



Ten-Year Plan To End Homelessness in Palm Beach County, Florida

*Adopted by the Palm Beach County Homeless Advisory Board on July 16, 2008
Adopted by the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners on September 23, 2008*

Progress Report to the Board of County Commissioners – April 2010

Implementation Progress

The seven committees of the Homeless Advisory Board are continuing to work to further the goals of the Ten-Year Plan. A summary of key initiatives are as follows:

Goal 1: Develop a Universal System for Intake/Assessment and Enhance Client Information Management Systems

Universal Intake System

- The Universal Assessment Tool and Universal Intake Procedures developed by the Homeless & Housing Alliance in collaboration with the Program Planning Committee are being implemented by service providers throughout the County. The Homeless Advisory Board, in February, passed a motion to request that all local funding agencies require that utilization of these mechanisms be part of their criteria for funding eligibility.

Homeless Resource Centers

- The County Commission approved the purchase of property on 45th Street to be renovated for the purpose of serving as the first of the County's Homeless Resource Centers.
- The City of West Palm Beach has established a Neighborhood Committee to provide input on the Center's programming and architectural plans.
- A mechanism for contributing construction materials, equipment and other hard goods for the Center is being created. This concept was inspired by a donation of furniture offered by The Breakers Hotel and Resort.
- Human Services Division and Facilities Department staff, in collaboration with the Program Planning and Facilities Committees, are developing operating procedures for the facility.

Goal 2: Provide Interim Housing Services for Homeless Individuals/Families

- The Facilities Committee is exploring the development of medical/psychiatric respite beds for individuals who are discharged homeless from hospitals or psychiatric facilities.
- In the western communities, the Facilities Committee is studying a variety of service and interim housing models for possible implementation.

Goal 3: Coordinate Partnerships and Resources for Homeless Services

- The Homeless Advisory Board and all of those working on the Ten-Year Plan's implementation continue to represent a broad range of constituencies, from the faith-based community to the business community and those who themselves have experienced homelessness. The project is truly a community effort collaboration-building outcomes.
- A delegation from Palm Beach County will be attending Homeless Advocacy Day in Tallahassee on April 7, 2010 to encourage our legislative delegation to support full funding for programs that support homeless services and other issues being addressed during this legislative session.

Funding

- The **Community Fund to End Homelessness in Palm Beach County**, a donor advised fund housed at the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties, has received more than \$300,000 in contributions toward the implementation of the Ten-Year Plan.
- An RFP has been developed in order to secure the services of a Campaign Management Firm dedicated to exploring private, corporate and Foundation donor prospects and developing a comprehensive fundraising campaign to support the Ten-Year Plan's implementation.

Goal 4: Improve Access to Homeless Services with Outreach and Education

- A branding campaign using the Ten2End logo is being developed by the Community Outreach and Public Awareness Committee.
- The Ten2End website – www.TheHomelessPlan.org – was launched in the fall and promotes volunteer and giving opportunities for its visitors.
- Through a partnership with students at Palm Beach Atlantic University, a series of interview vignettes is being filmed to put a face on the issue of homelessness. The first of the series was premiered at the *Ten2End VIP Film Premiere* event on March 18th at the Harriet Himmel Theatre, attended by approximately 150 individuals.

Law Enforcement Protocol

- A universal Law Enforcement Protocol has been drafted that outlines a series of recommended steps to be followed by law enforcement during encounters with homeless individuals and families, which includes guidance related to service provider referrals. The Protocol is being presented to the Law Enforcement Planning Council for adoption, at which time all local law enforcement agencies will be requested to utilize the Protocol as guidance in developing their own detailed protocols.

Goal 5: Prevent Individuals and Families from Becoming Homeless

Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP)

- The County has expended \$114,956 of its \$2.8 million allocation of HPRP made available in the Recovery Act for Homeless Prevention activities. Thus far, 427 persons in 155 households have received financial assistance and case management and 95 persons in 47 households have received security and utility deposits.

Goal 6: Secure a Stable Stock of Affordable/Accessible Housing

- The Housing Committee is exploring the concept of utilizing Low Income Housing Tax Credits to develop a multi-family housing development and is seeking potential County or School Board-owned properties for the endeavor.
- The Homeless Advisory Board is advocating for local entities to apply for funding through the County's competitively awarded Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds in order to develop affordable housing to serve the homeless and nearly homeless population.
- The Homeless Advisory Board is also working to engage local Housing Authorities in an effort to encourage greater utilization of Section 8 vouchers for the homeless.

Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP)

- The County has expended \$134,346 of its \$800,000 allocation of HPRP made available in the Recovery Act for Rapid Re-Housing activities. Thus far, 45 persons in 16 households have received financial assistance and case management and 37 persons in 14 households have received security and utility deposits.

Goal 7: Provide System Oversight and Evaluation of the Ten-Year Plan

- A grant in the amount of \$50,000 from the Quantum Foundation, matched with a portion of funding received from the John. D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation have allowed the creation of a County staff position dedicated to facilitating the Homeless Advisory Board and the implementation of the Ten-Year Plan. The Human Services Planner II position was posted in mid-March and is expected to be filled this spring.

Thank You

The Homeless Advisory Board and the many dedicated individuals and organizations who support the Ten-Year Plan thank you for your continued commitment to ending homelessness in Palm Beach County.