

CCEH Workshop Summary

From the 2018 National Conference on Ending Homelessness



Home, Together: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

A summary of this workshop by CCEH's Pam Ralston.

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) recently released *Home, Together: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*. Over the past year, USICH coordinated an intensive process that resulted in connecting stakeholders across the nation to revise and strengthen the federal plan to end homelessness. Hundreds of people from communities across the country participated in reporting on local narratives, sharing data about the state of homelessness in their CoCs, and reflecting on a diversity of perspectives about what's changed over time to identify the work that is still needed at the federal level in both supporting and accelerating state and local progress. An incredible amount of work has happened since this project kicked off a year ago at the 2017 NAEH conference and the ground work is now complete – the updated plan was presented at the 2018 NAEH conference!

As we all know an end to homelessness does not mean that no one will ever experience a housing crisis again. But what's so encouraging is the immense progress that has ensued since the first plan was released in 2010 – the major difference now is that most communities have a systematic plan in place to respond to homelessness. Such growth could never have transpired by working in vacuity so while we recognize that each community is unique in what works locally we also acknowledge the importance of achieving our goals through a shared vision of what it means to end homelessness. What's become clear is that every community must have a universal response in place that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible, or if it can't be prevented, it is a rare, brief, and one-time experience.

Because solutions will continue to require that we work together, that means that every community must have the capacity to:

- Quickly identify and engage people at risk of and experiencing homelessness.
- Intervene to prevent people from losing their housing and divert people from entering the homelessness services system.
- Provide people with immediate access to shelter and crisis services without barriers to entry if homelessness does occur.
- Quickly connect people experiencing homelessness to housing assistance and services tailored to their unique needs and strengths to help them achieve and maintain stable housing.

Home, Together reports the good news in that states and communities, with the support of the federal government and the private sector, are making progress, using shared experiences and building the coordinated responses that are necessary to reduce and ultimately end homelessness in America.

To read the plan visit: https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Home-Together-Federal-Strategic-Plan-to-Prevent-and-End-Homelessness.pdf