U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness
Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

External Stakeholder Input Report: Region 2 Community Stakeholder Input
March 5, 2010   New York, New York

Attending:

Daniel Altilio, United Way of Hudson County
Manny Alvarado, HUD
Nereida Andino, Bank of America
Barbara Andrews, HHS
Steven Auerbach, NYRD, ORO, HRSA, HHS
Kristin Barlup, Robin Hood Foundation
George Bates, 820 River Street Inc.
Sarah Benjamin, Eastern Suffolk BOCES
Michael Berg, Family of Woodstock
Doug Berman, Care For the Homeless
Michelle Billups, HHS/HRSA
Lisa Black, New York City Dept of Homeless Services
Nicole Branca, Supportive Housing Network of NY
Mary Brosnahan, Coalition for the Homeless
Richard Brown, Monarch Housing Associates
William Burnett, Picture the Homeless
Susanne Byrne, York Street Project
Bill Chong, New York City Department of Youth and
    Community Development
Frank Clark, Picture the Homeless
Henry Comas, New York HUD
Barbara Conanan, Saint Vincent Catholic Medical
    Centers
Bill Davis
Etta Denk, Bank of America
DeBoRah Dickerson, Picture the Homeless
Benjamin Dineen, United Way of Hudson County, NJ
Virginia Edwards, Monmouth County Community
    Development
Daniel Farrell, Lenox Hill Neighborhood House
Rachel Fee, NYC HPD
Antonio Figueroa, Orange County Housing
    Consortium
Jyoti Folch, Department of Homeless Services
Carmel Galasso, UNITED WAY OF HUDSON COUNTY
Kathy Germain, Rural Ulster Preservation Company
Adam Glantz, HUD
Juanita Gonzalez-Charlot, HRSA/ORO/NYRD

Kristin Green, Hudson County Division of Housing
    and Community Development
Tory Gunsolley, Newark Housing Authority
Erin Healy, Corporation for Supportive Housing
Arvernetta Henry, Picture the Homeless
Valentina Holston, Love and Wisdom, Inc
Vincent Hom, HUD
Julie Irwin, Dept. of Veterans Affairs
Kathy Jaworski, Ocean County Dept. of Human
    Services
Selene Kaye, American Civil Liberties Union
Robert Kelty, Coalition for the Homeless
Adam Kirkman, CARES, Inc.
Eduardo Laguerre, NAICA
Robert Landolfi, Ocean County Dept of Human
    Services
Herb Levine, Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness
Carleton Lewis, Newark HUD
NJ L'Heureux Jr, Queens Federation of Churches
Diane Louard-Michel, Corporation for Supportive
    Housing
Everett Lo, SSA
Eileen Lynch, NYC Dept of Homeless Services
Maria McGinty, SW BOCES
Loren McMahon, Department of Homeless Services
Lori McNeil, Homelessness Outreach and Prevention
    Project at Urban Justice Center
Lauren Mendenhall, William F. Ryan Community
    Health Center
Sam J. Miller, Picture the Homeless
Karl Muehter, South Jersey Behavioral Health
    Resources
Susan Nayowith, NYC DHS
Mark Neal, Department of Homeless Services
Jacqueline Nieves-De La Paz, Harlem United
Jessie Ochoa, CSUSB
Timothy O'Hanlon, NYC, Dept of Housing
    Preservation and Development.
Christy Parque, Homeless Services United

Alexandra Pavlakis, The Institute for Children and Poverty

Annette Peters, Westchester County Dept of Community Mental Health

Stephen Piasecki, Supportive Housing Network of New York

Russell Pinsley, Picture the Homeless

Alison Recca-Ryan, Corporation for Supportive Housing

Jean Rice, Picture the Homeless

Loretta Richardson, TD Bank, N.A.

Anthony Sabia, Covenant House

Fred Sambataro, The Nicholson Foundation

Earlene Sealey, HUD

Jeffrey Senter, Urban Justice Center, Mental Health Project / Project FAIR

Jody Sherman, Harlem United

Robert Signoracci, US Dept. of HUD

Ophelia Smith, Women In Need, Inc.

Karen Talarico, Cathedral Kitchen

Taiisa Telesford, Monarch Housing Associates

Connie Tempel, Corporation for Supportive Housing

Catherine Trapani, New Destiny Housing Corporation

Felipe Vargas, The Doe Fund, Inc.

Susana Vilardell, NYC Dept. of Education

Bobby Watts, Care For the Homeless

Joanna Weissman, NYC Dept. of Homeless Services

Aurora Zepeda, Homes for the Homeless

Sara Zuiderveen, NYC Dept of Homeless Services

We thank you for your participation and apologize to anyone inadvertently left off this list.
We tried our best to read the handwriting of each person who signed in for the meeting.

USICH Staff
Anthony Love and Michael German

Facilitators
Nancy Fritsche Eagan and Martin Siesta; Graphic Artists: Kelvy Bird and Drew Dernavich

Meeting Summary
Anthony Love welcomed the group and facilitated introductions. He then gave an overview of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness and the framework for the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. The Plan will serve as a roadmap for joint action by the 19 Council agencies to guide the development of programs and budget proposals towards a set of measurable targets to pursue over a five-year period. USICH is centering its Plan on the belief – the moral foundation – "no one should experience homelessness—no one should be without a safe, stable place to call home." There are five areas of concentration: Preventing and ending homelessness among 1) families with children, 2) youth, 3) Veterans, and 4) adults experiencing chronic homelessness; as well as 5) in the context of state and local communities, mobilize community participation, forge partnerships, and align resources.

The Council affirmed six core values to be reflected in the Plan:
- Homelessness is unacceptable.
- There are no "homeless people," but rather people who have lost their homes who deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.
- Homelessness is expensive; it is better to invest in solutions.
- Homelessness is solvable; we have learned a lot about what works.
- Homelessness can be prevented.
- There is strength in collaboration and USICH can make a difference.

The Plan's strategies will:
- identify and target to reach and match people with appropriate interventions;

- ensure access by people to needed programs, housing and services;
- retool crisis response to avert and shorten entry into homelessness;
- provide housing and supports;
- build opportunity such as jobs and education;
- enhance capacity in the service system to deliver quality; and
- document results.

The meeting facilitators introduced the World Café process, a conversational process that builds on previous conversations as people move between groups, cross-pollinate ideas, and discover new insights into the questions being discussed. Thank you to volunteers from Art of Hosting for their help to facilitate these conversations.

Small groups of three to five participants each discussed question one and recorded their key answers. After a short report-back session, the small groups were randomly re-mixed and the new groups discussed question two. The process was repeated for a discussion and recording of insights and answers to question three.

The questions for discussion:
1. What do we need to understand about the scope and causes of homelessness?
2. What should be the key goals and strategies of the plan that will take us toward that vision?
3. How can federal resources and practices be wisely aligned and cost-effectively applied to amplify our state/local work?

Before concluding the meeting, Anthony outlined the next steps in the development of the Plan and attendees were thanked for their participation.

Following the meeting, the responses were categorized into themes. The percentage of comments for each theme is listed for each question followed by the text of every comment, listed alphabetically by theme. USICH has used our best efforts to ensure accuracy in capturing and categorizing comments.

Question 1: What do we need to understand about the scope and causes of homelessness?

12%	Causes – Systemic Factors	Comments suggesting that factors such as entrenched poverty or inadequate education to prepare for future self-sufficiency cause homelessness.
11%	Impressions of Homelessness	Comments about the experience of homelessness itself.
11%	Causes – Economic	Comments stating that homelessness is caused by faltering local economies, a disconnect between income and housing costs, or lack of employment opportunities.
7%	Investment Target – Housing	Comments suggesting increased funding for housing solutions, including more affordable housing, housing vouchers, PSH, and other specialized housing models.
7%	Causes – Myriad of Factors	Comments indicating there are numerous causes of homelessness, as opposed to one specific cause.

7%	Mainstream System Accountability	Comments on the responsibility of mainstream systems to address homelessness, and those that pertain to assessment and removal of barriers that drive people to homelessness or complicate access to solutions.
6%	Definitions	Comments requesting consistent definitions and common requirements to document homelessness and other related terms.
6%	Research	Comments suggesting areas where we need more research to inform strategy development of homeless assistance.
6%	System Design	Comments relating to the promotion of effective system practices or recommended ways of designing homeless systems or delivering homeless assistance.
5%	Investment Targets – General	General comments advocating more funding/resources for programs, communities, or subpopulations.
5%	Miscellaneous	A comment that does not fit it any of the thematic codes.
4%	Causes – Mental Health/Substance Abuse	Comments suggesting that mental health and substance abuse issues and lack of access to or availability of treatment of these issues contribute to homelessness.
3%	Investment Target – Services	Comments indicating a need for increased funding for treatment services, early intervention, child-focused services, and life skills training for homeless people.
2%	Coordinated Interagency Strategy	Comments that suggest a need for holistic and coordinated planning across Federal agencies and mainstream systems to better address homelessness.
2%	Causes – Local Factors	Comments suggesting that homelessness is due to issues with the local service system, poverty rates, urban density, and/or a lack of governmental supports.
2%	Investment Target – Education/ Employment	Comments suggesting a need for increased funding and resources for education and employment strategies for homeless people.
2%	Investment Target – Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing	Comments advocating for increased funding for prevention and rapid re-housing models.
2%	Vision of Success/Indicators of Success	Comments regarding statements or goals pertaining to what a successful homeless system would look like.
1%	Coordinated Federal Grants	Comments suggesting the need to pool funding, better coordinate funding applications and grant program regulations, or align grant restrictions across agencies.
1%	Data Collection and Reporting	Comments advocating for consistent and streamlined data collection and reporting requirements across agencies, including issues with HMIS.

1%	Flexibility	Comments suggesting a need to maintain or enhance the flexibility and versatility of funding and programming for homeless services.

Question 1: What do we need to understand about the scope and causes of homelessness?

Accessibility to affordable housing	Causes – economic
Affordability	Causes – economic
Affordable housing	Causes – economic
Availability of jobs	Causes – economic
Economic causes	Causes – economic
Economics	Causes – economic
Financial literacy (people don't know how to manage their money)	Causes – economic
Gap between wages and rents	Causes – economic
High housing costs	Causes – economic
Job loss, lack of income	Causes – economic
Lack of low income housing	Causes – economic
No low rent housing, illegal evictions	Causes – economic
Unemployment, lack of public benefits	Causes – economic
NIMBY and lack of tools to deal with SEQRA	Causes – local factors
Proximity of jobs to housing	Causes – local factors
Behavioral health issues	Causes – mental health/SA
Chronic disease-based: HIV/mental illness/substance abuse	Causes – mental health/SA
Drug oriented society	Causes – mental health/SA
Mental health – cycles	Causes – mental health/SA
Substance abuse	Causes – mental health/SA
A person's issues go beyond being homeless (poverty, third generation assist., poor education, substance abuse, mental illness)	Causes - myriad
Causes include domestic violence/lack of financial resource, lack of education and employment, lack of long-term strategy—short-term solutions don't last	Causes - myriad
Crisis (divorce, medical, job loss) is a trigger	Causes - myriad
Deserving versus undeserving poor categories	Causes - myriad
Frayed safety net	Causes - myriad
It's complicated—historical phenomenon with children and chronic populations	Causes - myriad
Poverty and domestic violence is main cause	Causes - myriad
Repeated trauma	Causes - myriad
Bureaucracy: federal and state. No rental subsidies, ineligibility for licensure for certain jobs	Causes – systemic factors

Causes and systems and not just individuals	Causes – systemic factors
Childcare	Causes – systemic factors
Due to nature of homelessness, students do not feel they want to be part of school (attendance issues, drop-outs, cycle continues). Not able to finish education	Causes – systemic factors
Education	Causes – systemic factors
Education	Causes – systemic factors
Generations cycle through systems for lack of resources	Causes – systemic factors
Housing discrimination is a problem	Causes – systemic factors
Lack of appropriate DIC planning	Causes – systemic factors
Lack of commitment to early childhood development	Causes – systemic factors
Lack of corporate responsibility for works and society in the demonic nation then profit is its sole purpose	Causes – systemic factors
Lack of early educational intervention. It is critical, otherwise they fall behind and never catch up.	Causes – systemic factors
Not completing education—lack of motivation to stay in schools	Causes – systemic factors
Sometimes the cause is federal, state, local bureaucracy	Causes – systemic factors
System works to keep them in system but not allow to strive up. It's a maze with many roadblocks	Causes – systemic factors
One coordinated funding stream for mental health/substance abuse	Coordinated Federal Grants
Lack of coordination at all levels of government—local, state and federal.	Coordinated Interagency Strategy
Lack of government collaboration and agency silos	Coordinated Interagency Strategy
Need to align resources, reduce barriers, plan for discharge and transfer across systems	Coordinated Interagency Strategy
We need data but can't rely solely on it; there will always be people who won't be counted	Data Collection and Reporting
At risk of becoming homeless population	Definitions
Definition of homelessness	Definitions
Federal government needs to develop one definition of homelessness and to have it be used across all levels of government and CBOs. It's hard to reconcile definitions	Definitions
Lack of consistent definitions	Definitions
Must add to the scope those who are at risk but not falling into the traditional categories i.e., single adults, chronic homeless, substance abuse	Definitions
Problem with defining "disability"; some not disabled enough	Definitions
Who is homeless? People in cars, doubled up, on the streets?	Definitions
Rules and regulations on the programs often are not flexible enough for us to help folks before they become homeless	Flexibility
Acceptable	Impressions of homelessness
Acceptance of a shelter bed as a satisfactory home; that is not adequate housing	Impressions of homelessness
Change of mindset with regards to homelessness	Impressions of homelessness

Disparity of resources for people who are HIV negative vs HIV positive	Impressions of homelessness
Everyone/anyone can become homeless; vulnerability is not limited to a subgroup of people	Impressions of homelessness
Homelessness is like a form of cancer. Whatever the original cause, it spreads to all other areas of a person's/family's life	Impressions of homelessness
Homelessness is not equally divided in our society	Impressions of homelessness
It's a structural problem, it's not a personal problem.	Impressions of homelessness
Lack of will to change the problem	Impressions of homelessness
Not a great will on behalf of the public to help homeless	Impressions of homelessness
NYC alone: more than 39,000 people just in emergency shelter. More than 16,000 children	Impressions of homelessness
The scope is a lot larger than we know. It is enormous	Impressions of homelessness
The scope is broad	Impressions of homelessness
We were not well able to solve the problem of "traditional" homeless population and more challenges are presented by the "new" homeless brought on by the economic downturn	Impressions of homelessness
Diverting resources to education is a homeless prevention program	Investment target – ed/emp
We need to build our human capital in education and support services	Investment target – ed/emp
Adequate housing not available	Investment target – housing
Adequately funding Section 8	Investment target – housing
Affordable housing crisis: inflexibility of housing tools, market for low-income housing, housing choice vouchers	Investment target – housing
Commitment in the form of stable housing	Investment target – housing
Different causes often have same/similar solution = housing	Investment target – housing
Equal distribution of affordable housing in each community	Investment target – housing
Lack of low income housing, both with services (supportive) and without	Investment target – housing
Resources needed to focus on prevention and affordable housing.	Investment target – housing
Time limits on assistance are too short	Investment target – housing
Become more pro-active, prevent rather than address after the fact	Investment target – prevention & RR
We need more prevention	Investment target – prevention & RR
Aftercare (post-shelter) would help including supportive housing, tenant services	Investment target – services
Needs: substance abuse, mental illness, criminal justice, kids, traumatized infants	Investment target – services
Transportation is critical	Investment target – services
Transportation resources	Investment target – services
Concerned about 18-21 year olds	Investment targets – general
Double-up need resources	Investment targets – general
Finding and serving the new homeless—people living in care.	Investment targets – general
Help for singles but not enough help for families.	Investment targets – general

Senior homelessness is a growing problem	Investment targets – general
Youth supports needed, especially for 18-21 year olds	Investment targets – general
Documents get lost. Workers don't respect applicants. They then want to walk away, workers mistreat clients, need to be trained and compassionate	Mainstream system accountability
Fallout of different systems that exacerbates the problem.	Mainstream system accountability
Fraud within agencies	Mainstream system accountability
Lack of appropriate discharge planning	Mainstream system accountability
Limited resources: both amount and type of restrictions. Due to restrictions of certain resources it is difficult to connect people to proper resources.	Mainstream system accountability
Lots of hoops/rules make it difficult for people to use services and programs	Mainstream system accountability
Should add re-entry from incarcerations and institutions	Mainstream system accountability
System is part of the cause. System gives a lot of help to the poor but there is lack of accountability with the people who receive the benefits	Mainstream system accountability
4-5 day suspensions	Misc
Attention and focus: attitudes don't let it be funded	Misc
Barriers have increased to limit PA access	Misc
How are families formed?	Misc
Money going to the wrong place…budget?	Misc
Requirements out of control	Misc
Data on scope of homelessness is sketchy	Research
Healthcare	Research
Hidden homeless—how do we know who is homeless	Research
Not just people who are currently homeless but people who are living on the edge (high risk for homelessness); HPRP gives opportunity to study what works and what doesn't and for whom	Research
Possible typology of who is homeless	Research
Scope is greatly under-reported due to massive numbers doubled up	Research
Scope is larger than what data might indicate	Research
"Rapid-rehousing" is already a failed approach. Families are becoming homeless again. Over 6,000 families in NYC are going graduate from shallow subsidy programs. These families are going to go back into shelter.	System Design
Centralized intakes for all programs at local level	System Design
Comprehensive case management—coordinate available resources. Coordinated substance abuse treatment (too many agencies offering same services)	System Design
Eliminate the deficit model approach	System Design
How do you target appropriate resources to those who need them: A) chronic; B) economic circumstances	System Design
NYC-right to shelter	System Design

Target community members who are at-risk for homelessness: a) how to assess? B) eligibility criteria for basic resources	System Design
Limited vision of meaningful evaluation of success	Vision of Success/Indicators of Success
Sane housing policy is goal for five years	Vision of Success/Indicators of Success

Question 2: What should be the key goals and strategies of the plan that will take us toward this vision?

32%	Investment Target – Housing	Comments suggesting increased funding for housing solutions, including more affordable housing, housing vouchers, PSH, and other specialized housing models.
13%	Investment Target – Education/ Employment	Comments suggesting a need for increased funding and resources for education and employment strategies for homeless people.
10%	Investment Target – Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing	Comments advocating for increased funding for prevention and rapid re-housing models.
8%	Investment Target – Services	Comments indicating a need for increased funding for treatment services, early intervention, child-focused services, and life skills training for homeless people.
7%	Coordinated Interagency Strategy	Comments that suggest a need for holistic and coordinated planning across Federal agencies and mainstream systems to better address homelessness.
6%	Flexibility	Comments suggesting a need to maintain or enhance the flexibility and versatility of funding and programming for homeless services.
6%	Mainstream System Accountability	Comments on the responsibility of mainstream systems to address homelessness, and those that pertain to assessment and removal of barriers that drive people to homelessness or complicate access to solutions.
3%	Investment Targets – General	General comments advocating more funding/resources for programs, communities, or subpopulations.
3%	Potential Revenue	Comments presenting ideas on new revenue sources that could be used to fund proposed interventions.
3%	System Design	Comments relating to the promotion of effective system practices or recommended ways of designing homeless systems or delivering homeless assistance.
1%	Causes – Systemic Factors	Comments suggesting that factors such as entrenched poverty or inadequate education to prepare for future self-sufficiency cause homelessness.

1%	Communication (external)	Comments highlighting the need for enhanced communication between Federal agencies and communities, concerted strategies to raise public awareness, the need to make information on programs widely available, and for coordinated messaging from agencies.
1%	Coordinated Federal Grants	Comments suggesting the need to pool funding, better coordinate funding applications and grant program regulations, or align grant restrictions across agencies.
1%	Data Collection and Reporting	Comments advocating for consistent and streamlined data collection and reporting requirements across agencies, including issues with HMIS.
1%	Definitions	Comments requesting consistent definitions and common requirements to document homelessness and other related terms.
1%	Innovation	
1%	Investment Target – Regional Coordination/Planning	Comments pertaining to support or increased funding for regional coordination efforts and planning at the regional/local level.
1%	Performance-based Funding	Comments promoting greater accountability for local programs and grantees, investment in performance, and the shifting of resources away from poorly performing strategies and programs.

Question 2: What should be the key goals and strategies of the plan that will take us toward this vision?

Change tax structure/corporate focus and reliance on free market	Causes – systemic factors
Change in perception of the issue of homelessness from an individual problem to an understanding of it as a system problem	Communication
HUD entitlement funding-more competitive funding	Coordinated Federal Grants
Collaboration of/across government agencies. Strategic incentives to reinvest resources from high cost ineffective solutions, e.g., prisons.	Coordinated Interagency Strategy
Coordinate local, state federal resources. Link various agencies with same services	Coordinated Interagency Strategy
Inclusion of Department of Labor and Department of Education into Interagency Council on Homelessness. Jobs vocational and educational programs essential to end homelessness	Coordinated Interagency Strategy
Rethink/better coordinate eligibility criteria for the various available resource. Make it easier to direct people to correct resource	Coordinated Interagency Strategy
Strong federal guiding mandates and principles to guide development of local and diffused plans to reduce/end homelessness	Coordinated Interagency Strategy
Simplify data and reporting across systems	Data Collection and Reporting
Change in the definition of who is homeless.	Definitions

Advocate for greater flexibility among HUD/HHS resources that address homelessness	Flexibility
Flexibility in programs and who they serve	Flexibility
Flexibility of income-based housing. Supportive. Affordable	Flexibility
No federal cookie cutters. Allow flexibility; reflect regional and local resources	Flexibility
Job security-not to outsource to other countries-renewable energy/green jobs	Innovation
Develop better educational programs to stem the pipeline of homeless individuals	Investment target – ed/emp
Educate and job training	Investment target – ed/emp
Education	Investment target – ed/emp
Education of the youth to end cycle of poverty. Education with marketable job skills.	Investment target – ed/emp
Greater emphasis on education in order to make homeless people more marketable in the workforce	Investment target – ed/emp
Improve educational system. Better education will lead to more success.	Investment target – ed/emp
Job availability and training	Investment target – ed/emp
Job development	Investment target – ed/emp
Wage enforcement	Investment target – ed/emp
Additional Section 8 vouchers to meet demand	Investment target – housing
Adequate funding for affordable housing development	Investment target – housing
Affordable housing	Investment target – housing
Affordable housing for people on fixed income	Investment target – housing
Affordable housing: vouchers, tools for production, right to housing	Investment target – housing
Build new affordable housing	Investment target – housing
Create more low-income housing with services (supportive permanent re-housing) and without services (for those with purely economic challenges)	Investment target – housing
Develop more affordable housing units for low income consumers (specifically rental units)	Investment target – housing
Each community must provide/create affordable and supportive housing. Fair housing in all locales.	Investment target – housing
Equitable housing policy to expand affordability and rental housing	Investment target – housing
Goal: provide long-term stable, affordable housing. Greatly increase Section 8 funding and prioritize homeless families and single adults. Increase funding for building new units	Investment target – housing
Housing First for currently homeless	Investment target – housing
Increase affordable housing stock for low income households. Continue building of units of affordable housing and services. Redirect subsidies in for-profit housing and put them toward government and non-profit housing (which will lead to long-term affordability) and remove profit motive	Investment target – housing
Increase affordable housing. Government should further assist in development of units	Investment target – housing
Increase availability of Section 8, prevention tool.	Investment target – housing

Increased access including Housing First and creation of supportive and affordable housing	Investment target – housing
Preserve existing affordable housing	Investment target – housing
Prioritize a tax to incentivize creating permanent affordable housing	Investment target – housing
Reduce or eliminate regulatory and zoning barriers so more affordable housing can be developed and created (for example Westchester decision)	Investment target – housing
Rental assistance (Section 8) for disabled and poor	Investment target – housing
Right (legal) to housing	Investment target – housing
Supportive housing for vulnerable populations and highest users of social services	Investment target – housing
Supportive Housing Programs for mentally ill, veterans	Investment target – housing
Increase resources for eviction prevention	Investment target – prevention & RR
More shallow and immediate (short and timely) interventions, such as rental subsidies before losing housing for those in precarious housing, includes better assessment of this population before they must demonstrate need by entering shelter or other systems	Investment target – prevention & RR
Prevention and economic development	Investment target – prevention & RR
Prevention and intervention for people who are homeless and at risk for homelessness	Investment target – prevention & RR
Prevention: Maintain intact families through early and ongoing intervention; family planning, birth control, child care, health insurance, transportation, job training and education	Investment target – prevention & RR
Prioritize resources needed to implement effective, efficient prevention and housing programs	Investment target – prevention & RR
Systemize effective prevention services	Investment target – prevention & RR
Increased collaboration between service providers to bring all services and information to families/individuals in need of various services. Have focus on outreaching in communities with these services	Investment target - regional coord/plng
Continuum of support service with continuity and collaboration between those services	Investment target – services
Direct spending model on social service with increased governmental structure	Investment target – services
Make effective and comprehensive support services available: education, mental health, job training	Investment target – services
Make services accessible for people who do not fit into traditional categories. Refining eligibility criterion. Look at the whole person.	Investment target – services
Streamlined services	Investment target – services
Support Services: targeted to assessed need, duration as needed, employment models and income supports, funding streams with HHS (not necessarily SAMHSA)	Investment target – services
Address the educational and social needs of very young children in homelessness	Investment targets – general

Increase people's income/economic support and stability. Low wages are a problem. Access to benefits (e.g. fixing SSI so people who should be receiving benefits are) as well as health care, child care subsidies, etc.	Investment targets – general
Break down interagency regulatory barriers that prevent access to those who need services and supports	Mainstream system accountability
Improve discharge policies for hospitals, foster care, corrections. Have a plan for people leaving systems	Mainstream system accountability
Policies that support families to maintain housing	Mainstream system accountability
System that is easier for families to navigate (fewer barriers)	Mainstream system accountability
Varied performance measures. Include both qualitative and quantitative measures of progress and success. Privilege qualitative to compensate for lack of inclusion	Performance-based funding
Redirect tax subsidies from corporate projects and luxury housing to affordable housing projects	Potential revenue
Tax large corporations to fund homeless programs and affordable housing	Potential revenue
Coordinate need and resources. Coordinate continuum of need with the availability of resources and follow individuals and families over time	System Design
Systems change: comprehensive system with a uniform screening and assessment process, discharge planning to housing, and eliminating regulatory barriers	System Design

Question 3: How can federal resources and practices be wisely-aligned and cost-effectively applied to amplify our state/local work?

14%	Investment Target – Housing	Comments suggesting increased funding for housing solutions, including more affordable housing, housing vouchers, PSH, and other specialized housing models.
12%	Coordinated Interagency Strategy	Comments that suggest a need for holistic and coordinated planning across Federal agencies and mainstream systems to better address homelessness.
12%	Flexibility	Comments suggesting a need to maintain or enhance the flexibility and versatility of funding and programming for homeless services.
9%	Costs of Homelessness	Comments about the long-term impacts of homelessness and the subsequent costs of homelessness to mainstream systems.
9%	Mainstream System Accountability	Comments on the responsibility of mainstream systems to address homelessness, and those that pertain to assessment and removal of barriers that drive people to homelessness or complicate access to solutions.
6%	Data Collection and Reporting	Comments advocating for consistent and streamlined data collection and reporting requirements across agencies, including issues with HMIS.
6%	Investment Target – Regional	Comments pertaining to support or increased funding for regional coordination efforts and planning at the regional/local level.

Coordination/Planning

4%	Investment Target – Services	Comments indicating a need for increased funding for treatment services, early intervention, child-focused services, and life skills training for homeless people.
4%	Investment Targets – General	General comments advocating more funding/resources for programs, communities, or subpopulations.
3%	Coordinated Federal Grants	Comments suggesting the need to pool funding, better coordinate funding applications and grant program regulations, or align grant restrictions across agencies.
3%	Investment Target – Education/ Employment	Comments suggesting a need for increased funding and resources for education and employment strategies for homeless people.
3%	Performance-based Funding	Comments promoting greater accountability for local programs and grantees, investment in performance, and the shifting of resources away from poorly performing strategies and programs.
3%	System Design	Comments relating to the promotion of effective system practices or recommended ways of designing homeless systems or delivering homeless assistance.
2%	Communication (external)	Comments highlighting the need for enhanced communication between Federal agencies and communities, concerted strategies to raise public awareness, the need to make information on programs widely available, and for coordinated messaging from agencies.
2%	Investment Target – Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing	Comments advocating for increased funding for prevention and rapid re-housing models.
2%	Potential Revenue	Comments presenting ideas on new revenue sources that could be used to fund proposed interventions.
1%	Definitions	Comments requesting consistent definitions and common requirements to document homelessness and other related terms.
1%	Miscellaneous	A comment that does not fit it any of the thematic codes.
1%	Research	Comments suggesting areas where we need more research to inform strategy development of homeless assistance.
1%	Technical Assistance (TA)	Comments related to the need for training and provision of technical assistance to improve use of federal resources and to disseminate effective strategies and best practices.

Question 3: How can federal resources and practices be wisely-aligned and cost-effectively applied to amplify our state/local work?

Communication and buy in from the community	Communication
Create direct linkages from USICH to communities to promote ongoing conversation, e.g., a liaison for each major metropolitan area	Communication

Less bureaucracy. Ideas don't percolate up. CoC should serve as a forum for ideas to feds on ongoing basis. Properly staff up HUD so that they can properly engage localities.	Consumer/stakeholder participation
Fund mandates like including the homeless in decision making	Consumer/stakeholder participation
Set-up follow-up meeting with stakeholders to see how input informed strategic plan (we would be glad to give feedback on a draft)	Consumer/stakeholder participation
Resources for services: TANF as source for funding programs, rather than individuals; Medicaid: where is supportive housing and billable service?; SAMHSA: better alignment with Housing First; new source within HHS for Rapid Rehousing services	Coordinated Federal Grants
Need consistency among federal agencies for eligibility of clients, reporting requirements for grantees, etc	Coordinated Federal Grants
Coordinated and combined funding rules for capital, operating and services.	Coordinated Federal Grants
One application process and one reporting process	Coordinated Federal Grants
More structure of federal funds block granted to states to address capital/operating/supports	Coordinated Federal Grants
One application for vouchers/services from federal agencies	Coordinated Federal Grants
More coordination and collapsing of funding streams	Coordinated Federal Grants
Reduce definitional barriers between state/fed/city that limit access to resources	Coordinated Federal Grants
Integration of resource	Coordinated Federal Grants
Align eligibility of programs across agencies	Coordinated Federal Grants
As HUD pulls away from support services, SAMHSA should coordinate	Coordinated Federal Grants
Veterans administration—get tem on same page as HUD/HHS best practices	Coordinated Interagency Strategy
Federal guidance/funding to state/localities should be based on a long-term view based on data of need	Coordinated Interagency Strategy
Need a unified approach at the federal level versus a silo approach in terms of ways the funding can be used	Coordinated Interagency Strategy
One federal agency responsible for fiscal oversight (or set standards that are uniform)	Coordinated Interagency Strategy
One state agency responsible for fiscal oversight	Coordinated Interagency Strategy
Everything under one bureaucratic entity	Coordinated Interagency Strategy
Break down silos	Coordinated Interagency Strategy
Leverage federal influence to ensure cooperation among public and private entities	Coordinated Interagency Strategy
Coordination of services between federal to federal and federal to state programs	Coordinated Interagency Strategy
Streamline all federal data collection	Data Collection and Reporting
Streamline Medicaid audits	Data Collection and Reporting
Need consistency among federal agencies for eligibility of clients, reporting requirements for grantees, etc	Data Collection and Reporting

One application process and one reporting process	Data Collection and Reporting
Coordination and information data sharing	Data Collection and Reporting
Simplified reporting: accountability and responsibility with efficiency	Data Collection and Reporting
Change eligibility: deliver services/assessment in the community/before the cliff	Definitions
Flexibility to shift renewal funding to meet need	Flexibility
Gap between federal vision and local need. Localities need more latitude and flexibility in utilizing federal resources. Increase in current federal resources	Flexibility
Local administration of funds. HUD change of CoC resources	Flexibility
Flexibility on local level with allocated federal resources (i.e., HPRP, CoC, TANF, SSH, etc)	Flexibility
Make core elements replicable but more flexibility with resources to fit the reality of each market/community	Flexibility
Make definitions for funding (capital, rent subsidies, services) flexible. Should be income/needs-based. Eliminate special needs rules. Serve all.	Flexibility
Relax regulations	Flexibility
Waive requirements	Flexibility
Deregulation	Flexibility
Allow flexibility to leverage resources at local level	Flexibility
Flex programs. New programs for innovation and system change. Flexibility in funding, to open new programs, to solve goals	Flexibility
Major systemic change is needed, not small adjustments to the current broken system. We need to get the diagnosis right—we don't need to cure people, we need to create more houses and jobs.	Investment target – ed/emp
Training that leads to living wage job as requirement (versus "work first" models that perpetuate cycle of poverty, busy-work, paper-pushing).	Investment target – ed/emp
Fund transitional employment that leads to career tracks that help people be self-sustaining	Investment target – ed/emp
Enhance resources for housing: preservation, vouchers, production	Investment target – housing
Spend money now to build enough affordable housing for everyone who doesn't have it (e.g., 100,000 units in NYC). Will more than pay for itself in the long run in savings in shelter system, criminal justice system, hospitals, etc.	Investment target – housing
Major systemic change is needed, not small adjustments to the current broken system. We need to get the diagnosis right—we don't need to cure people, we need to create more houses and jobs.	Investment target – housing
Increased rental assistance for the disabled.	Investment target – housing
Developers of affordable housing should receive incentives to use a portion of housing for homeless families.	Investment target – housing
Reliable rental subsidy system	Investment target – housing
Fully fund Public Housing (NYC gets $.8 for each dollar we need)	Investment target – housing
Expand LIHTC	Investment target – housing
Build housing for all without federal control	Investment target – housing
Federal rental assistance: public housing; section *	Investment target – housing
Use of section 8 vouchers	Investment target – housing

Extra money for development	Investment target – housing
Program like section 8 with flexibility	Investment target – housing
Additional funding for prevention, ending homelessness, supportive services	Investment target – prevention & RR
Focus and invest in programs that can prevent homelessness; focus on prevention rather than aftercare	Investment target – prevention & RR
Planning and implementation grants	Investment target - regional coord/plng
Better interagency communication and coordination at the regional and local level	Investment target - regional coord/plng
Federal mandates for state and local levels to talk to each other and collaborate	Investment target - regional coord/plng
Allow local levels to set their own priorities for allocated funds when ten-year plan exists	Investment target - regional coord/plng
Benefits of administrative funding to CoC. This will allow local government to have more control of resources. Resources will be centralized and better coordinated.	Investment target - regional coord/plng
Requiring with federal funds that localities work together toward solutions (agencies, advocates, practitioners) similar to HPRP but even more.	Investment target - regional coord/plng
Resources for services: TANF as source for funding programs, rather than individuals; Medicaid: where is supportive housing and billable service?; SAMHSA: better alignment with Housing First; new source within HHS for Rapid Rehousing services	Investment target – services
Additional funding for prevention, ending homelessness, supportive services	Investment target – services
Federal government needs to fund the human services in housing	Investment target – services
Commitment to access/treatment, childcare, rental assistance	Investment target – services
Gap between federal vision and local need. Localities need more latitude and flexibility in utilizing federal resources. Increase in current federal resources	Investment targets – general
Funding should reflect costs of each locality, i.e., changing the formulas (e.g., AMI calculation, communities)	Investment targets – general
Progressive eligibility scale for benefits (not arbitrary income limits)	Investment targets – general
Helping after care in foster care agencies	Investment targets – general
Focus on system change: Incentivize system to support highest needs.	Mainstream system accountability
Elimination of federal barriers	Mainstream system accountability
Eliminate federal felony drug ban—huge barrier	Mainstream system accountability
Find ways to overcome regulations that are barriers to more effective partnerships, resource targeting and sharing (i.e., HIPAA, FERPA)	Mainstream system accountability
Remove barriers to people with felony convictions from getting subsidized housing	Mainstream system accountability
Remove barriers to victims of domestic violence who are held responsible for activity of batterers	Mainstream system accountability
Focus on infrastructure problems	Mainstream system accountability

Streamline access and less cumbersomeness for veterans: SSI and SSDI	Mainstream system accountability
Eliminate duplication of services	Mainstream system accountability
Use common sense!!	Misc
Multi-year funding if performance goals met	Performance-based funding
Ensure federal funds are spent by state and local recipients as they are intended	Performance-based funding
Incentives for programs that keep people from becoming homeless	Performance-based funding
Reinvest Defense spending to safety net programs	Potential revenue
Deploy soldiers to build housing	Potential revenue
Examine long-term consequences of Housing First (i.e., cost shifts to local resources over time; formulas used to calculate benefits result in difficulties achieving long-term independence)	Research
Use "food stamp" incentive/reward model for outreach to homeless services/cash assistance	System Design
Revamping models and expectations. Priorities of society need to change	System Design
Safety net program linked to housing (can rethink strategy)	System Design
Policy academies: education. Show us where it's working, where services are found	Technical Assistance (TA)

New York Community Stakeholder Meeting, Harvest #1

New York Community Stakeholder Meeting, Harvest #2

New York Community Stakeholder Meeting, Harvest #3