

SOUTH DAKOTA ACTION PLAN

VISION

Create a comprehensive, flexible, individual-based, culturally appropriate, and outcome-based system for persons who are chronically homeless by maximizing use of existing mainstream resources, improving coordination across service and housing delivery systems, and identifying new resources.

PRIORITY ONE

Enhance policy and planning infrastructure.

- A. Improve access to and Coordination with Health Care programs & reduce referrals/discharge to shelters from hospital facilities.**
- Assess the impact of hospital discharge to Shelters
 - Work with the Department of Health and local area hospitals to create a discharge plan for their communities;
 - Identify and research best practices regarding discharging from health care programs;
 - Meet or monitor quarterly with above entities regarding progress and make adjustments as needed.
- B. Improve Access to Department of Social Services (DSS) programs and reduce multiple intakes and referrals**
- Develop a plan for providing DSS services at local shelters within each community;
 - Distribute information to homeless individuals regarding how to apply for DSS services;
 - Meet or monitor quarterly with staff from above entities regarding progress and make appropriate adjustments as needed.
- C. Improve coordination and reduce referrals to shelters from local correctional systems.**
- Implement a local plan to reduce discharge to shelters for high risk offenders;
 - Improve access to mental health and addiction services and housing stability for offenders;
 - Create protocol for applying for services before being paroled;
 - Meet or monitor quarterly with above entities regarding progress and make appropriate adjustments as needed.
- D. Improve coordination with alcohol, drug and mental programs to reduce referrals to shelters and create alternative resources.**
- Conduct shelter staff training on mental illness, engagement and referral protocols;
 - Identify best practices to reduce discharge from treatment facilities to shelters;
 - Meet or monitor quarterly with staff from above entities regarding progress and make appropriate adjustments as needed.

PRIORITY TWO

Ensure an adequate supply of affordable housing, shelter, and mainstream service options.

- A. Improve coordination and linkage between outreach workers and permanent supportive and affordable housing projects**

- Improve dissemination of information regarding PSH eligibility and unit openings;
- Work with landlords in all communities with vacancies regarding the housing first approach, make list of landlords available to all outreach workers;
- Work with landlords in rural communities regarding “adopt a family” approach.

B. Continue development of new permanent supportive housing for the chronically homeless in areas of need.

- Develop 20 new PSH units in Rapid City;
- After results of the next point-in-time count, determine what areas indicate a need and begin developing a program to address that need.

C. Increase understanding of chronically homeless.

- Complete research and disseminate to key community stakeholders regarding chronic homeless individuals in their areas, cost vs. services.

D. Improve chronic homeless individuals opportunities for obtaining jobs.

- **Educate service** providers about existing life skills training opportunities;
- Develop a system that focuses on job/career plans while in mental health, treatment, or homeless facilities and prisons/jails.

E. Expedite benefit enrollment by Social Security Administration and Department of Veteran’s Affairs.

- Create provider/funder planning group to identify barriers to SSI and Veteran’s Benefits and what steps are necessary to overcome them.

F. Develop supportive service programs and housing projects to address homelessness on the Indian reservations.

- Seek local tribal members who are interested in partnering to develop plans to address homelessness on tribal land;
- Create a pilot program on one of the reservations for supportive services with a transitional or permanent supportive housing project.

PRIORITY THREE

Improve coordination of housing options with treatment and prevention services to ensure a seamless continuum of care.

[Improve the ability to link homeless persons with (and retain their participation in) supportive programs—public and private—that treat the causes of their homelessness and move them toward their highest level of self-sufficiency.]

A. Foster linkages through consumer outreach and provider education.

- Sponsor a Supportive Housing/Services conference for all providers to learn about the programs available.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS

- A. HMIS Implementation**
- B. Involving the Veterans Administration within South Dakota**
- C. Coordinating discharge planning across agencies**
- D. Identifying model programs supporting a seamless continuum of care**
- E. Identifying model financing structures**