



District of Columbia Interagency Council on Homeless (DC ICH)
Strategic Plan to End Homelessness - Summary
2015 - 2020

Vision

Together, we will end long-term homelessness in the District of Columbia. By 2020, homelessness in the District of Columbia will be a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience.

- We will end homelessness among Veterans by the end of 2015 (as measured by our 2016 PIT count).
- We will end chronic homelessness among individuals and families in the District of Columbia by the end of 2017 (as measured by our 2018 PIT count).
- By 2020, households experiencing a housing crisis will be rehoused within an average of 60 days or less.

Guiding Principles

- Homelessness is unacceptable, and it is expensive.
- There are no “homeless people” but rather people who have lost their home and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.
- Everyone is ready for housing.
- Homelessness is about a lack of housing that is affordable.
- We need to use data to make decisions, and better use the resources that we have.
- We need to do a better job of coordinating programs needed to prevent homelessness.
- There is strength in collaboration.

Types of services

“Front Porch” Services	Short-Term Placement/ Interim Housing	Permanent Housing
<i>Daytime Service Center & Coordinated Entry</i> Central point of access for households seeking shelter/services	<i>Outreach beds</i> Very small, specialized shelter for hard-to-reach individuals, often with severe and persistent mental illness.	<i>Rapid Re-Housing</i> Short- to medium- term supportive services and housing subsidy
<i>Street Outreach</i> Engagement services for hard-to-reach, chronically homeless population	<i>Emergency Shelter</i> Short-term emergency housing for majority of households entering homeless services system	<i>Targeted Affordable Housing</i> No or light touch supportive services with long-term housing subsidy/affordable unit
<i>Prevention/Diversion</i> Assistance at front door of shelter system to prevent housing loss and stabilize households outside of shelter	<i>Transitional Housing</i> Therapeutic, communal environment for special populations – e.g., victims of domestic violence, individuals with substance abuse issues	<i>Permanent Supportive Housing</i> Intensive, wrap-around supportive services and long-term housing subsidy/affordable unit

Key Recommendations of the Strategic Plan

- ✓ Spend more money on permanent housing and reduce the length of stay in shelter to 60 days or less. The Plan includes specific numbers of units needed over the next five years to achieve those goals. Over time, the amount of shelter needed will decrease and the amount of housing available will increase.
- ✓ Create shelters for individuals that are smaller, have more services, and operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- ✓ Develop one or more day centers to provide services such as: case management, showers, bathrooms, lockers, laundry, light food, a place to stay when it is cold.
- ✓ Move towards year around access to shelter for families while they are homeless.
- ✓ Move forward with a plan to replace DC General shelter.
- ✓ Improve physical conditions of shelters.
- ✓ Make improvements in the Rapid Re-Housing Program for families and start providing rapid re-housing for individuals.
- ✓ Help people to increase their incomes through job training and jobs.
- ✓ Increase efforts to prevent homelessness.

How the 2015-2019 Strategic Plan was developed

- The ICH had many committee meetings since September 2014.
- Consultants helped with doing research and getting data to figure out how much shelter and housing is needed to achieve the goal by 2020.
- The ICH Executive Director held “Hot Topic” sessions open to the public on: family shelters, shelters for singles, rapid rehousing, chronically homeless placement, and transitional housing.

The 2015 -2020 Strategic Plan will be reviewed and adjusted every year.