

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

**External Stakeholder Input Report: Region 5 Community Stakeholder Input  
February 22, 2010 Chicago, Illinois**

**Attending:**

Sherrri Allen-Reeves, The Renaissance Collaborative  
Nicole Amling, Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness  
Kathleen Boggs, Government Accountability Office  
Nonie Brennan, Emergency Fund  
Jacqui Buschor, Ohio Department of Development  
Irene Cabello, Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness  
Martha Calhoun, The Mustard Seed Center-Real Change,  
Real Victory  
Lisa Chapman, Corporation for Supportive Housing  
Joyce Coffee, Family Rescue  
Deborah Culpepper, Featherfist  
Theresa Curran-Freeh, Pillars Community Services  
Deborah Darzinskis, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet  
Bob Dougherty, St. Leonard's Ministries  
Julie Dworkin, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless  
Amy Dworsky, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago  
John Cheney Egan, Illinois Dept of Children & Family  
Services  
Erica Foreman, Volunteers of America  
Todd Fuller, Will County Center for Community Concerns  
Thomas Galassini, United Way of Metropolitan Chicago  
Jill Garcia, Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation  
William Graves, Ohio Department of Development  
Ann Marie Grimberg, Heartland Alliance  
Paul Hamann, The Night Ministry  
Abbilyn Harmon, Safe Haven  
Jennifer Hill, Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban  
Cook County  
Barbara Hyshaw, CEDA, Inc  
Juanita Irizarry, The Chicago Community Trust  
Robert Ivory, Volunteers of America  
Elsa Johnson, Youth Empowerment to Change  
Erika Jones, City of Columbus  
Larry Keillor, SSA  
Bill Koll, McCormick Foundation  
Lisa Kuklinski, Mercy Housing Lakefront  
Leslie Levy, Featherfist  
Sharon E. Liggins, CoC Network of NWI  
Jeri Lynch Linas, Teen Living Programs  
Gai Lorenzen, Legal Action of WI  
Paul Luikart, Breakthrough Urban Ministries  
Tony Mastracci, Mercy Housing Lakefront  
Felix Matluck, Mercy Housing Lakefront  
Maura McCauley, Heartland Human Care Services  
Nancy McDonald, City of Rockford  
Angelique Miller, AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
Sandi Murray, Homelessness Prevention Call Center  
Patricia Nix-Hodes, Law Project of the Chicago Coalition  
for the Homeless  
Tiffany Nobles, Community Shelter Board  
Barb Olson, Homeless United for Change-HUC  
Lisa Parsons, SSI Homeless Outreach Project  
Lisa Patt-McDaniel, Ohio Department of Development  
John Pfeiffer, Inspiration Corporation  
Kate Pieri, Cook County Sheriff  
Nicole Pritchard, Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness  
Nancy Radner, Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness  
Susan Reyna, Bearon Therapeutic  
Thomas Riley, CAHMCO  
Patricia Rivera, Chicago Public Schools  
Jasper Robinson, IPEA Youth Care  
Alisa Rodriguez, Chicago Department of Family and  
Support Services  
Lynda Schueler, West Suburban PADS  
Susan Shimon, New Foundation Center, Inc.  
Carol Simler, DuPage PADS  
Tiffany Sledge, The Renaissance Collaborative  
Adam Smith, State of Wisconsin Department of  
Commerce  
Daniel Sterling, The Mustard Seed Center-Real Change,  
Real Victory Not-For-Profit Corporation  
Courtney Suchor, South Suburban Family Shelter  
John Sullivan, Center for Women in Transition  
Charlie Tobin, Mercy Housing Lakefront  
Katie Tuten, Catholic Charities  
Perry Vietti, Interfaith Housing Development Corp  
Sue Wallinger, City of Madison  
Tara Wasiak, Chicago Public Schools  
Mike Wasserberg, South Suburban PADS  
Jenny Weiser, FYSB ACF Region 5  
Joel Williams, Lake County Community Development  
MaryAnn Wren, HHS

*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**

Jennifer Ho and Daryl Hernandez

### **Facilitators and Graphic Harvesters**

Lina Cramer, Christine Westerlund, Sally Wolf; Sue Keely, Graphic Harvester

### **Meeting Summary**

Jennifer Ho welcomed the group and facilitated introductions. She 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, Jennifer 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 its 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?**

15%	Research	Comments suggesting areas where we need more research to inform strategy development of homeless assistance.
10%	Coordinated Interagency Strategy	Comments that suggest a need for holistic and coordinated planning across Federal agencies and mainstream systems to better address homelessness.
8%	Causes – Systemic Factors	Comments suggesting that factors such as entrenched poverty or inadequate education to prepare for future self-sufficiency cause homelessness.
8%	Miscellaneous	A comment that does not fit it any of the thematic codes.
7%	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%	Causes – Myriad of Factors	Comments indicating there are numerous causes of homelessness, as opposed to one specific cause.
6%	Impressions of Homelessness	Comments about the experience of homelessness itself.
5%	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.
4%	Definitions	Comments requesting consistent definitions and common requirements to document homelessness and other related terms.
4%	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.

4%	Data Collection and Reporting	Comments advocating for consistent and streamlined data collection and reporting requirements across agencies, including issues with HMIS.
4%	System Design	Comments relating to the promotion of effective system practices or recommended ways of designing homeless systems or delivering homeless assistance.
3%	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 – Housing	Comments suggesting increased funding for housing solutions, including more affordable housing, housing vouchers, PSH, and other specialized housing models.
2%	Causes – Family/Violence	Comments related to family instability, violence, and lack of support networks as a cause of 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 Targets – General	General comments advocating more funding/resources for programs, communities, or subpopulations.
1%	Costs of Homelessness	Comments about the long-term impacts of homelessness and the subsequent costs of homelessness to mainstream systems.
1%	Investment Target – Education/ Employment	Comments suggesting a need for increased funding and resources for education and employment strategies for homeless people.
1%	Consumer/stakeholder participation	Comments encouraging input from consumers and other front-line and local stakeholders in the planning and decision-making processes.
1%	Innovation	
1%	Investment Target – Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing	Comments advocating for increased funding for prevention and rapid re-housing models.
1%	Investment Target – Regional	Comments pertaining to support or increased funding

	Coordination/Planning	for regional coordination efforts and planning at the regional/local level.
1%	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.
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 1: What do we need to understand about the scope and causes of homelessness?**

A combination of living wage and affordable housing would significantly reduce homelessness	Causes – economic
Economic development	Causes – economic
Employment	Causes – economic
Financial literacy, not understanding credit	Causes – economic
Homelessness is a housing crisis-gap between demand and available affordable housing growing gap	Causes – economic
Homelessness is caused by poverty—for lack of a safety net	Causes – economic
Housing cost and income issue	Causes – economic
Lack of affordable housing	Causes – economic
Lack of permanent safe affordable housing	Causes – economic
Poverty	Causes – economic
Issue of violence and trauma: have not fully grasped how this impact individuals in our system. Also the sheltering system can create violent settings: case proximity, too much concrete, exposure to rats.	Causes - family/violence
Relationship and family ties affect many people’s resources (to avoid homelessness); pride keeps people from connecting. Community resources and systems sometimes add barriers instead of stepping in for lack of family support.	Causes - family/violence
Where does personal support come from? Professional support can only do so much.	Causes - family/violence
Hypersegregated and economically distressed communities will continue to contribute disproportionately to homelessness	Causes – local factors
Increase in property values helped cause problem	Causes – local factors
Lack of coordination/collaboration among agencies	Causes – local factors
Chronic health conditions and impact on housing	Causes – mental health/SA
Lack of supportive services	Causes – mental health/SA
Lack of treatment for substance abuse	Causes – mental health/SA
Mental issues	Causes – mental health/SA

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A lot of intersected problems: health, employment, structural factors, lack of affordable housing	Causes - myriad
Aging of baby boomers and impact of their aging on employment, housing, social security	Causes - myriad
Causes of homelessness are multi-faceted—economic conditions creating new causes	Causes - myriad
Chronic homelessness versus people making bad decision, caught in crisis, health issues.	Causes - myriad
Common threads are poverty and trauma	Causes - myriad
Complicated/multi-faceted: economic/employment, specific population, healthcare, housing affordability. Not one cause and therefore not one solution.	Causes - myriad
Crisis can influence decisions that lead to losing housing.	Causes - myriad
Most people don't have a single cause of homelessness	Causes - myriad
Multi-faceted issue requiring a multi-faceted response.	Causes - myriad
To understand causes of homelessness—need to know how to ask the right questions. Get at multiple causes and get back to primary cause. Can't just ask why did you become homeless, need to uncover the whole story.	Causes - myriad
Discharge from institutions/including prison	Causes – systemic factors
Education system—Funding is fundamentally flawed resulting in such disparity that many children will NEVER be able to compete.	Causes – systemic factors
Education: Learning disability; lack of basic math/reading skills	Causes – systemic factors
Family, culture	Causes – systemic factors
For scope, need to consider: personal, cultural, structural	Causes – systemic factors
Homelessness is a problem that is a lot of systems	Causes – systemic factors
Lack of education	Causes – systemic factors
Race/Class?	Causes – systemic factors
Systemic	Causes – systemic factors
Systems that support and perpetuate poverty	Causes – systemic factors
There are systemic and personal causes of homelessness	Causes – systemic factors
Data, data, data	Communication
Educate and remove the stigma of homelessness including the bias in treatment.	Communication
Educate children about homelessness and change the impact of homelessness on children	Communication
Some homeless populations do not recognize themselves as homeless and don't ask for services.	Communication
Support and Marketing	Communication
Bring in people who are homeless to speak in a unified voice	Consumer/stakeholder participation
Collaborations at various levels (national, state, county, city)	Coordinated Interagency Strategy
Connection to income/benefits/vouchers/workforce development	Coordinated Interagency Strategy
If only fed/state/local governments could collaborate as well as nonprofits/community organizations always do.	Coordinated Interagency Strategy
Many agencies	Coordinated Interagency Strategy
National priorities that do not include homelessness and people facing	Coordinated Interagency Strategy

homelessness	
Need for collaboration	Coordinated Interagency Strategy
Not a priority for any system—requires collaboration of them all because people’s lives cover many systems	Coordinated Interagency Strategy
Not enough involvement by HHS; need federal recognition of need for supportive services that are critical for housing and employment stability.	Coordinated Interagency Strategy
Policy approach across departments to address issues; need federal government to recognize they are part of the problem	Coordinated Interagency Strategy
Requires coordinated response	Coordinated Interagency Strategy
Responses have to be broad and comprehensive to deal with breadth of problems.	Coordinated Interagency Strategy
Scope if much wider than the homeless service system: refugees, public education, housing authorities, child welfare, TANF, Medicaid	Coordinated Interagency Strategy
Systemic change	Coordinated Interagency Strategy
Systems failures, silos: constraints in national standards (ie minimum wage) not one size fits all for locals	Coordinated Interagency Strategy
Costs more to continue in this way than to increase dollars	Costs of homelessness
Educate children about homelessness and change the impact of homelessness on children	Costs of homelessness
Coordinate data system	Data Collection and Reporting
Data with analysis/recommendations	Data Collection and Reporting
Data, data, data	Data Collection and Reporting
Public schools have data that could be collected	Data Collection and Reporting
The call center model could be replicated across the national system of homelessness and be used for data tracking for causes of homelessness	Data Collection and Reporting
Definition of homeless at HUD is narrow and doesn’t capture the full scope of the problem	Definitions
Definitions of homeless are not congruent	Definitions
Doubling up in inappropriate environments (crowded) is homelessness	Definitions
Homelessness does not need to “define” someone.	Definitions
Scope of homeless very broad—children, youth, families, elderly, working singles; definition of homelessness vary across these groups and how different government agencies define homelessness	Definitions
Too often, too narrowly defined—scope is greater than we acknowledge	Definitions
Enormous	Impressions of homelessness
Growing number of families	Impressions of homelessness
Happening at every income level	Impressions of homelessness
Homelessness is a low priority of the federal government (\$2-3B out of \$3T budget).	Impressions of homelessness
It is increasing	Impressions of homelessness
People rally more for homeless children rather than adults.	Impressions of homelessness
People want to look at the homeless person’s particular issues (stereotypes)	Impressions of homelessness
Recognizing that all solutions don’t fit all situations (What works can vary even within the same geographic area)	Impressions of homelessness

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The call center model could be replicated across the national system of homelessness and be used for data tracking for causes of homelessness	Innovation
Requires training (leadership) to people who are homeless	Investment target – ed/emp
Youth need a JobCorps package of housing and learning a trade with stipends—place and support in first job	Investment target – ed/emp
Direct subsidies are needed—best impact to help families	Investment target – housing
Housing stabilization	Investment target – housing
Need deep income targeting for housing programs	Investment target – housing
We have not fully grasped how homelessness is often caused by the failure of other systems. Need to do a better job holding these systems accountable. Often <b>systems need to create housing</b> .	Investment target – housing
Market and show where folks can get preventative care or help prevent homelessness.	Investment target – prevention & RR
System-wide needs analysis	Investment target - regional coord/plng
Special needs populations—mentally ill, development disabilities, substance addicted—need better resourced community based services	Investment target – services
First-aid Clinics, diagnose	Investment targets – general
Responses have to be broad and comprehensive to deal with breadth of problems.	Investment targets – general
There is a great lack of resources for proven programs—very hard to expand and replicate.	Investment targets – general
Access to services: services delivery	Mainstream system accountability
Difficulty navigating the system	Mainstream system accountability
Hoops to jump through for applications by providers	Mainstream system accountability
Need a full spectrum of support for families, because there are so many opportunities for intervention that failed and could have prevented their homelessness along the way.	Mainstream system accountability
Punitive systems	Mainstream system accountability
Universal health care would reduce homelessness	Mainstream system accountability
We have not fully grasped how homelessness is often caused by the failure of other systems. Need to do a better job holding these systems accountable. Often <b>systems need to create housing</b> .	Mainstream system accountability
Are children today ready for/are we preparing them for carrying on: role of the media, parental control, role of schools, role of churches	Misc
Creative solutions may not be tapped	Misc
Despite wanting to do good, agencies and people working there are struggling to keep their own dollars and programs and staff. How can agencies do more?	Misc
Gender (families: men and children)	Misc
McKinney vs. HUD	Misc
Need increased personal responsibility and volunteering	Misc
NIMBYism in trying to develop affordable housing and supportive housing.	Misc
Policies	Misc



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We need to understand how greed causes homelessness. How has the desire for profit kept us from having the resources needed to end homelessness? How have organized labor and other associations kept resources out like poured concrete, plate piping? How about political costs—like local government officials that prohibit land utilization?	Misc
What are the agencies that are in the high risk areas or areas with a large population of homelessness	Misc
What does the “middleman” know? Is there waste at intermediate level?	Misc
Better understanding of risk and protective factors	Research
Count of homelessness is not reflective and equivalent for all models and measurements	Research
Developing and determining behaviors that people have when presented with options; what makes people cope be, be more resilient	Research
Generational homelessness—need to understand this better. How is one generation creating another generation of homelessness.	Research
Geography of homelessness; where they came from, where they want to go	Research
Get some research on the true courses of homelessness, poverty: what are the root causes?	Research
Get some research on the true courses of homelessness, poverty: what are the root causes?	Research
How can we “graduate” people from PSH and subsidized housing? Data on people once they have been housed, what are the variables that allow people to be successful?	Research
How many families experience multiple generations of homelessness?	Research
How many people are in prison, jail, or hospital are at risk of homelessness upon discharge?	Research
How people get to a shelter, where did they come from?	Research
Need to know more about Latino homelessness.	Research
Need to look at doubled-up population to understand scope even if you consider them at-risk	Research
Need to track impact of foreclosure crisis especially multi-family rental properties—what happens to households.	Research
Problems with “counts” of homeless	Research
Research is important for target programs	Research
Resiliency issues: what makes a person of resiliency of what adds to it? Do we know this and can we build this into our systems?	Research
Root causes of homelessness	Research
We need to estimate the size of the population living doubled/tripled up, couch surfing. A true count could multiply the total count by 2-3 times.	Research
We need to know more about people who are doubled up: need data on numbers, on what are the causes, on what are the best interventions for this	Research
Where are the people coming from?	Research
Need good case management	System Design
Need to know more about social resources/network	System Design
Need to understand what the client knows they need to escape homelessness; often this is not asked/determined	System Design

Requires meaningful involvement by people with homeless experience	System Design
Vulnerability index to figure out who should be prioritized	System Design
Stop trying to rebuild/reinvent; build upon the good solutions first.	Technical Assistance (TA)

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

16%	Investment Target – Housing	Comments suggesting increased funding for housing solutions, including more affordable housing, housing vouchers, PSH, and other specialized housing models.
10%	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.
10%	Coordinated Interagency Strategy	Comments that suggest a need for holistic and coordinated planning across Federal agencies and mainstream systems to better address homelessness.
10%	Investment Targets – General	General comments advocating more funding/resources for programs, communities, or subpopulations.
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.
7%	System Design	Comments relating to the promotion of effective system practices or recommended ways of designing homeless systems or delivering homeless assistance.
6%	Investment Target – Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing	Comments advocating for increased funding for prevention and rapid re-housing models.
6%	Vision of Success/Indicators of Success	Comments regarding statements or goals pertaining to what a successful homeless system would look like.
5%	Investment Target – Education/ Employment	Comments suggesting a need for increased funding and resources for education and employment strategies for homeless people.
4%	Definitions	Comments requesting consistent definitions and common requirements to document homelessness and other related terms.
4%	Flexibility	Comments suggesting a need to maintain or enhance the flexibility and versatility of funding and programming for homeless services.
4%	Innovation	
2%	Data Collection and Reporting	Comments advocating for consistent and streamlined data collection and reporting requirements across agencies, including issues with HMIS.
2%	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.
1%	Causes – Economic	Comments stating that homelessness is caused by faltering local economies, a disconnect between income and housing costs, or lack of employment opportunities.



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Universal definition for homelessness	Definitions
Different paths to homelessness—there should be several different paths out.	
Client-driven (calls for more flexibility)	Flexibility
Increase vertical and horizontal integration: Common definition of homelessness; Increase in ability and adaptability to respond to issues	Flexibility
More flexible and responsive system to local needs and issues	Flexibility
Create statewide 211: Flexible funding, one-stop shop	Innovation
Nationwide 211	Innovation
Nationwide Health Information Network (electronic medical records and data exchange to improve access and discharge planning)	Innovation
Access to jobs and housing for ex-offenders	Investment target – ed/emp
Dollars for vocational/trade/job placement to a broader population	Investment target – ed/emp
Increase workforce employment services investment; develop private sector incentives	Investment target – ed/emp
Job training for those with most barriers to employment	Investment target – ed/emp
Affordable housing! Revamp section 8 and more options, both immediate and long-term	Investment target – housing
Approach to affordable housing more multi-disciplinary. Offer housing with goal being transitional so with affordable housing offer life skill education, job training, etc. So in 3-5 years, affordable housing will not be necessary for individual/family because they will be self-sufficient	Investment target – housing
Continue funding various types of housing: PSH, Affordable, Housing-choice vouchers and mainstream vouchers, short/medium-term rental supports, and better use of abandoned government buildings conversion	Investment target – housing
Deeper income targeting (0-30% Area Median Income) of affordable housing programs	Investment target – housing
Develop an affordable housing strategy that: moves renters to ownership, is supported with appropriate resources/services including financial literacy/education, and developing human capital/employment	Investment target – housing
Develop housing capacity: Include self-determination of homeless individuals; per diem fee for services; empty/abandoned properties	Investment target – housing
Increase the funding at the state/federal level to increase permanent housing options for persons who have limited ability to increase their income.	Investment target – housing
More affordable housing	Investment target – housing
More programs to rehabilitate abandoned building to housing (increase housing stock)	Investment target – housing
National Housing Trust Fund—allocate money	Investment target – housing
Need more subsidized and affordable housing for families.	Investment target – housing
Private market and non-profit incentives for housing development at all income levels—more affordable housing	Investment target – housing
Reduce the need for shelter: short-term emergency assistance	Investment target – housing
Adequate prevention resources to meet need (homeless prevention)	Investment target – prevention & RR
Call center with focus on preventing homelessness that would link people to services and resources	Investment target – prevention & RR
Increase funding for prevention: improving the safety net with 1) better discharge planning, i.e., hospitals, schools; 2) understanding risk factors for early intervention, and 3) follow-up with households including better coordination of services	Investment target – prevention & RR

Make HPRP permanent. Focus on prevention.	Investment target – prevention & RR
Robust prevention system which is adaptable to the needs of the individual: an early warning systems that markets the warning signs to alert a person that trouble lies ahead; early intervention in the education system	Investment target – prevention & RR
Collaboration and coordination among community entities including government, social services, faith/church, hospitals, libraries, education, fire, police.	Investment target - regional coord/plng
Increase the/Extend the service Continuum. Have a real Continuum.	Investment target – services
Increase the/Extend the service Continuum. Have a real Continuum.	Investment target – services
Access to jobs and housing for ex-offenders	Investment targets – general
Adequate funding for housing: per diem fee; education for homeless students and services	Investment targets – general
Creative and effective programs and services that responds to the many facets of homelessness, i.e, families, youth, single adults, veterans	Investment targets – general
Develop strategies to bridge the gap between cost of affordable housing and attainable ways by increasing supply of affordable housing or increasing living wage.	Investment targets – general
Funding: adequate and diverse (private, government). Have to make it a priority.	Investment targets – general
Identify housing and services opportunities for folks who don't fit rigid criteria (veterans, families, youth, CH)	Investment targets – general
Recognize and invest in segment of homeless population that do not/will not qualify for employment services (multiple barriers, mental health issues, etc	Investment targets – general
Redirection of dollars in system (prison) to provide housing, subsidies, and services	Investment targets – general
Connect people to supportive services, every door the front door, intervention before homelessness happens	Mainstream system accountability
Develop an affordable housing strategy that: moves renters to ownership, is supported with appropriate resources/services including financial literacy/education, and developing human capital/employment	Mainstream system accountability
For systems, services. Subsidies to work effectively in such a way that it is there when you need it (no need for game playing) and is reduced and weaned off as you become more resilient/self sufficient	Mainstream system accountability
Making the system more easily navigable for the people who need services	Mainstream system accountability
Reform child welfare system to prevent youth homelessness	Mainstream system accountability
Streamline access to Social Security benefits	Mainstream system accountability
Universal Access to health care. The idea being if healthcare is not an issues, more of a person's resources can go toward housing, eliminate illness/doctor bills as cause of homelessness, mental health treatment may reduce homelessness as well as substance abuse treatment	Mainstream system accountability
System coordination for housing (homeless) one-stops	Research
Credentials/accreditation of homeless providers using national standards, continuous quality improvement	System Design
Credentials/accreditation of homeless providers using national standards, continuous quality improvement	System Design

Develop evidence-based practices around permanent supportive housing	System Design
Implement call centers across national system to track where people are coming from, what we can help with, what we cannot	System Design
Involve faith communities and develop a sense of community (decrease isolation)	System Design
Nationwide Health Information Network (electronic medical records and data exchange to improve access and discharge planning)	System Design
A system that won't put seniors at risk of losing their housing because they have to care grandchildren.	Vision of Success/Indicators of Success
Developing services that not only manage homelessness but ending it. A Continuum, a holistic system, having the opportunity and resources to forward to other housing agencies that better suit an individual need when the needs change.	Vision of Success/Indicators of Success
Persons who are suffering from substance abuse/mental health issues will be able to readily access evaluation and treatment services.	Vision of Success/Indicators of Success
Returning citizens (re-entry) will be able to access housing and support services to allow for successful community living.	Vision of Success/Indicators of Success
The system for chronically homeless will allow movement through for successive levels of housing without requiring a person to become homeless again (i.e., from SRO to 1 bedroom unit, to other unit, etc.)	Vision of Success/Indicators of Success

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

14%	Coordinated Interagency Strategy	Comments that suggest a need for holistic and coordinated planning across Federal agencies and mainstream systems to better address homelessness.
11%	Coordinated Federal Grants	Comments suggesting the need to pool funding, better coordinate funding applications and grant program regulations, or align grant restrictions across agencies.
9%	Data Collection and Reporting	Comments advocating for consistent and streamlined data collection and reporting requirements across agencies, including issues with HMIS.
8%	Definitions	Comments requesting consistent definitions and common requirements to document homelessness and other related terms.
8%	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.
7%	Flexibility	Comments suggesting a need to maintain or enhance the flexibility and versatility of funding and programming for homeless services.
6%	Investment Targets – General	General comments advocating more funding/resources for programs, communities, or subpopulations.
6%	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.
5%	Investment Target – Housing	Comments suggesting increased funding for housing solutions, including more affordable housing, housing vouchers, PSH, and other specialized housing models.

5%	Investment Target – Regional Coordination/Planning	Comments pertaining to support or increased funding for regional coordination efforts and planning at the regional/local level.
5%	Research	Comments suggesting areas where we need more research to inform strategy development of homeless assistance.
3%	Innovation	
3%	Investment Target – Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing	Comments advocating for increased funding for prevention and rapid re-housing models.
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%	Miscellaneous	A comment that does not fit it any of the thematic codes.
2%	System Design	Comments relating to the promotion of effective system practices or recommended ways of designing homeless systems or delivering homeless assistance.
1%	Investment Target – Education/ Employment	Comments suggesting a need for increased funding and resources for education and employment strategies for homeless people.
1%	Potential Revenue	Comments presenting ideas on new revenue sources that could be used to fund proposed interventions.
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?**

Need to know information on data that has been collected	Communication
Transparency to let grantees/stakeholders know who got the grant	Communication
Apply the Continuum of Care framework to other federal programs.	Coordinated Federal Grants
Collaboration across systems to ensure systems aren’t working against each other and coordinating services—joint RFPs	Coordinated Federal Grants
Do away with annual competitive continuing care application	Coordinated Federal Grants
Federal government having deadline or consistency to when they respond to grant applications	Coordinated Federal Grants
Housing and services funding need to be paired at the federal level, so it doesn’t require 9-12 funding sources to make a supportive housing development whole	Coordinated Federal Grants
Make it easier to apply for federal grants.	Coordinated Federal Grants
Pool funds: joint RFPs between federal agencies	Coordinated Federal Grants
Should match HUD housing dollars with HHS	Coordinated Federal Grants
Uniform RFPs across agencies made flexible to applicants especially for collaboration and coordination	Coordinated Federal Grants
We need to make sure that when an organization applies for grants that it’s not 3,000 pages long. Why not make the forms short and friendly?	Coordinated Federal Grants



<p>Agencies and departments in federal government work as a continuum of care  Bring to scale collaborations</p>	<p>Coordinated Interagency Strategy  Coordinated Interagency Strategy</p>
<p>Coordinate Medicaid/Medicare and SSA applications; one would trigger the other  Define roles of fed agencies and what do they bring</p>	<p>Coordinated Interagency Strategy  Coordinated Interagency Strategy</p>
<p>Federal agencies need to communicate and support unified Goals and fund appropriately. A good example of this is the children’s cabinet where office heads work with the White House to see how the different agencies can record.  Federal disability programs should integrate the impact of history of homelessness, trauma, and/or incarceration into the eligibility determination  Giving access to unused funding sources, such as TANF, to be repurposed to be used to fun other related services. Can the federal government influence this is some way? How can federal and state government work together?  HHS needs to be at the table and effective and able to address unaccompanied youth in tandem with HUD  Lead by example: the feds need to have an integrated approach to homelessness and its causes; fragmentation at the top leads to fragmentation at the local level  One consistent system</p>	<p>Coordinated Interagency Strategy  Coordinated Interagency Strategy  Coordinated Interagency Strategy  Coordinated Interagency Strategy</p>
<p>Roles of state and localities</p>	<p>Coordinated Interagency Strategy  Coordinated Interagency Strategy</p>
<p>Target other federal agencies to fund services because HUD’s de-emphasis</p>	<p>Coordinated Interagency Strategy</p>
<p>Better coordination of data management between federal programs. Data-driven planning is important, by S-b data systems not talking to each other doesn’t help.  Common definition and system to report into  Data coordination between federal government agencies, focus on confidentiality and respect for privacy  One way of recording: standardization of forms across funding sources  Singular data collection agency  Standardize reporting requirements across governments  Use one beta system to report for multiple funders  When audited, use a representative sample rather than audit 100%, then if a problem is found, dig deeper  Clarify definitions of federal programs and ensuring they serve all the programs intended. Eliminate barriers created by various jurisdictions’ eligibility criteria.  Common definition and system to report into  Common definition of homelessness  Comprehensive, broad definition of homelessness, especially to include families, singles, youth that are doubled up or couch surfing—so all can be eligible for services.  Have on definition of homelessness and demographics</p>	<p>Data Collection and Reporting  Data Collection and Reporting  Data Collection and Reporting  Data Collection and Reporting  Data Collection and Reporting  Data Collection and Reporting  Data Collection and Reporting  Data Collection and Reporting  Definitions  Definitions  Definitions  Definitions</p>



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One definition for homelessness across agencies i.e., VA and HUD	Definitions
One definition of homelessness	Definitions
Agencies and departments in federal government blending resources to meet greater need across communities	Flexibility
Flexibility of homeless initiatives/funding, as opposed to pockets of funding by geography, subpopulation, activity types.	Flexibility
Flexibility to local needs	Flexibility
Funding requirements should be less specific so more flexible spending is possible	Flexibility
Money follows the person	Flexibility
More flexibility within system guidelines in order to better serve clients; currently the resources are not client-centered.	Flexibility
“Critical level” where universal risk factors can be identified on individual level	Innovation
Developing a streamlined income assistance program that is inclusive of all people in need	Innovation
Revamp reimbursement system	Innovation
Workforce programs tailored to people experiencing homelessness	Investment target – ed/emp
Ensure adequate funds for housing to homeless families.	Investment target – housing
Expansion of low income housing trust fund; results in housing stability and allows children to stay in current school	Investment target – housing
More voucher programs like ones proposed in the President’s budget	Investment target – housing
Veterans systems needs to be reformed; move away from veteran-specific housing toward subsidies in supportive housing	Investment target – housing
Focus on prevention and call on states to redirect funds to relieve costs of maintaining individuals in high-cost institutions.	Investment target – prevention & RR
Fund infrastructure support for 211/311 prevention services.	Investment target – prevention & RR
Make HPRP programs permanent	Investment target – prevention & RR
Childcare services (subsidy)	Investment target – services
More services for veterans who are not honorably discharged	Investment target – services
Target other federal agencies to fund services because HUD’s de-emphasis	Investment target – services
Universal transportation assistance	Investment target – services
Developing a streamlined income assistance program that is inclusive of all people in need	Investment targets – general
Financial situation in Illinois is dire. Funding isn’t secure even if you were awarded a grant from the state.	Investment targets – general
Redistribute resources on a per diem basis/fee for service	Investment targets – general
Stimulus funds—continue effective programs	Investment targets – general
Use funding for programs for housing and homelessness from other less important programs (Give a bigger budget).	Investment targets – general
Aligning public and private agencies to effectively address community needs	Mainstream system accountability
Any regulations need to have “value added.” Do these regs help the homeless population?	Mainstream system accountability
Clarify definitions of federal programs and ensuring they serve all the programs intended. Eliminate barriers created by various jurisdictions’ eligibility criteria.	Mainstream system accountability

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Focus on prevention and call on states to redirect funds to relieve costs of maintaining individuals in high-cost institutions.	Mainstream system accountability
Lots of agency resources spent on accessing mainstream benefits like TANF	Mainstream system accountability
Make sure communities of color are not being excluded from programs	Mainstream system accountability
Why is it that feds must amplify local dollars/efforts? The work should be everyone's work.	Mainstream system accountability
Connect	Misc
Eliminate the middle man of state and county government in federal grants.	Misc
Coordination as a condition of funding	Performance-based funding
Flexible outcome measures ie, WIA need to adopt to various levels of functioning	Performance-based funding
Money given to programs that know the population, know the solution, know some best practices, be creative.	Performance-based funding
Moving the funding of "homeless services" especially a level and encompass more agencies that touch the system and require that those agencies have a strategic plan for ending homelessness to receive funding.	Performance-based funding
Standardized accreditation attached to funding lines	Performance-based funding
Giving access to unused funding sources, such as TANF, to be repurposed to be used to fun other related services. Can the federal government influence this is some way? How can federal and state government work together?	Potential revenue
Community-level researcher (/auditor) to keep tabs on local situation	Research
Fund research to identify best practices	Research
Need to know information on data that has been collected	Research
Research data and fund evidence-based programs	Research
Common application for housing/programs to work toward centralized waiting list so that everyone is held accountable in the same way to receive housing services.	System Design
Recognizing that permanent supportive housing is cost-effective	System Design
More TA to homeless community providers	Technical Assistance (TA)

Chicago Community Stakeholder Meeting Harvest

