Agency Priority Goal Action Plan

Reduce the Average Length of Homelessness

Goal Leader:

Neal Rackleff, Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development

Overview

Goal Statement

- o HUD aims to more quickly help Americans who become homeless to ensure such experiences are brief and non-recurring. We will coordinate with local communities, businesses, and philanthropic organizations to target homeless resources and other mainstream housing resources to the most vulnerable populations. HUD will reduce the average length of homelessness in communities by an average of three days by the end of FY 2019.

Challenge

- o Today's housing affordability crisis creates a more difficult environment for people experiencing homelessness to get back into housing. This is especially true in some West Coast communities, which have experienced an increase in unsheltered homelessness.

- o Rural communities face greater barriers to access when combating homelessness, including large and dispersed geographic regions to serve. Continuum of Care (CoC) program requirements and eligible activities can be inflexible to rural community needs.

Opportunity

- o HUD will support technical assistance (TA) and explore regulatory and legislative fixes to allow communities to customize their solutions to ending homelessness. HUD will use strategies learned from the more than 60 communities that have effectively ended veteran homelessness to target CoC and other HUD-assisted housing resources to those with the highest need.

Leadership

Core Team:

Neal Rackleff, Assistant Secretary

Community Planning and Development

Jemine Bryon, Deputy Assistant Secretary

Community Planning and Development

Norm Suchar, Director

Community Planning and Development, Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs

Goal Structure & Strategies

The proof exists that we can end homelessness. To date, more than 60 communities and three states have declared an effective end to veteran homelessness; three communities have ended chronic homelessness. HUD will push to continue this movement by applying lessons learned from the work on veteran homelessness, and best practices from local communities that are rolling out innovative, cost-effective solutions on a national scale. Knowledge will be shared across communities through several targeted TA efforts, each customized to serve the target community and population.

Summary of Progress – FY18 Q4

The technical assistance initiatives outlined in the 2018 Annual Performance Plan (APP) are proceeding, in one case with implementation occurring in phases. For the initiative targeting cities with the largest increases in unsheltered homelessness, community selection commenced during FY18 Q2 with community onboarding occurring throughout Q3.

HUD has been able to consolidate many functions in the CoC Program competition to reduce burdens on applicants, and continues to look for more opportunities to streamline activities. A number of changes were made in the FY 2018 CoC NOFA. Accomplishments to date are highlighted in a write-up related to CAP Goal 6 and posted on the HUD Exchange: https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HUD-CoC-Re-Imagining.pdf.

This quarter HUD is focused on refining the Notice for Further Comment on the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Interim Rule and preparing to roll out its targeted technical assistance programs, in addition to conducting the annual CoC competition. Outreach has begun on the TA work. HUD anticipates that the targeted TA will begin being provided 3/1/19 and the CoC Notice will be published by 3/31/19.

Key Milestones

Create an unsheltered homelessness strategy that targets technical assistance and other resources to communities that have had large increases in unsheltered homelessness.

Milestone Summary				
Key Milestone	**Milestone Due Date**	**Milestone Status**	**Change from last quarter**	**Comments**
Begin implementation of a new technical assistance initiative to help those cities with the largest increases in unsheltered homelessness.	3/31/2018	Complete	N	This TA initiative will be implemented in stages. Phased community on-boarding has begun and will continue over several months.
Publish Notice for Further Comment on the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Interim Rule.	3/31/2019	Delayed	Y	HUD is still refining this Notice, but anticipates that it will be sent to OMB for review by February 2019.
Publish Emergency Solutions Grants Rule.	4/30/2019	Delayed	N	HUD is still working to finalize the ESG Final Rule, and anticipates publication by the end of April 2019.

Key Milestones

Implement cost-effective strategies across Continuums of Care (CoCs) and other HUD-assisted housing resources that target resources to those with the highest need.

Milestone Summary				
Key Milestone	**Milestone Due Date**	**Milestone Status**	**Change from last quarter**	**Comments**
Start providing targeted community technical assistance (TA) to implement initiatives for households moving from permanent supportive housing to other subsidized rental assistance. Further analysis of the roll-out will be shared to determine the potential expansion of these efforts.	3/1/2019	Delayed	Y	The communities receiving TA and the TA providers have all been identified, and HUD has begun outreach to PHAs and CoCs. HUD anticipates activating TA providers in March 2019.

Key Milestones

Build capacity in rural communities to coordinate services and increase access for persons experiencing homelessness.

Milestone Summary				
Key Milestone	**Milestone Due Date**	**Milestone Status**	**Change from last quarter**	**Comments**
Consolidate many functions in the CoC Program Competition to reduce burden on applicants.	5/31/2018	Complete	Y	The NOFA for FY 2018 was published on June 6, 2018. This NOFA contained many consolidated functions, and HUD plans to continue such streamlining efforts in future NOFAs.

Key Milestones

Target HUD-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) to the most vulnerable veterans experiencing homelessness.

Milestone Summary				
Key Milestone	**Milestone Due Date**	**Milestone Status**	**Change from last quarter**	**Comments**
Have criteria and structure in place to reallocate HUD-VASH vouchers to meet current needs among veterans.	12/31/18	On track with adjusted timeline	Y	HUD is currently awaiting the completion of a VA data analysis on Medical Center needs and eligibility. Once any VAMC candidates have been identified, the two agencies will work together to determine where there is potential to serve ineligible veterans, or where to recapture vouchers. Any recaptured vouchers will be reallocated based on need. In the interim, HUD is reviewing PHA data and facilitating the transfer of vouchers between PHAs within a VAMC catchment area in places where there is continued need at the Medical Center, but the vouchers are not being administered by the most appropriate PHA.

Key Indicators – Average Length of Homelessness

This measure tracks the national average length of homelessness in CoCs. This represents the weighted average across approximately 400 CoCs for all projects within their community.

Average Length of Homelessness (Days)

Legend: ■ Actual ■ Target

Fiscal Year	Value
FY15	(no data)
FY16 [1]	151
FY17 [2]	151
FY18	145
FY19	142

[1] FY 2016 Los Angeles data was adjusted, affecting the national average by one day. This resulted in a new figure of 151 for FY2016.

[2] In FY17, HUD excluded the system performance measures data from Los Angeles due to known data quality errors resulting from a change in HMIS vendor. Los Angeles will resubmit their data for FY17 when it submits data in FY 2018 and HUD will revise the national number at that time.

Data Accuracy and Reliability

Length of homelessness

- Description: Average length of time persons experience homelessness. At this time, only persons experiencing sheltered homelessness are included in this measure; future data submissions will include persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness as well.

- Data source: Data collected in each Continuum of Care's (CoC's) Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Data is reported as "System Performance Measures" into the Homelessness Data Exchange (HDX).

- Calculation method: Each CoC is required to collect data and report to HUD annually on specific system performance measures. These measures are based on a set of programming specifications HUD provided to communities to ensure consistency: https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/4483/system-performance-measures-tools/.

- Data quality (limitations/advantages of the data): Data is relatively comprehensive as CoCs must report data regardless of funding source. The data is limited by how many projects report their data in HMIS and how accurate their data quality is. HUD requires each CoC to track null and missing value information as well as other data quality concerns. The rates of data quality issues per each response element that impacts the system performance measures is submitted to HUD at the time that the measures are submitted. HUD reviews this and includes the data quality piece in its larger evaluation of the system performance measures.

- Validation, verification, and improvement of measure: HUD includes the System Performance Measures in its annual CoC Program Competition, along with data quality and HMIS bed coverage information. This creates incentives to have accurate data as well as to show improved outcomes. Because this process is relatively new (only 2 reporting cycles to date with system performance measures), HUD knows there are data quality concerns, both with the data entered into HMIS as well as with the reporting features of the CoCs' HMIS. HUD will continue to include this as a scoring factor and will incorporate it into more reporting requirements. HUD will provide more resources to improve data quality. HUD provided programming specifications to ensure consistency and will provide more resources to help CoCs test the accuracy of their systems to pull the data.

Additional Information

Contributing Programs

Organizations:

- o HUD Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs

- o HUD Office of Public and Indian Housing

- o HUD Office of Multifamily Housing Programs

- o US Interagency Council on Homelessness

- o US Department of Veteran Affairs

HUD Program Activities:

- o Continuum of Care Program

- o Emergency Solutions Grants

- o HUD-VA Supportive Housing

- o Public Housing

- o Housing Choice Vouchers

- o Multifamily Housing Programs

Stakeholder / Congressional Consultations

HUD works closely with local communities through the CoC program to support tailored programs that best meet a community's needs.