

## Policy Academy Outcomes in Maryland

Maryland was privileged to attend both the first and sixth Policy Academies address homelessness issues.

The most tangible and important outcome of the first PA was the creation of a state Interagency Council on Homelessness. Because of the requirements for participation, one of the team members was Deputy Chief of Staff in the Governor's Office. Her interest in the issue and her access to the Governor resulted in an Executive Order establishing the ICH. Less tangible are the policy outcomes. However, the experience brought together state level administrators and advocates to focus for two days on the issues. The relationships and ideas borne of that process did indeed create further opportunities for coordination and cooperation.

The Plan developed by the second Policy Academy team also produced some tangible outcomes, most notably in intergovernmental agreements and cooperation, especially involving the Department of Public Safety and Corrections. However, the ICH agreed to adopt the Policy Academy team plan as their own in moving forward to reduce homelessness. This joint effort morphed into a decision to develop a more comprehensive 10 year plan for the state. The structure and many of the items in the PA plan were incorporated into the broader effort. Without the initial analysis and structure, the effort to move the ICH into creating a 10 year plan would have been much more difficult. The structure also helped identify who would be invited to participate in the initial two-day Summit which was organized around the structure of the PA plan.

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