

# Home, Together

## The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

City of New Bedford's Homeless Service Provider's Network (HSPN)

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# Together, we are ending homelessness

- USICH leads the national effort to prevent and end homelessness
- USICH drives action among its 19 federal member agencies and fosters the efficient use of resources in support of best practices at every level of government
- USICH Council is made up of heads of our members agencies and meets quarterly to advance federal collaboration and support state and local activities.
- USICH leads interagency working groups to design and implement federal strategies and provides expert guidance to state and local leaders

# USICH Statutory Authority

- Authorized by Title II of the Steward B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 to serve as an independent agency within the executive branch.
- Most recently re-authorized by the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009.
- Ongoing funding through Congressional Appropriations



# *Opening Doors:* Progress since 2010-2017

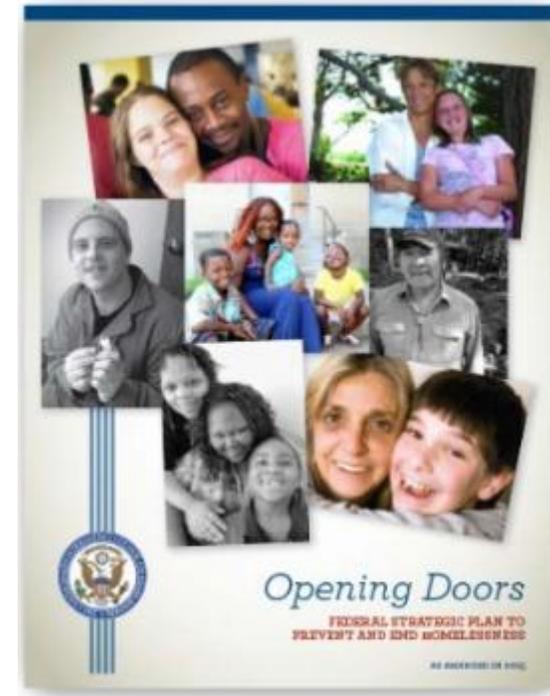
- Between 2010 and 2018, Veterans experiencing homelessness in America on any given day was **reduced by an estimated 49%**.
- Overall, the number of family households experiencing homelessness at a point in time **declined by 27% between 2010 and 2017**. Compared to the 2010 PIT count, the 2017 count represents a reduction by approximately two-thirds in the number of families with children who were counted as unsheltered—sleeping in cars, parks, or on the streets.
- The number of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness declined by 27% from 2010 to 2016. In 2017, however, this number increased for the first time since 2010. Between 2016 and 2017, the number of people experiencing chronic homelessness increased by 12% (or by 9,476 people), and over half of all states experienced an increase in the number of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness.

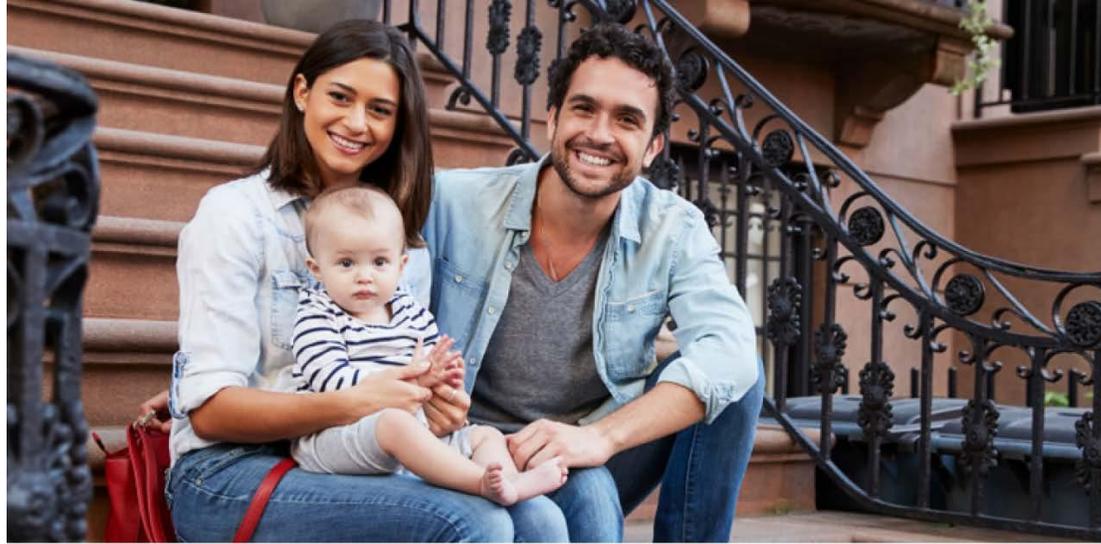
From: USICH Homelessness in America Briefs, 2018

# 2017: Time to revise and strengthen the Plan

**Purpose:** To identify opportunities to strengthen the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness by:

- Sustaining or **building on what is working** and leading to positive outcomes
- Reflecting **learnings and evolving practices**
- Identifying opportunities to **address areas in need of greater attention**
- Identifying opportunities to **align strategies with emerging federal, state, and local priorities**





# Home, Together:

THE FEDERAL STRATEGIC PLAN TO  
PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS



UNITED STATES INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

## Home.

Because we know that the only true end to homelessness is a safe and stable place to call home.

## Together.

Because the solutions are going to take all of us working together, doing our parts, strengthening our communities.





# How Did We Get Here?

- Listening to and learning **from you**
- Building upon **what's working**
- Addressing **areas in need of greater attention**



# Areas of Increased Focus

- Increasing **affordable housing** opportunities
- Strengthening **prevention and diversion** practices
- Creating solutions for **unsheltered homelessness**
- Tailoring strategies for **rural communities**
- Helping people who exit homelessness to find **career success and economic mobility**
- Learning from the **expertise of people with lived experiences of homelessness**



# USICH Focus on Confronting and Addressing Inequities

- Developing our own and communities' skills and capacity to **apply a racial equity lens within our organizations and across our efforts** to prevent and end homelessness
- Analyzing **data regarding representation, access, and outcomes** and identifying disparities and inequities
- Moving conversations **forward without shortchanging need for internal work** within ourselves and our organizations
- Connecting to and **collaborating with other equity-focused efforts** in communities



# Our Shared National Goals

- Ending homelessness among **Veterans**
- Ending chronic homelessness among **people with disabilities**
- Ending homelessness among **families with children**
- Ending homelessness among **unaccompanied youth**
- Ending homelessness among **all other individuals**



# Structure for Plan

**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**



# 1) Ensure Homelessness is a **Rare** Experience

**Objective 1.1:** Collaboratively Build Lasting Systems that End

**Objective 1.2:** Increase Capacity and Strengthen Practices to Prevent Housing Crises and Homelessness



## 2) Ensure Homelessness is a **Brief** Experience

**Objective 2.1:** Identify and Engage All People Experiencing Homelessness as Quickly as Possible

**Objective 2.2:** Provide Immediate Access to Low-Barrier Emergency Shelter or other Temporary Accommodations to All Who Need It

**Objective 2.3:** Implement Coordinated Entry to Standardize Assessment and Prioritization Processes and Streamline Connections to Housing and Services

**Objective 2.4:** Assist People to Move Swiftly into Permanent Housing with Appropriate and Person-Centered Services



## 3) Ensure Homelessness is a **One-Time** Experience

**Objective 3.1:** Prevent Returns to Homelessness through Connections to Adequate Services and Opportunities



## 4) Sustain an End to Homelessness

**Objective 4.1:** Sustain Practices and Systems at a Scale Necessary to Respond to Future Needs

Read the Plan.

[www.usich.gov/home-together](http://www.usich.gov/home-together)

#HomeTogether



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# Brief Discussion

The plan:

- Offers the opportunity to engage with USICH and Regional Coordinators
- Provides a framework and platform for community conversation
- Includes strategies for how leaders from all levels of government and the private, non-profit, and faith sectors can come together
- Sets goals for federal agency partners

How can New Bedford use *Home, Together* to energize stakeholders and align ongoing strategies with the new federal plan?

# United States

## Interagency Council on Homelessness

- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Defense
- Department of Education
- Department of Energy
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Department of the Interior
- Department of Justice
- Department of Labor
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Corporation for National and Community Service
- General Services Administration
- Office of Management and Budget
- Social Security Administration
- US Postal Service
- White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

USICH would like to thank the hundreds of people from across the country, including staff from local, state, federal, and national agencies and organizations, community volunteers, advocates, people with past and current experiences of homelessness, and many others, who provided their time and expertise to ensure that this Plan reflects a diversity of perspectives.





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