



LEADING THE WAY
HOME
PALM BEACH
COUNTY

*Palm Beach County's Plan
to End the Cycle of
Homelessness*



FOCUS AREA 1: ENGAGE HEALTHCARE / PRIMARY CARE / BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ENTITIES IN HOMELESS EFFORTS

1. Establish a committee of health entities and institutions in Palm Beach County to address homelessness, which reports to the larger Continuum of Care Board. This can overlap with existing Health Neighborhoods efforts, and this body should include private and public health systems.
2. Create healthcare strategies with a focus on housing as a foundation for recovery.
3. Continue to prioritize and invest in supportive housing for those who are medically vulnerable and for those who are frequent users of multiple public systems (i.e. FUSE Initiatives).
4. Continue to engage in formal partnerships to deliver services and/or provide training to homeless service and supportive housing case management staff. Consider onsite, off-site and mobile case management and housing services.
5. Develop strategies and resources to increase access to psychiatric services for assessment and for treatment.
6. Create strategies for obtaining benefits and regaining benefits when leaving institutions – part of standard discharge planning.
7. Develop strategy for restorative dental care for individuals experiencing homelessness.
8. Create cross-system service and funding strategies for services in supportive housing (Hospital Systems, Managing Entities, Managing Care Organizations, and local and federal funding).
9. Track health and economic outcomes across systems.
10. Enhance hospital engagement in the Coordinated Entry System by encouraging them to use the system for referrals and/or discharge planning. Consider incorporating care coordination, case management and recuperative care with hospital services.



FOCUS AREA 2: **EXPAND SUPPORT SERVICES**

1. Increase the number of case managers to support high needs clients. This may include adding additional HOT and ACT teams through strategic partnerships.
2. Expand number of peer support specialists as part of care coordination teams.
3. Operationalize racial equity and trauma-informed care across all populations through expanded training for service and housing providers.
4. Improve preventive healthcare for seniors through more coordinated monitoring of needs and connections to Health Homes.
5. Expand the number of case managers in the Rapid Re-housing programs to increase capacity.
6. Develop a coordinated approach through Coordinated Entry to prioritize prevention funding based upon a standardized prioritization tool.

FOCUS AREA 3:

INCREASE ACCESS TO PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE AND OTHER PERMANENT HOUSING

1. Continue to monitor the countywide housing strategy to ensure the full spectrum of housing subsidies and service needs address homelessness. The strategy should continue to consider low income, extremely low income and homeless individuals and families.
2. Continue to work with the local municipalities throughout the housing pipeline development process building upon the PBC League of Cities collaborations.
3. In conjunction with Palm Beach County, continue to coordinate housing programs that will be developed through the use of Infrastructure Sales Tax dollars and include a) cottage homes b) municipal partnerships c) public/private partnerships.
4. Develop and/or establish more units for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) to meet the projected needs for single adults and families.
5. Work with the Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability to assess the impact of the new Qualified Opportunity Zones.
6. Collaborate with Faith-Based Organizations that may have surplus land that can be used to develop mixed income housing.
7. Monitor "big -box "stores that close that can be rezoned for innovative affordable housing.
8. Continue to work with Palm Beach County Planning Division to identify what zoning has to be changed to develop more affordable housing and supportive housing.
9. Continue to work with Public Housing Authorities ability to have preferences and to develop properties to increase the number of affordable housing options for those experiencing homelessness.
10. Continued to work with Department of Housing Sustainability on the development of supportive housing including assistance with the development of for-profit/non-profit partnerships for resource development, partnerships with the Public Housing Authorities to develop housing for persons who are extremely low income and elderly and develop cross system collaboration for development and operation of housing.
11. Ensure community input and trauma-informed design are used in the development of the new Homeless Resource Center.
12. Create property owner engagement strategies to house people in the private market as well as mainstream affordable housing.
13. Target Rapid Re-Housing funds to those households who would most benefit from a short-term rent subsidy that comes with lighter service package. Connect these households to employment opportunities.
14. Continue to work with the Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability on developing criteria that would encourage developers to set aside existing and/or create new units in affordable developments for homeless individuals and families who are being served through the Homeless and Housing Alliance.
15. Create housing placement teams that connect crisis / bridge / short-term housing to permanent housing options.
16. Monitor properties where tax credits are expiring and advocate for those set aside units to remain affordable to the current target population.

FOCUS AREA 4:

EXPAND ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY

1. Create an education campaign about homelessness and methods that the community is undertaking to reduce it. This campaign should include success stories of people with lived experience, updated digital and/or printed directory of local services and providers (including faith-based organizations), a description of future strategies that the communities will put into place, as well as specific calls to action.
2. Develop additional Homeless Outreach Teams and Assertive Community Treatment Teams to engage the homeless on the streets, parks and camps.
3. Create Advocacy teams that focus on legislative priorities and work closely with Palm Beach County's Legislative Affairs and the Human Services Coalition/Health and Human Services Chamber Greenbook Committee to influence Homeless Policy and advocate for additional resources to end homelessness (i.e. Sadowski Trust Fund).
4. Create communication strategy with faith communities that have a ministry connected to homelessness, ex-offenders, and other vulnerable populations.
5. Develop a comprehensive approach and message to the business community to connect to the homeless system as potential employers and funders.
6. Coordinate with faith-based organizations around inventory and capacity of beds and target populations (singles, families, youth, animal-friendly, food served, etc.) through Faith in Action. This goal calls for four regional care networks organized by Faith in Action that will provide advocacy and support services for homeless individuals throughout Palm Beach County.



FOCUS AREA 5:

ALIGN FUNDING AND INVESTMENTS

1. Bring funders together and join the national organization, Funders Together to End Homelessness, which helps build capacity in aligning and funding projects that will have long-term impact in ending homelessness.
2. Present one project to the Funders Together team that they can collaboratively fund - each contributing in areas of their interest.
3. Develop a strong partnership with FUSE to end homelessness for re-entry clients and families.
4. Re-alignment of Financially Assisted Agencies (FAA) funding to align with Leading the Way Home.
5. Encourage public and private funders in the healthcare, criminal justice and labor/employment systems to invest in affordable housing and to use housing as a leverage point to improve outcomes across systems.



FOCUS AREA 6:

ENHANCE HOMELESS SYSTEM OF CARE

1. Provide ongoing racial equity training and develop a racial equity definition, statement and action plan for the Homeless and Housing Alliance.
2. Ensure the coordination of unique services are offered to diverse populations who are experiencing homelessness including transition aged youth, seniors, veterans, single adults, families, communities of color, LGBTQ communities, survivors of domestic violence, people with mental health and/or substance use disorders, people with chronic health conditions and others.
3. Develop trainings that will increase the understanding and coordination of programs to avoid unnecessary duplication of services and support.
4. Enhance the Coordinated Entry System to ensure that it is a clearinghouse for services and housing for homeless individuals and families.
5. Collaborate with for-profit employers and local coalitions such as the county's economic mobility initiative (Securing Our Future). Employment plays a significant role in moving people out of homelessness and poverty. Employers should include the nonprofit and faith-based community as well.
6. Work with the School District of Palm Beach County to prioritize homeless families, offer support services and update their status in the Homeless Management Information System.





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