

Targeted Solutions to Ending Homelessness





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USICH's Role

- Create and Lead a Common Vision
- Establish Policy Priorities and Align Strategic Actions
- Reduce Fragmentation and Duplication
- Drive the National Implementation of Cost-Effective Solutions



U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

Leading the federal response to homelessness

- Jeff Olivet, Executive Director
- 19 Council member agencies
 - Council Chair: VA Secretary Denis McDonough
 - Council Vice-Chair: HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra

U.S. Department of Agriculture

U.S. Department of Commerce

U.S. Department of Defense

U.S. Department of Education

U.S. Department of Energy

U.S. Department of Health and
Human Services

U.S. Department of Homeland
Security

U.S. Department of Housing and
Urban Development

U.S. Department of Interior

U.S. Department of Justice

U.S. Department of Labor

U.S. Department of Transportation

U.S. Department of Veterans
Affairs

Corporation for National and
Community Service

General Services Administration

Office of Management and Budget

Social Security Administration

United States Postal Service

White House Office of Faith-based
and Community Initiatives



Biden-Harris Administration Homeless Priorities

- Housing first and housing as a right
- Racial equity
- Economic mobility
- Climate change as it affects homelessness (e.g., displacement as result of natural disasters)

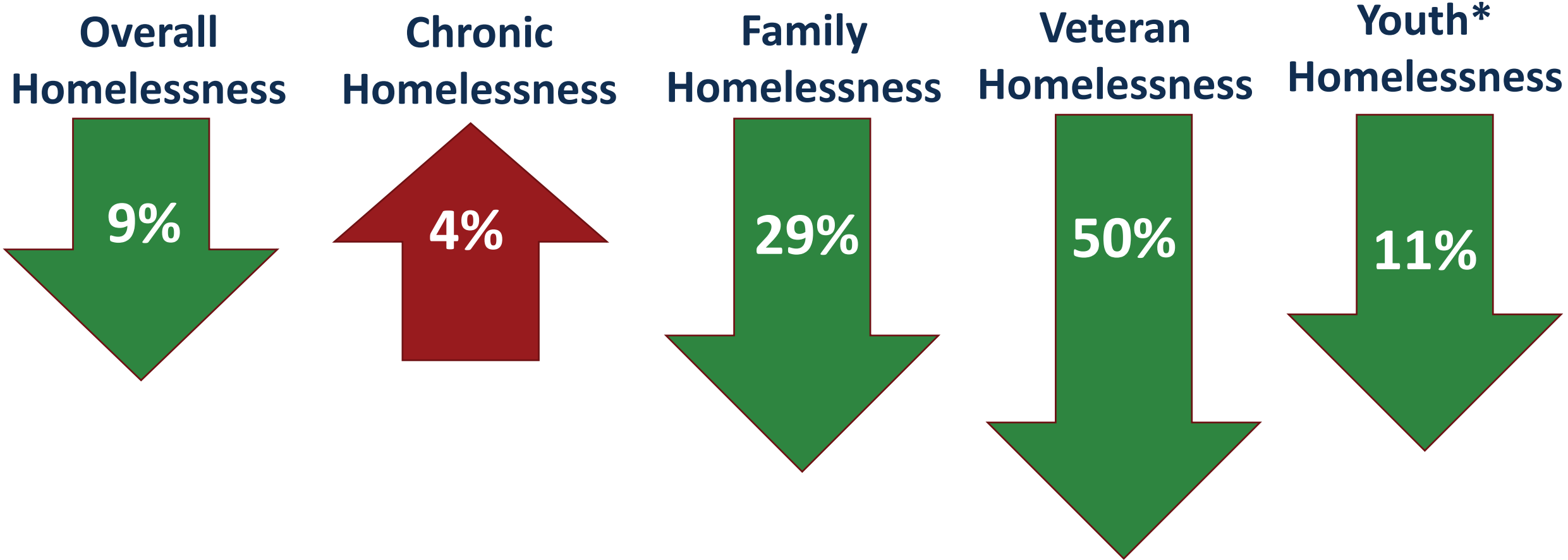


New Federal Strategic Plan

- USICH Council currently working to approve a plan for the development of new federal strategic plan
 - Centered on Biden-Harris homeless priorities
 - Housing first
 - Evidence-based practices



Point-in-Time Counts, 2010–2020



Source: The 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2020-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

*2017-2020



Defining An End to Homelessness: The Federal Definition

Operational definition:

Comprehensive response that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible, or if it can't be prevented, it is a **rare, brief, and one-time experience**

Criteria and benchmarks: Essential elements of comprehensive systems and the **outcomes those systems must be able to achieve**

**Rare,
Brief &
One-Time**



Federal Criteria & Benchmarks

- Population specific
 - Veterans
 - Families
 - Youth
 - Chronically homeless individuals
- Two Components
 - Criteria: define how system should be designed
 - Benchmarks: data points to confirm system design



Criteria & Benchmarks: Progress-to-Date

- 83 communities + 3 states have effectively ended Veteran homelessness
 - 1 community has ended chronic homelessness amongst Veterans
- 3 communities have effectively ended chronic homelessness
- Multiple communities are in the pipeline for confirmation



Philadelphia: PhillyCares

- Targeted program towards unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness located in the downtown/central business districts
- Targeted resources from City, Continuum of Care (CoC), Center City Business District, Philadelphia Convention Center, WaWa Corporation, hospitality and tourism bureau

Outcomes:

- Panhandling down by 39% and daytime homelessness down by 34.5% from 2019 levels
- Homelessness overnight counts in district fell by 60% over past three years



Orlando, FL: "Housing the First 100"

- Housing first initiative focusing on the top 100 "frequent fyers"
 - Data from local health system, law enforcement, and homeless outreach used to identify the top 100 persons experiencing homelessness w/ frequent encounters
- Targeted resources from AdventHealth, CoC funding, The Central Florida Foundation, and other philanthropic entities

Outcomes:

Housed 250 individuals with a 98% retention rate



The Evidence: Moore Place – Charlotte, NC

- 85-unit permanent supportive housing project for chronically homeless individuals with mental illness and/or substance abuse disorders (expanding to 110 units)
- Operated by the Urban Ministry Center, an interfaith homeless services provider
- Program is based on the philosophy that housing homeless individuals first stabilizes their lives and provides the foundation for successful outcomes



The Evidence: Moore Place – Charlotte, NC

Outcomes (2013-2015):

- 81% housing retention rate
- 81% reduction in ER visits, 62% reduction in # of days of hospital admission (\$2.4M reduction in hospital costs)
- 82% reduction in arrests, 89% reduction in the # of days spent in jail
- Average income increase of 76%



The Evidence: Indiana Permanent Supportive Housing Initiative - Evansville, IN

- 140 units (across 5 projects) of permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals
- Operated under housing first approach

Research Question: Does a permanent supportive housing approach based on “housing first” yield greater cost savings and more favorable outcomes than a traditional approach relying on emergency shelter and transitional housing use?



The Evidence: Indiana Permanent Supportive Housing Initiative - Evansville, IN

Outcomes: \$1,149 cost savings per person compared to traditional means of addressing homelessness (emergency shelter + transitional housing)

- 100% reduction in use of emergency shelters
- 83% savings associated with incarceration
- 78% savings for medical hospitalizations
- 66% savings for emergency room services
- 62% savings for mental health hospitalizations



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