Louis community (riverfront residents, volunteers, faith-based organizations, homeless services providers and the City of St. Louis) to secure housing and services for residents living on the riverfront. The goal is to relocate every resident into appropriate permanent supportive housing and transitional housing by the on-set of winter.

The **WELCOME HOME, NEIGHBOR** is the first phase of the City of St. Louis, its Continuum of Care (CoC) and the Mental Health Board (MHB) strategy to develop effective solutions to homeless encampments and to end chronic homelessness within the

next five years. The goal of the Homeless Services Division and the St. Louis Mental Health Board is to bring about systematic improvements in policy, funding and service delivery outcomes for persons who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless. Two initiatives from the City of St. Louis Homeless Services Division and two initiatives from the St. Louis Mental Health Board are critical in developing effective solutions. The systematic plan will build on key components of:

- The joint City and County *10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness*
- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's *HEARTH Act*
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services via the St. Louis Mental Health Board *Transformation Grant*
- The St. Louis Mental Health Board Housing Grants

The second phase includes developing a systematic strategy to ensure that encampments such as these are not a repeat occurrence due to lack of effective alternatives to end chronic homelessness.

- Permanent Supportive Housing for Chronically Homeless Persons: The City has three permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless persons under development. The project sponsors are Peter and Paul Community Services, Shalom House and Catholic Charities Family Services. These programs will add 82 additional units to the current inventory of 217 beds. The City is target to meet its goal, as outlined in its 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness, of establishing 500 beds for chronically homeless persons by 2015.
- Permanent Supportive Housing for Families: The City of St. Louis currently has nine permanent supportive housing programs for families. In 2010, two transitional housing programs for families were closed. In anticipation of the closures, the City of St. Louis included transitional housing programs for large families in its 2009 CoC application to HUD. One program was funded and will begin operating in November 2011. The project sponsor is Gateway 180. In 2012, the City will seek additional permanent supportive housing for families.
- Developing Safe Havens: The City of St. Louis outlined the establishment of four Safe Havens in its 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness. To date, the City has one operating Safe Haven and has received funding for two additional Safe Havens. The project sponsors are Peter and Paul Community Services and Catholic Family Services. Catholic Family Services's Safe Haven will open November 2011 and the other Safe Haven is expected to open in 2012. The City anticipates applying for funding for the fourth Safe Haven in 2012.
- Collaborating with other Jurisdictions in the Region Towards Ending Long-Term Homelessness for Individuals and Families: In an effort to end chronic homelessness in the City of St. Louis, the City must take the lead role for developing a regional approach to homeless issues.

The City of St. Louis has approximately 2,550 homeless beds of various types. The centralized homeless hotline continues to show substantial numbers of people whose last address was in a jurisdiction other than the City. Additionally, during the recent closing of the Tucker Tunnel, an unsheltered location where homeless people lived, as many as 90% of the homeless people sleeping there were not residents of the City of St. Louis.

Currently, the City and County have residency policies that place restrictions on sheltering those that are not resident of the respective jurisdictions. However, neighboring jurisdictions have not invested the resources to addressing the increasing number of homeless individuals and families in their area. The City and County are now working together to eliminate the residency barrier.

Over the next year, the Homeless Services Division will work with the 16 counties that comprise the St. Louis Metropolitan Area and the Continuum in the State of Missouri to develop resources, services and policies to address homelessness.

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

- Increase Permanent Supportive Housing Units: Over the next year, the City will collaborate with three non-profit agencies to bring an additional 82 permanent supportive housing units on-line:
 - Shalom House 30 units
 - Peter and Paul Community Services 25 units
 - Catholic Family Services 27 units
- Collaborate with other jurisdictions to develop resources and services in their area: The lack of resources and services in surrounding counties continues to hamper the efforts within the City. The Homeless Services Division will work to develop a comprehensive policy for the region.
- Strengthen the CoC: The Homeless Services Division will continue its efforts to bring non-participating providers into the Continuum of Care process such as the New Life Evangelistic Center, the largest emergency shelter in the City. Many of the non-participating providers are unaware of the numerous services aimed at ending chronic homelessness.

The obstacles remain the same for addressing chronic homelessness for the residents of the City of St. Louis. The major obstacles are: Locations of Services, Affordable Housing and Pervasive Client Risk Factors.

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

With the funds from the ARRA's Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP), the Homeless Services Division has drastically increased the number of individuals and families assisted with homeless prevention.

HPRP has been a catalyst for change in addressing homelessness prevention. With funds from the HPRP, the Homeless Services Division has collaborated with several agencies in an effort to develop strategic and long range plans. The Homeless Services Division has established four prevention hubs within the St. Louis Public School system throughout the City. The four schools offer an array of cultural and educational opportunities for individual and families. It is the intent of the City's HPRP program to cross-refer parents and students.

Residents seeking financial assist and are required to participate in a workshop. The workshop includes information and assistance related legal rights/responsibilities, available mainstream benefits, employment training and financial stability. The workshop provides information to reduce recidivism and to increase long-term stability and self-sufficiency.

Over the next year, the goal of the City HPRP is to prevention homelessness for 1,000 households (affecting 3,300 residents) by financial assistance, credit repair assistance/workshop, legal assistance/workshop, mainstream benefit services/workshop and employment assistance/workshop. As of September 30, 2011, over 7,000 people (2817 household) received homeless preventions services.

DISCHARGE COORDINATION POLICY

As stated earlier, the Homeless Services Division will take a broader approach towards ending homelessness. The plan not only includes reaching across jurisdictional boundaries, but also across agencies.

Over the next year, the Homeless Services Division will collaborate and develop specific plans and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with local, state and federal agencies focused on Discharge Coordination Policy:

- the local office of the U.S. Social Security Administration
- the Missouri Department of Mental Health
- the Missouri Department of Corrections,
- the Missouri Department of Social Services and
- the City of St. Louis Division of Corrections