



Opening Doors Across America

A USICH CALL TO ACTION

*In the last few years, remarkable progress has been made in our commitment to prevent and end homelessness. Now, together, we need to accelerate the pace of our efforts to achieve the goals in **Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.***

To increase our momentum and build strength in numbers, USICH invites states and communities to join the Opening Doors Community network. As an Opening Doors Community you can be recognized as a champion for your leadership in ending homelessness and participate in a feedback exchange with USICH and other signatory communities.

For more information visit www.usich.gov and contact the USICH regional coordinator for your region.

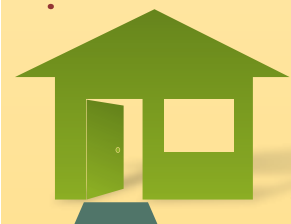
Join the Opening Doors Across America campaign to prevent and end homelessness.

States and communities are encouraged to:

- 1 Align with *Opening Doors*:** Adopt the four goals in *Opening Doors*.
- 2 Set targets and measure results:** Set incremental targets and use data to measure progress.
- 3 Act strategically:** Collaborate, invest, and act on strategies that are proven to make an impact.
- 4 Partner:** Convene state and local interagency councils to coordinate activities and resources and participate with USICH and jurisdictions across the country to collaborate and succeed in ending homelessness.

THE KEY PRIORITIES:

- ▶ **Transform homeless services to rapid response systems** to focus on housing stabilization.
- ▶ **Implement Housing First and Rapid Re-Housing practices** broadly across all homeless programs.
- ▶ **Seize the opportunity created by health reform**, both through expansion of Medicaid and expansion of community health centers by making sure eligible individuals and families are enrolled in Medicaid.
- ▶ **Coordinate with the VA Medical Centers** as they implement the VA's 5 Year Plan to End Veterans Homelessness.
- ▶ **Collaborate with Public Housing Agencies** to identify how families and individuals who are homeless can be prioritized for housing.
- ▶ **Commit to using data as a management tool.** Review your state/community's data to identify system and program strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for improvement.
- ▶ **Work collaboratively and build relationships** to streamline resources and efforts: involve health and human services, housing agencies, VA, education, corrections, law enforcement and the private sector, including business, philanthropy, faith-based and community organizations. Invest state, local, and philanthropic dollars toward strategies aligned with the strategic plan.



OPENING DOORS
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Join the Campaign