Statewide Collaboration for Change

Utah’s Plan to Address Homelessness

Homebase

Overview

- Review of the strategic planning process and scope of work
- Final draft plan and resources
- Next Steps: Your feedback

Strategic Planning Process and Scope of Work

Process and Scope Overview

Homelessness State Strategic Plan to reduce and prevent homelessness in the State of Utah and strengthen the physical health, mental health, and social service supports available for Utah's unhoused residents.

Rigorous mixed-methods data collection and analysis

Stakeholder partnerships:

Develop goals and strategies

User-friendly strategic plan and implementation

Needs Assessment

- Review of key documents and analysis of state-wide data on numbers, needs, and system performance.
- Homelessness system across the State as well as sub-population and regional needs.
- Consider both new programs and services + improvements to operation and coordination of existing housing and services.
- Housing outcomes
- Focus on identified key areas (e.g., chronic and unsheltered homelessness).

Stakeholder Engagement

Interviews and Focus Groups

Obtain feedback on vision, goals, and priorities for the State's approach to addressing homelessness, as well as discussion of key needs and gaps.

Best Practice Research

Volunteer, case management, and peer support training programs

Solutions to reduce and eliminate racial and ethnic disparities within homeless response systems

Addressing conflicts between the general public and those experiencing homelessness

Successful public awareness campaigns related to making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring

The relationship between homelessness and social determinants of health

Successful homeless response system integration

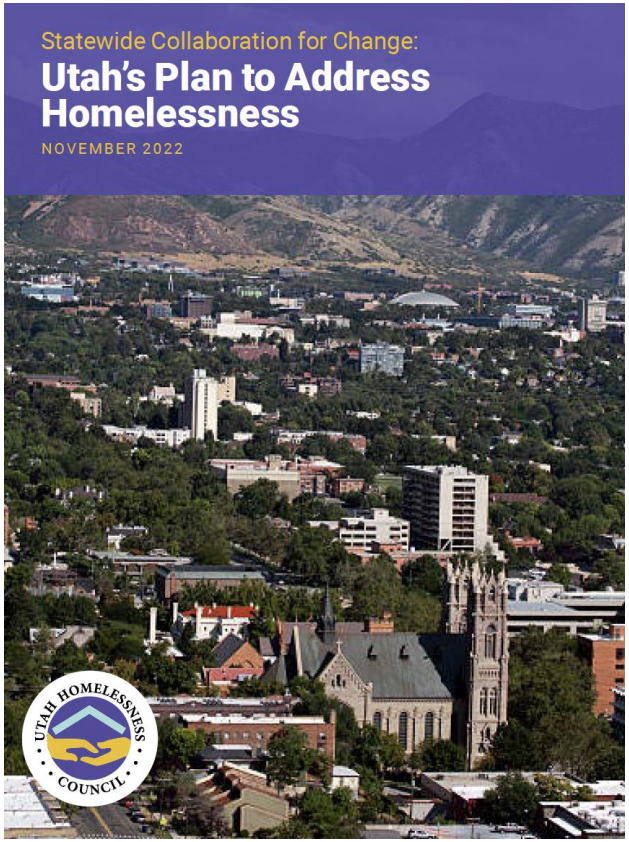
Strategic Goal and Priorities

Final Plan Draft: Three Documents

- Strategic plan
- Strategic Plan Implementation Guide
- Appendices

Strategic Plan: Utah's Plan to Address Homelessness

- Shorter document focused on target outcomes and goals
- Uplifts goals and measurable outcomes
- Includes some highlights from needs assessment



Strategic Plan Implementation Guide

- General recommendations for implementation process
- Targeted optional strategies and action steps

Appendices

Targeted data and comprehensive results from needs assessment

Overview of Utah Strategic Plan

Public comments made in the Q&A box will be recorded and reviewed

Homebase

Timeline

Public comments on the strategic plan documents by **January 8, 2023.**

Comments considered and updates made to the plan by **January 23, 2023.**

Plan released to UHC and public on **January 30, 2022**

UHC meeting and vote on plan **February 9, 2022.**

Vision Statement

Shared Vision Statement of the

Utah Homelessness Council & Office of Homeless Services

Our vision for the homeless response system in Utah is to make homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring; that all people experiencing homelessness can thrive to their fullest potential; and that our communities are stable and safe for everyone.

— Utah Homelessness Council

Target Outcomes by 2027

Create or identify **574 housing opportunities** for people experiencing homelessness

Increase supportive service interactions **by 20%**

Reduce number of people becoming homeless each year **by 20%**

Reduction of vulnerable subpopulations of chronically homeless, veterans, survivors of domestic violence, youth, and people with disabilities **by 7%**

How do we get there?

State of Utah Strategic Plan Goals

GOAL 1

Increase accessible and affordable permanent housing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness across the state

GOAL 2

Increase access to and availability of supportive services and case management for people experiencing and at risk of homelessness

GOAL 3

Expand homeless prevention efforts by increasing coordination, resources, and affordable housing opportunities

GOAL 4

Target housing resources and supportive services to people experiencing unsheltered homelessness

GOAL 5

Promote alignment and coordination across multiple systems of care to support people experiencing and at risk of homelessness.

GOAL 1

Increase accessible and affordable permanent housing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness across the state

STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE GOAL

1. Support localities to increase investment in permanent housing options at the state and local level, using private and public funds to meet the current housing need[2] across the state.
2. Support localities to increase development of permanent supportive housing programs.
3. Support localities to increase development of transitional/interim housing[3] for vulnerable subpopulations of people experiencing homelessness (e.g., those with mental health and substance use disorders, survivors of domestic violence, people experiencing chronic homelessness, people exiting criminal justice system, youth, and others) and create strong pathways for these populations to obtain and retain permanent housing.
4. Explore policy-level changes at the state and local level to preserve existing affordable housing.
5. Build community support for development of new permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness.
6. Support localities to employ innovative solutions for placing people equitably into permanent housing and design ongoing evaluation protocols that assess equity in housing outcomes.
7. Support local efforts across the state to perform housing needs assessments for vulnerable subpopulations experiencing homelessness and target resources and support to housing these populations.

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES FOR GOAL 1

- **By 2023, the state of Utah will implement an annual demographic analysis** of housing placements of people experiencing homelessness across the state to ensure equity in housing assistance, placement, and retention.
- **By 2024, the state of Utah will establish cross-agency partnerships** to develop a plan for identifying and funding permanent housing opportunities, including but not limited to permanent supportive housing, for people experiencing homelessness. The plan will examine how state agencies can work collaboratively to address the affordable housing deficit and current unmet housing needs for people experiencing homelessness across the state. This plan will also include housing needs assessments of vulnerable subpopulations experiencing homelessness (e.g., youth and survivors of domestic violence).
- **By 2024, the state of Utah will establish a coordinated plan** to help support localities in development and implementation of transitional/interim housing options for vulnerable subpopulations experiencing homelessness with strong pathways to permanent housing.
- **By 2024, the state of Utah will launch a statewide social marketing campaign** to change perceptions around homelessness and to lessen community resistance to development of new permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness.
- **By 2025, the state of Utah will establish at least two cross-agency partnerships** with the stated goal of advocating for and implementing policy changes to preserve affordable housing and support housing affordability.

GOAL 2

Increase access to and availability of supportive services and case management for people experiencing and at risk of homelessness

STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE GOAL

1. Develop a state-level supportive services working group to assess gaps and coordinate supportive services (e.g., behavioral health/addiction recovery, mental health services, and case management) across the state and identify strategies for increasing staff retention, capacity for client engagement, outreach, and general support.
2. Support localities to increase access to and availability of wrap-around mental and physical health services for people experiencing and at risk of homelessness across the state, with additional supports for people placed directly into housing from the street or emergency shelter.
3. Support localities to increase access to and availability of substance abuse services (including detox facilities and residential treatment) for people experiencing and at risk of homelessness across the state.
4. Support localities to increase housing navigation and location services to connect those in emergency shelter and on the streets with housing-focused case management.
5. Ensure that the delivery of supportive services is inclusive, culturally competent, and accessible to all people.

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES FOR GOAL 2

- **By 2023, the Utah Homeless Network will establish a working group** to coordinate supportive service efforts across the state.
- **By 2023, the state of Utah will implement an annual demographic analysis** of service administration across the state to ensure equity in the provision and delivery of services.
- **By 2024, the Utah Homeless Network will perform a gaps analysis** of supportive services and behavioral health services targeted to people experiencing and at risk of homelessness and identify strategies for increasing staff retention and capacity among supportive service providers.
- **By 2024, the Utah Homeless Network will convene an advisory group** of healthcare funders and providers, managed care plans, and stakeholders to evaluate and fund best practices in delivering healthcare to people experiencing homelessness in urban, suburban, and rural communities.
- **By 2024, the state of Utah will identify a identify a state liaison** to collaborate with Utah CoCs to create connections between localities and substance abuse services providers and assist with identification of funding opportunities for sober living/substance abuse services projects.

GOAL 3

Expand homeless prevention efforts by increasing coordination, resources, and affordable housing opportunities

STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE GOAL

1. Develop a subcommittee to coordinate homeless prevention efforts and expand data tracking of homeless prevention service interactions.
2. Lead and support coordination of discharge efforts across the state to ensure that people exiting adjacent systems: (e.g. criminal justice, healthcare, foster care, and domestic violence shelters) are not discharged directly to homelessness and receive housing, behavioral health/healthcare, and other complementary services to assist with obtaining and retaining permanent housing opportunities.
3. Support localities to identify funding and build infrastructure to increase homeless prevention support for people at risk of homelessness.

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES FOR GOAL 3

- **By 2023, the state of Utah will establish a subcommittee** to coordinate homeless prevention efforts statewide and expand data tracking of homeless prevention service interactions.
- **By 2025, the homeless prevention subcommittee will work to coordinate discharge efforts** from medical and criminal justice systems and decrease exits to homelessness from these systems by 5%.
- **By 2025, the state of Utah will increase homeless prevention assistance service interactions** to people at risk of homelessness by 10%, as tracked by HMIS.
- **By 2025, the state of Utah will decrease the number of returns** to homelessness from permanent housing projects by 5% overall, as tracked by HMIS.
- **By 2025, the state of Utah will decrease the number of returns** to the system of care after exiting homeless prevention assistance projects to permanent housing by 5%, as tracked by HMIS.

GOAL 4

Target housing resources and supportive services to people experiencing unsheltered homelessness

STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE GOAL

1. Support localities to identify resources and infrastructure to increase availability of permanent housing and permanent supportive housing for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness with priority for people experiencing chronic unsheltered homelessness.
2. Assist localities in increasing supportive service and case management capacity to provide housing location, navigation, and stability services to provide the supports needed for unsheltered individuals to obtain and retain permanent housing.
3. Assist CoCs and LHCs to coordinate and target resources toward vulnerable unsheltered subpopulations by using by-name lists and other subpopulation targeting tools (e.g., chronically homeless, survivors of domestic violence, people with disabilities and/or substance use disorders, youth, etc.)
4. Support LHCs to identify specific needs, resources, and strategies to address unsheltered homelessness in their communities.

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES FOR GOAL 4

- **By 2023, the state of Utah will work with all local CoCs and LHCs** to ensure that people experiencing unsheltered homelessness are targeted for permanent housing opportunities, with priority for people experiencing chronic unsheltered homelessness.
- **By 2025, the state of Utah will identify public land** to develop safe parking, structured sanctioned encampments, and high access shelter in locations across Utah where there are elevated numbers of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness as demonstrated by Point-in-Time Count data.
- **By 2025, the state of Utah will decrease the population of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness** by 5% as demonstrated by aggregated state-level Point-in-Time Count data.
- **By 2025, the state of Utah will support localities** to develop by-name list tracking processes to target housing and services to vulnerable unsheltered subpopulations.
- **By 2027, the state of Utah will decrease the number of people experiencing homelessness** in the following subpopulations by 7%, as demonstrated by Point-in-Time Count count data: chronically homeless, veterans, survivors of domestic violence, youth, people with disabilities (including SUDs).

GOAL 5

Promote alignment and coordination across multiple systems of care to support people experiencing and at risk of homelessness

STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE GOAL

1. Develop cross-system partnerships with criminal justice, healthcare, human services, workforce development, foster care system, and education system stakeholders and state agencies.
2. Create a model case-conferencing practice guide to assist CoCs and local jurisdictions with cross-agency/system in-person collaboration.
3. Work with privacy law experts to craft data sharing framework and create data sharing platform accessible across multiple systems.
4. Leverage data sharing to create a generalized protocol for organizational and project performance evaluation.

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES FOR GOAL 5

- **By 2023, the state of Utah will establish a subcommittee** to take leadership on cross-system initiatives, projects, and data sharing.
- **By 2024, the state of Utah will create and disseminate a cross-system case conferencing practice guide** to all CoCs.
- **By 2024, the state of Utah will establish data sharing agreements** with at least three systems external to the homeless system of care (e.g., criminal justice, healthcare & human services, workforce, and education).
- **By 2026, the state of Utah will have a data sharing platform** accessible to providers who enter into HMIS that provides access to and visibility of system partner data.
- **By 2030, the state of Utah will develop a generalized protocol** for organizational and project performance evaluation across multiple systems that work with people experiencing homelessness.

Strategic Plan Implementation Guide

- Builds out each strategy with targeted *optional* action steps.
- **Specific courses of action to achieve target outcomes and goals will be decided during the implementation process.**

Questions and Feedback

Feedback: Please complete this google form by **January 8, 2023**

Online (preferred method):
https://forms.gle/KpS5XErNLL7ocjPNA

Email: UHCpubliccomment@utah.gov

Mail: Attn: Office of Homeless Services
140 East 300 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111