

The Path Forward:

Rethinking Solutions for Homelessness in Florida



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INTRODUCTION

This report was developed as a supplement to *The Path Forward: Rethinking Solutions for Homelessness in Florida*. The content was prepared by Alex Highley, public policy intern with Barbara Poppe and Associates and Diana Sanchez, intern with the Commission.

Nationwide Initiatives to Reduce Homelessness in Florida: Summarizes five nationwide initiatives seeking to find solutions to homelessness through solidifying partnerships and dedicating resources. These initiatives have been adopted in various cities and counties within the state of Florida.

State Reports: Compiles Florida state reports published between 2010-2014 that contain data on Florida homelessness. Key

demographic information and analysis of economic conditions such as unemployment and the weak affordable housing market and their major role in homelessness are discussed in many reports. Greater collaboration between state agencies and organizations and the need for more resources are frequent themes.

National Reports: Reviews reports published between 2010-2014 that capture data on Florida homelessness. The number of people living below the poverty line or working minimum wage jobs who cannot adequately afford housing in Florida are cited as common causes of homelessness. Many express the need for more affordable housing in the form of Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Re-Housing, and Housing First strategies.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

NATIONWIDE INITIATIVES TO REDUCE HOMELESSNESS IN FLORIDA

The following five nationwide initiatives seek to find solutions to homelessness through solidifying partnerships and dedicating resources. These initiatives have been adopted in various cities and counties within the state of Florida. Each initiative and the geographic areas in Florida where they have been active are described below.

VA SURGE COMMUNITIES

<http://www.endhomelessness.org/library/entry/the-continuum-of-cares-role-in-the-new-ssvf-nofa>

In January 2014, the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) released a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), targeting Continuums of Care, to ensure that areas with the greatest need can finally end Veteran homelessness. In addition to the funding availability, the VA also provided new, one time "surge" funding that will provide an additional \$300 million over the next three years to 78 communities nationwide that have the highest need based on number of homeless Veterans, Veteran population, economic levels, and unmet needs.

Counties/Cities Receiving Surge Funding in Florida

- Tampa/Hillsborough County CoC
- St. Petersburg/Clearwater/Largo/Pinellas County CoC
- Daytona Beach/Daytona/Volusia, Flagler Counties CoC
- Orlando/Orange, Osceola, Seminole Counties CoC
- Jacksonville-Duval, Clay Counties CoC
- Palm Bay/Melbourne/Brevard County CoC
- Miami/Dade County CoC

25 CITIES INITIATIVE

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has launched the 25 Cities Initiative to help communities with high concentrations of homeless Veterans to intensify and integrate their local efforts to end Veteran homelessness by 2015. This is a joint effort by VA, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness and local community partners including city government, housing authorities, and community providers to identify by name all of the remaining homeless Veterans in their respective communities and work together to find permanent housing solutions for these Veterans and chronically homeless individuals. The Home Depot Foundation is a sponsor of the initiative.

The VA has contracted with Atlas Research, in partnership with the 100,000 Homes Campaign (Community Solutions) and the Rapid Results Institute to design and implement the program. Participating cities in Florida:

- Orlando
- Tampa
- Miami

100,000 HOMES CAMPAIGN

The 100,000 Homes Campaign focused on identifying and housing individuals and families who remain trapped in homelessness and are dependent on costly emergency services. This campaign brought together change agents from across the country to find and house 100,000 of the most vulnerable and long-term homeless individuals and families over three years. The 100,000 Homes Campaign was designed to fundamentally alter the response to chronic homelessness by giving communities concrete tools and connecting change agents in order to facilitate collaboration.

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Participating Counties/Cities in Florida:

- Tallahassee and Leon County
- Nassau County
- Jacksonville
- St. Johns County
- Daytona
- Pasco County
- Ft. Lauderdale/ Broward County
- Pinellas County
- Treasure Coast
- Miami-Dade County
- Monroe County
- West Palm Beach/Palm Beach County
- Gainesville

ZERO: 2016

Zero: 2016 is a movement of communities working to end veteran homelessness by the close of 2015 and end chronic homelessness one year later. Coordinated by Community Solutions, the national effort supports participants in optimizing local resources, tracking progress against monthly housing goals, and accelerating the spread of proven strategies.

Participating Continuums of Care in Florida:

- Tallahassee/Leon County CoC
- Jacksonville-Duval, Clay Counties CoC
- Miami/ Dade County CoC
- Ft. Lauderdale/ Broward County CoC
- Ft. Myers/ Cape Coral/Lee County CoC
- West Palm Beach/ Palm Beach County Co

MAYORS CHALLENGE

The Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness is a way to solidify partnerships and secure commitments to end Veteran homelessness from mayors across the country. Specifically, the call to action, announced by First Lady Michelle Obama and amplified by the HUD Secretary, by leaders across HUD, VA, USICH, and by the National League of Cities, is for mayors to make a commitment to ending Veteran homelessness in their cities in 2015.

Participating Counties/Cities in Florida (as of May 2015)

- Coconut Creek
- Coral Springs
- Davie
- Deerfield Beach
- Dunedin
- Ft. Lauderdale
- Gainesville
- Jacksonville
- Kissimmee
- Lauderhill
- Miami
- Miami Gardens
- Ocala
- Orlando
- Panama City
- Pembroke Pines
- Pensacola
- Plantation
- Port St. Lucie
- Tampa
- Titusville
- Wellington
- West Palm Beach
- Broward County
- Ft. Myers
- City of Miami
- Miami-Dade County
- Orange County
- Palm Beach County
- Sanford
- St. Petersburg
- Tallahassee
- Wilton Manor

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INITIATIVES MATRIX BY COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY	25 CITIES	100,000 HOMES	MAYORS CHALLENGE	VA SURGE COMMUNITIES	ZERO 2016
City of Miami.....			●		
Coconut Creek.....			●		
Coral Springs.....			●		
Davie.....			●		
Daytona.....		●			
Daytona Beach/ Daytona/Volusia, Flagler Counties.....		●		●	
Deerfield Beach.....			●		
Dunedin.....			●		
Ft. Lauderdale/ Broward County.....		●	●		●
Ft. Myers/Cape Coral/ Lee County.....			●		●
Gainesville.....		●	●		
Jacksonville-Duval, Clay Counties.....		●	●	●	●
Kissimmee.....			●		
Lauderhill.....			●		
Miami Gardens.....			●		
Miami/Dade County.....	●	●	●	●	●
Monroe County.....		●			
Nassau County.....		●			
Ocala.....			●		
Orlando/Orange, Osceola, Seminole Counties.....	●		●	●	
Palm Bay/Melbourne/ Brevard County CoC.....				●	
Palm Beach County.....			●		
Panama City.....			●		
Pasco County.....		●			
Pembroke Pines.....			●		

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INITIATIVES MATRIX BY COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY	25 CITIES	100,000 HOMES	MAYORS CHALLENGE	VA SURGE COMMUNITIES	ZERO 2016
Pensacola.....			●		
Pinellas County.....		●			
Plantation.....			●		
Port St. Lucie.....			●		
Sanford.....			●		
St. Johns County.....		●			
St. Petersburg.....			●		
St. Petersburg/ Clearwater/Largo/ Pinellas County CoC.....				●	
Tallahassee and Leon County.....		●	●		●
Tampa/ Hillsborough County.....	●		●	●	
Titusville.....			●		
Treasure Coast.....		●			
Wellington.....			●		
West Palm Beach/ Palm Beach County.....		●	●		●
Wilton Manor.....			●		

Source: Compiled by the Central Florida Commission on Homelessness.

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STATE REPORTS

This section compiles Florida state reports published between 2010 and 2014 that contain data on Florida homelessness. The publications analyze economic conditions such as unemployment and the weak affordable housing market and their major role in causing increases in homelessness in Florida. These reports also describe key demographic information. Many of these reports highlight the need for a greater number of resources available in order to fully house Florida's homeless population. There is also a common call for greater collaboration between state agencies and organizations in order to efficiently serve people experiencing homelessness. In their recommendations, some of these reports underscore the importance of finding solutions to a growing child homelessness population in Florida and promote training and education for people who work in emergency shelters, health care staff, and police.

“ASSET LIMITED, INCOME CONSTRAINED, EMPLOYED REPORT IN FLORIDA”

United Way of Florida, 2010

http://www.unitedwayalice.org/documents/14UW%20ALICE%20Report_FL_Lowres_12.17.14.pdf

This report discusses the results of a recent study analyzing the conditions of households that are struggling financially in Florida. A key finding of this report is that 45 percent of households in Florida are having difficulty in paying for basic, everyday necessities. A thorough description of the demographic group defined as “Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed” (ALICE) is explained with supplementary graphs for support. The report discusses the negative effects of income constraints on access to food, healthcare, childcare, transportation, and many other daily expenses. The causes, consequences, and challenges of being in this group are reported, along with specific demographic and geographic characteristics of people who are part of the ALICE group. This publication also explores how the condition of ALICE households could be improved through better income opportunities and short-term interventions by public and private organizations.

2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 “COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS REPORTS”

Department of Children and Families

<https://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/homelessness/docs/2010CouncilReport.pdf>

<https://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/homelessness/docs/2011CouncilReport.pdf>

<https://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/homelessness/docs/2012CouncilReport.pdf>

<http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/homelessness/docs/2013CouncilReport.pdf>

<http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/homelessness/docs/2014CouncilReport.pdf>

<http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/homelessness/docs/2010%20Homeless%20Conditions.pdf>

These legislatively mandated reports by the Florida Council on Homelessness highlight major community efforts to address homelessness over the prior year. The reports describe the characteristics of people experiencing homelessness and whether, and by how much, these figures have changed since the prior year's report. Brief factoids and simple charts convey the need for policy change. There is a common tone of urgency in these reports, with headers and statements such as “Florida is in a Crisis.” The report covers a range of policy recommendations, which include the need for funding for the state's affordable housing trust fund, ongoing funding for CoCs, and calls for support for programs such as Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Re-Housing. All of these recommendations are backed up with thorough rationale.

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“HOME MATTERS:” THE 2014 AND 2015 REPORTS

Florida Housing Coalition, 2014 and 2015

<http://www.sjhp.org/images/Home%20Matters%20for%20Florida%202014.pdf>

<http://www.flhousing.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Home-Matters-Report-02.2015-FINAL.pdf>

Both reports provide a detailed explanation of the benefits that accrue to residents and communities when people are able to access affordable housing. Facts about people who are housing-cost burdened or homeless, as well as the prevalence of low-wage jobs in Florida are explored in great detail. The reports discuss the mismatch between high rents and low wages and the difficult situation renters face in securing housing in the state. Specific attention is given to the recent loss of many affordable housing units and the tightened rental market. The lack of affordability in buying homes is also discussed and in particular, the disparity between mortgage rates and wages for commonly held jobs in the state. Lastly, these reports discuss the positive impacts of the Sadowski Housing Trust Funds and calls for full appropriation.

“HOMELESSNESS IN FLORIDA: HOMELESS AND EXTREMELY LOW INCOME FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS NEED HOUSING OPTIONS 2010”

Florida Coalition for the Homeless, 2010

<http://www.fchonline.org/pdf/2010%20-%20Homelessness%20in%20Florida%20-%20Final.pdf>

This report gives a succinct picture of the people affected by homelessness and presents a broad array of causes. Citing HUD data, the report illustrates the problem with simple raw numbers and percentages that describe the characteristics of people experiencing homelessness. The main unmet need leading to homelessness is affordable housing, according to the report. Lack of prevention assistance is discussed briefly, along with data to support the idea that prevention is the most cost-effective and efficient way to reduce homelessness. The report supports Housing First and

other effective methods of quickly re-housing people. Lastly, a chart lists the numbers of people experiencing homelessness by county in the state.

“HOMEWARD BOUND: HOUSING HOMELESS FLORIDIANS POLICY AND RESOURCE GUIDE”

Florida Housing Coalition, September 2014

http://www.flhousing.org/?page_id=6646

This document provides a historical overview of homeless assistance policy in the U.S. and Florida, examines trends in national and state homeless populations, and describes key policies and programs with a particular focus on empirical research. Homeward Bound is intended to provide an introduction to homeless issues for entry-level employees at Continuum of Care lead and member agencies, as well as mainstream affordable housing providers, funders, elected officials, and others with an interest in ending homelessness. This report begins by expressing the need for a change in policy in Florida in order to end homelessness and offers broad recommendations. This document then describes the history and details of current federal government programs that seek to address national homelessness while providing extended definitions of “homelessness” and related terms. Dispersed throughout the report are case studies of successful local programs implemented in Florida and other states. HUD PIT data is employed to illustrate that as the total homeless population of the US has decreased by 9% from 2007-2013, it has only decreased by .4% in Florida.

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“2013 RENTAL MARKET STUDY: AFFORDABLE HOUSING NEEDS”

Shimberg Center for Housing Studies, April 2013

http://www.shimberg.ufl.edu/publications/Full_RMS_Needs.pdf

This report begins by outlining Florida trends in affordable housing needs, particularly citing the need for people with low incomes and those who are cost-burdened. This study reveals that there is a significant housing shortage for people who live at or below 30 percent of the area median income (AMI) threshold. For this group, there are only 31 affordable and available units for every 100 households. Exploring statewide trends in homelessness between 2000 and 2011, the study concludes that renter’s real buying power has diminished during this period, causing units to become less accessible to renters and buyers. Significant attention is given to the household income and analyzing data regarding low-income households across multiple Florida counties. Many tables and maps of Florida show the distribution of low-income and cost-burdened renter households through a county-level analysis.

“STATE BRIEF: FLORIDA. NATIONAL SURVEY OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES”

**National Institute for Children and Poverty,
Winter 2011**

http://www.icphusa.org/PDF/reports/ICP_Florida_Brief.pdf

This data sheet summarizes state data from HUD PIT data to describe the homelessness practices and programs currently in place in Florida. This report also looks at funding sources. Data from the Florida Department of Children and Families and the Broward Partnership for the Homeless, Inc., and other local coalitions is used.

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NATIONAL REPORTS

The following national reports published between 2010 and 2014 capture data on Florida homelessness. Many of these publications describe economic conditions that have led to homelessness across the United States and particularly in Florida. The most prominent factor causing homelessness, as described in these reports, is lack of affordable housing. As a result, many of the recommendations express the need for more affordable housing in the form of Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Re-Housing, and Housing First strategies. In addition, these reports refer to many studies showing that people living below the poverty line or working minimum-wage jobs cannot adequately afford housing in Florida and are thus pushed into homelessness. Common recommendations in these reports express the need to raise the minimum wage to a livable standard, thereby allowing a greater number of people access to housing.

THE 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, AND 2014 “ANNUAL ASSESSMENT REPORTS TO CONGRESS”

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2010homelessassessmentreport.pdf>

https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2011ahar_finalreport.pdf

https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2012ahar_pitestimates.pdf

<https://www.hudexchange.info/onecpd/assets/File/2013-AHAR-Part-2.pdf>

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2014-AHAR-Part1.pdf>

These reports look at the most significant annual changes from the previous year in homeless subpopulations in all fifty states. Using simple charts and graphics, these reports demonstrate which states have the highest and lowest rates of various homeless subcategories. In analyzing the Point In Time data, the reports provide a picture of the status of homelessness for that particular

year and illustrate any major changes that have occurred in terms of the numbers of people experiencing homelessness over the past few years. The reports also analyze CoCs within states and make comparisons between them. The goal of these AHAR reports is to comprehensively illustrate major trends in homelessness figures; no policy recommendations are made.

The most recent report highlights that Florida’s unsheltered homeless rate of 52.2 percent is the third highest rate in the nation. Also, 45.6 percent of homeless families in Florida are found in unsheltered locations. The report also notes that there were 1,230 unaccompanied children in Florida in 2014.

“CONSOLIDATED STATE PERFORMANCE REPORT: PARTS I AND II”

U.S. Department of Education, School Year 2012-13

<http://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/consolidated/sy12-13part1/fl.pdf>

This annual U.S. Department of Education report documents the educational performance of children and youth throughout the nation. The most important piece of information in this report is the table on Page 62 that records the number of enrolled children and youth in public schools. The numbers for homeless students are divided by grade in school and totaled at the bottom. There were 69,956 total students experiencing homelessness during the 2012-2013 school year. In these counts, it is important to note that Department of Education Counts do not include children who are not enrolled in school or are too young for preschool, so this figure does not fully represent the extent of youth and child homelessness.

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“PIT AND HIC DATA SINCE 2007”

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development,
December 2014

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3031/pit-and-hic-data-since-2007/>

This Point In Time and Housing Inventory Count data presents the raw numbers of people experiencing homelessness and bed-inventory figures since 2007. No further analysis is made.

“THE STATE OF HOMELESSNESS IN AMERICA 2015”

National Alliance to End Homelessness, 2015

http://b3cdn.net/naeh/458837a0513453bec1_56m6zdnl3.pdf

This report provides a bar graph that illustrates the comparison between states regarding the rate of homelessness (number of homeless people per 10,000 people) utilizing HUD Point In Time data. In Florida, there are 21.2 people experiencing homelessness per 10,000, a total of 41,542 persons. For every 10,000 Veterans in Florida, 31.3 are homeless, according to the report. Maps of the United States along with charts show the change in homelessness over the previous year and change in homeless subcategories such as sheltered or unsheltered. The report reviews populations who are at risk for homelessness, specifically providing figures of economic and housing-related factors, with a large emphasis on the number of people in poverty or unemployed.

Florida’s poverty rate of 17 percent exceeds the national rate of 15.8 percent. This report then looks at the state of the response system and analyzes the trend of increased emergency shelter and permanent supportive housing capacity across the country between 2007 and 2013.

“AMERICA’S YOUNGEST OUTCASTS”

National Center on Family Homelessness,
November 2014

<http://www.homelesschildrenamerica.org/mediadocs/280.pdf>

This comprehensive report looks at the most recent federal data to illustrate the situation of child homelessness across the country. Along with reporting data trends and characteristics of child homelessness including racial and ethnic disparities, this report investigates the causes of child homelessness, describing the affordable housing crises, high rates of family poverty, and the recession as the major factors.

Combining the four factors of child homelessness, child well-being, risk for child homelessness, and state policy and planning efforts, the report develops a ranking system by state, in which Florida ranked 33rd (first being the best). In terms of risk of child homelessness, Florida ranks 42nd in the nation, with over 10 percent of children without health insurance. In 2012-2013, there were a total of 139,667 homeless children in Florida.

The report details the negative impact that homelessness has on children and offers a brief history of the federal response along with recommendations for effective responses to child homelessness. The report provides “report cards” that rank each state based on their extent of child homelessness, child well-being, risk for child homelessness, and state policy and planning.

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“ALIGNING FEDERAL LOW INCOME HOUSING PROGRAMS”

National Low Income Housing Coalition Report, December 2014

http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Alignment_Report_1214.pdf

The research presented in this report highlights the degree to which programs such as Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), HOME, and Affordable Housing Program (AHP) serve Extremely Low Income (ELI) households. The report includes an analysis of how five states target LIHTC units to households at various income levels. Florida is one of the five states studied. The report notes that ELI households occupy just 17 percent of LIHTC units in Florida compared to the 40 percent reported by the 19 out of 26 states who reported data on ELI households. The study also found that only 15 percent of households in LIHTC units were given rental subsidies. An analysis of survey and interviews to determine the existence of rental housing development strategies allowing ELI households the opportunity to afford housing units is also presented. Five case studies on ELI households are conducted in various communities throughout the country. The report concludes that LIHTC does serve ELI households, but with help from other programs. It also found that there is a lack of data available about LIHTC, HOME, and AHP housing developments. The report concludes with recommendations, including modifications of LIHTC, improved data, and more research in these fields.

“OUT OF REACH 2014. TWENTY-FIVE YEARS LATER, THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS CONTINUES”

National Low Income Housing Coalition, 2014

<http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/oor/2014OOR.pdf>

This report captures information about the gap between wages and rents across the nation. This report takes a comprehensive look at income levels such as minimum wages, median household incomes, and Supplementary Security Income Recipient wages, and compares these figures with typical rent prices for each

state. The most prominent piece of information from “Out of Reach” is the hourly wage a full-time worker must earn in order to afford a decent two-bedroom rental home at HUD-estimated Fair Market Rent (FMR) while spending no more than 30 percent of income on housing costs. In Florida, this figure is \$19.39. The report also notes the Area Median Income of Florida, which is \$56,749 along with the estimated hourly mean wage, which is \$13.73. It then lists the need to have 1.4 full-time jobs in Florida at mean renter wage in order to afford a two-bedroom at FMR. This report describes the difficulty low-wage workers face, especially those who are Extremely Low Income (ELI), in paying for housing. The report ranks each state by the hourly wage needed in order to afford a two-bedroom at FMR.

“ENDING HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS”

United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, February 2013

http://usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/USICH_Ending_Homelessness_Among_Veterans_Rpt_February_2013_FINAL.pdf

This report gives an update on the Federal Strategic Plan and the Department of Veterans Affairs plan for ending veteran homelessness by 2015. This report details trends in veteran homelessness since 2010 and options for investment in programs for the future are explored as well. Data analyzed in this report include HUD and Veteran Affairs' 2009 report “A Supplemental Report to the 2009 AHAR Report” along with HUD PIT Counts from 2010-2012. According to the report, 11 percent of all unsheltered homeless Veterans are in Florida, a total of 3,130 persons. Additional research studies are cited within the report.

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“NEW PERSPECTIVES ON COMMUNITY-LEVEL DETERMINANTS OF HOMELESSNESS”

Thomas Byrne, Ellen A. Munley, Jamison D. Fargo, Anne E. Montgomery, and Dennis P. Culhane

Journal of Urban Affairs, 2012

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1467-9906.2012.00643.x/abstract>

This study seeks to confirm many past studies by demonstrating the significant positive relationship between rent levels and homelessness. There are three primary points concluded from this paper. The first is that homelessness is rooted in housing dynamics and the lack of affordable housing. Second, the presence of baby boomers and Hispanics, as well as high mobility rates are positively correlated with homelessness. The report finds that generally Hispanics have been underrepresented in the homeless population in the past due to reliance on informal housing (cultural explanation), but that high mobility—moving from one community to another—disrupts these “kinship networks.” Third, this study finds that valuable information about the determinants of homelessness can be found in analyzing HUD Point In Time Data. The report suggests two possible policy solutions to these problems: To increase supply of affordable housing and to provide more safety net funding so people are able to afford housing.

“CREATING NEW INTEGRATED PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ELI HOUSEHOLDS”

Technical Assistance Collaborative, April 2015

<http://www.tacinc.org/media/51527/Creating%20New%20Integrated%20PSH%20Opportunities%20For%20ELI%20Households.pdf>

This report outlines the crisis of Extremely Low Income (ELI) housing across the nation. The report explains that many people who are ELI also suffer from disabilities and thus require a unique set of supports. The solution for these vulnerable ELI populations is to

expand Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) supply, a task that is often difficult due to the stigma attached to both ELI and PSH. The report then describes the importance of the National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF) as a solution for ELI households. NHTF Statute, Interim Rule, State Allocation Plans, and funding for the NHTF are discussed at length. In a chart, the report notes that \$25 million dollars is allocated to Florida for every \$500 million in the National Housing Trust Fund. The report also offers a vision for the future, which includes policy recommendations linking Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) with ELI. The report ends with case studies of ELI-PSH achievements in the states of Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Illinois.

“VULNERABLE TO HATE: A SURVEY OF HATE CRIMES & VIOLENCE COMMITTED AGAINST HOMELESS PEOPLE IN 2013”

National Coalition for the Homeless, June 2014

<http://nationalhomeless.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Hate-Crimes-2013-FINAL.pdf>

The purpose of this report is to thoroughly document the problem of hate crimes against people experiencing homelessness nationwide. The report authors seek to ensure that everyone is equally protected by civil rights. Many of the narratives presented are gathered from local news reports while homeless advocates and service providers also contribute information about incidents from their communities. The report summarizes the upward trend in hate crimes against people experiencing homelessness between 1999 and 2013; in Florida, 230 were committed during this time period. According to the report, there were 13 hate crimes against homeless individuals in Florida in 2013. The report describes the profiles of homeless victims and accusers and the disparity between FBI and NCH definitions of hate crime homicides. Detailed accounts of individual cases represent the bulk of the report, which includes detailed descriptions of crimes committed in Florida communities. The report analyzes current federal, state, and local legislation and concludes with policy and education recommendations.

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“SHARE NO MORE: THE CRIMINALIZATION OF EFFORTS TO FEED PEOPLE IN NEED”

National Coalition for the Homeless, October 2014

<http://nationalhomeless.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Food-Sharing2014.pdf>

This report describes some of the ways communities around the country have criminalized homelessness and pushed the problem out of sight. This report examines the myths of food-sharing and presents responses to debunk these myths. The purpose of this document is to educate lawmakers, advocates, and the general public about food-sharing laws and to implement systemic attitudinal changes about homelessness. Accounts of incidents of food-sharing are drawn from the media and partner organizations. The report then presents various cases of attempts to criminalize homelessness in various cities around the country along with success stories of cities finding alternative ways to reduce hunger. The report provides a bar graph showing that in Florida, two cities have passed food-sharing legislation, two cities have pending legislation, and one city has suspended legislation. A brief section at the end is devoted to policy recommendations in terms of legislation, coalition formation, as well as local, state, and federal advocacy.

OTHER KEY REPORTS

The following reports were published by the Central Florida Commission on Homelessness. The reports explore the costliness of homelessness, the gaps and priorities in current practices and infrastructure, and highlight best practices for finding solutions to people experiencing homelessness.

“THE COST OF LONG-TERM HOMELESSNESS IN CENTRAL FLORIDA”

Gregory A. Shinn

Central Florida Commission on Homelessness, 2014

<http://rethinkhomelessness.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Eco-Impact-Report-LOW-RES.pdf>

This report provides evidence that allowing homelessness to exist in a community is more expensive than solving the problem. Specifically studying homelessness in Central Florida, the report finds that providing permanent supportive housing to chronically homeless people is significantly less costly to the state than allowing them to remain homeless. The report investigates some of the causes of homelessness. The shortage of affordable housing for people with low incomes is an integral cause of the problem. Many statistics in the report demonstrate the difficulty people with low incomes face in affording rent. To further strengthen the argument that homelessness is costly, the report provides a brief review of cities around the country to demonstrate the impact of supportive housing on reducing chronic homelessness. The report fully details the community costs of hospital visits, incarceration, and other expenses that occur as a result of chronic homelessness. Toward the end, the report recommends coordination and leadership in order to end chronic homelessness through the development of more permanent supportive housing.

“HOMELESSNESS IN CENTRAL FLORIDA: CENTRAL FLORIDA COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS’ GAPS AND PRIORITIES REPORT”

Central Florida Commission on Homelessness, 2014

<http://rethinkhomelessness.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/2014-2015-CFCH-Gaps-Priorities-Report.pdf>

This report looks at the gaps and priorities of both the infrastructure and the programs that exist in Central Florida as part of the homelessness system. The report examines the current state of data collection and how it can be improved, and how CoCs can better serve people at-risk-of or currently experiencing homelessness based on current information and expert opinion. Other areas explored include funding capacity, nonprofit capabilities, and private, and faith sector involvement. This report takes an in-depth view of many subcategories of homelessness, including family and Veteran homelessness. In analyzing programs, this report studies the opportunities for employment growth, support service and prevention focus, and the importance of affordable housing.

The Path Forward: Rethinking Solutions for Homelessness in Florida

**“SOLUTIONS FOR HOMELESSNESS:
CREATING CHANGE THROUGH INNOVATION
AND INVESTMENT”**

Central Florida Commission on Homelessness, 2015

<http://rethinkhomelessness.org/best-practices-funding-report/>

This report summarizes best practices in reducing homelessness in multiple cities in the U.S. The purpose of this report is to show that these practices can be replicated in Central Florida. The report provides a heat map of the area concentration of homelessness in Central Florida. The first finding suggests that it is crucial to have leaders such as business and philanthropic groups to champion best practices. Secondly, the Commission stresses the need for more funding; currently the federal sector is the primary investor in finding solutions to homelessness. Thirdly, strategies such as collaborative funding and continuous community awareness have been proven to help reduce homelessness. The report concludes with the message that many of these practices are not just the “right” thing to do, but also the “smart” thing to do.