



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 - September 2009

The adoption of the Ten-Year Plan one year ago could not have been timelier. The current economic climate in combination with the crash of the housing market has exacerbated the crisis of homelessness. The results of the **2009 Point In Time Survey**, conducted between noon on January 28th and noon on January 29th, demonstrated a marked increase in the number of homeless counted in Palm Beach County.

- 2,147 homeless were identified, representing 1,760 households.
- This is a 22% increase from 2007 (1,766).
- Fifteen percent of those counted were children under the age of 18.

Implementation Progress

The seven committees of the Homeless Advisory Board are working to further the goals of the Plan in order to curb this increase. A summary of some key items 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 developed by the Homeless & Housing Alliance in collaboration with the Program Planning Committee is being piloted by four homeless service providers through the end of September.
- The Universal Intake Procedures, developed for implementation on a pilot basis for Homeless Prevention/Rapid Re-housing (HPRP), will be expanded to all local homeless service providers based on the outcome.

Homeless Resource Centers

- Intent to Purchase letter was submitted for the Central Communities (West Palm Beach) site in July.
- Contract negotiations are underway.
- Once approved, the property will be purchased and renovated with a portion of the County's Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds.
- County staff (Human Services/Facilities) made a joint presentation with the City of West Palm Beach in a public meeting held August 24th; met with St. Mary's Hospital administration on September 8th; with the Northwood Hills Neighborhood Association on September 15th; and will continue to participate in neighborhood meetings to open a dialogue with the community and address concerns identified by neighboring residents.
- The Program Planning and Facilities Committees are developing a programming plan for the facility.
- A member of the Homeless Advisory Board has been appointed to serve on the working group that will draft the RFP for the facility's operator(s).

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

- The Program Planning Committee continues to examine nationwide best practices related to housing for underserved populations.
- The following programs, which include wrap-around services for homeless youth, have been recommended for implementation or expansion, and are awaiting available funding:
 - Life Skills Institute for Unaccompanied Youth
 - Expansion of beds for Pregnant Teens
 - Safe Haven Model for Disabled Youth with Mental Health & Substance Abuse Issues.

Goal 3: Coordinate Partnerships and Resources for Homeless Services

Funding

- A donor advised fund, entitled **Community Fund to End Homelessness in Palm Beach County**, has been established at the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties.
 - The Fund is now open for private contributions and has been awarded its' first major contribution of \$250,000 from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.
 - A sub-committee of the Homeless Advisory Board has been established to make recommendations for expenditures from the Fund.
- The Funding Committee continues to review viable options for establishing a dedicated funding stream specific to homeless services and the Ten-Year Plan. Recommendations are expected later this year.

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

National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week 2009

November 15-21, 2009

The Community Outreach and Public Awareness Committee aims for a conversation about homelessness to be had in every home in Palm Beach County during this week. Initiatives include a Monday Press Conference to report Ten-Year Plan progress, a video promoting the Ten-Year Plan and the launch of a Ten-Year Plan website with links to volunteer and contribution opportunities.

Goal 5: Prevent Individuals and Families from Becoming Homeless

Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP)

- The County received \$800,000 (over three years) in Homeless Prevention funds under HPRP made available in the Recovery Act, which are being utilized to further the activities of this goal as outlined in the Plan.
- The Division of Human Services is providing short and medium-term rental assistance to those with risk factors including, but not limited to, sudden and significant loss of income and pending foreclosure of rental housing.

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

Rapid Re-Housing funds made available through HPRP under the Recovery Act are being utilized to assist persons experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized.

- The Rapid Re-housing Program provides for the addition of:
 - 1 FTE Rapid Re-Housing Coordinator (47% HPRP, 53% Community Foundation)
 - 3.5 FTE Rapid Re-Housing Case Managers (100% HPRP)
 - 1 Housing Specialist (100% HPRP)
 - 1 Family Empowerment Coalition (FEC) Coordinator (31% HPRP, 69% United Way).
- Case management, housing search and housing placement services are being provided by Adopt-A-Family and The Lord's Place.
- The Rapid Re-housing Program is being operated under contract with the County for \$1,826,000 over three years.

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

- A grant in the amount of \$50,000 was awarded by the Quantum Foundation to partially fund a Senior Planner position in the Human Services Division, with the sole responsibility of staffing the Homeless Advisory Board and the Ten-Year Plan.
- The Strategic Planning Committee continues to research governance options for the legal entity that will oversee the implementation of the Ten-Year Plan moving forward, and potentially its dedicated funding stream.

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.