Statewide Collaboration for Change

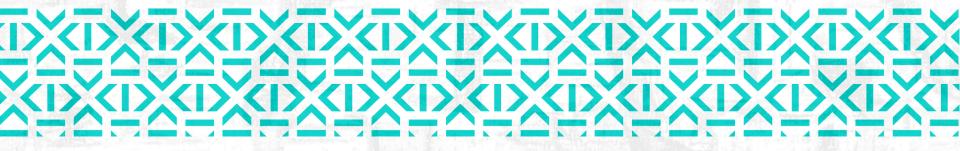## Utah's Plan to Address Homelessness- Public Comments

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Overview

- Overview of the Public Comments Received

- Steps to Final Version of Plan

Overview of Public Comments Received

Overview of Public Comments

- After the December 16th UHC Special Meeting a public comment period was opened

- Multiple methods were used to gather public input including survey, email, and mail

- Approximately ninety submissions were gathered, many were very thorough covering all five goals

- Responses that came up repeatedly were grouped together into themes

- Recommended changes to the plan were noted, as well as material better fit for the implementation efforts yet to be undertaken

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Overview of Public Comments

- Comments were submitted by a wide range of stakeholders including:

- Providers
- LHC Chairs/co-Chairs
- Multiple elected officials
- Business Leaders
- Neighborhood Associations
- General Public
- Formerly Homeless
- Religious Leaders
- And many others…

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Vision Statement

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Strategic Plan: Utah's Plan to Address Homelessness General Comments

"Impressed with the timeline for strategic implementation & comprehensive studies done"

Strategic Plan: Utah's Plan to Address Homelessness General Comments

"While the plan identifies the need for more funding across the board—for both services and housing—we feel the plan should specifically state the need to identify and create an ongoing, dedicated funding source for homeless services and affordable housing."

Proposed edits: Sustainable funding language added to the plan, further clarification recommended in the implementation plan (when possible)

Strategic Plan: Utah's Plan to Address Homelessness General Comments

"We support adding a 6th goal supporting a court directed diversion program for not only the mentally ill, but also for all individuals who are suffering from substance abuse disorder."

Proposed edits: clarification language added to the plan to clarify our support for this program, without adding another goal. Further elaboration recommended in implementation plan, plan updates could focus on this effort

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Strategic Plan: Utah's Plan to Address Homelessness General Comments

The plan is not a unifying document and does not reflect the view of some key stakeholder groups by not focusing on providing housing without addressing the underlying causes of homelessness for those who suffer from substance abuse and who commit crime.

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

- "The plan should clearly state the roles of the State, Counties and Cities so every partner and stakeholders working to address the issues of homelessness has a clear understanding of who is responsible for what within the system"
- "Goal of providing non-congregate spaces for those experiencing unsheltered homelessness shouldn't wait until 2025"
- Stronger outreach needed to "civic, church, and community leaders who can join with you in showing support for building affordable housing and winning hearts and minds"

GOAL ②

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

- "Thank you for including specific information about youth/young adults (transition-age youth).
- "This Plan needs more focus on the LGBTQ population as well as other vulnerable groups."
- "211 lists available resources but not the scarcity of these resources, we need more real time information available."
- "This goal presumes that increasing the availability of mental health and substance abuse services will lead people to accept those services. This is not always the case. The plan does not address the problem of how to approach those unwilling or uninterested in receiving treatment."

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GOAL ③

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

- Use technology to better catch those about to fall into homelessness, seniors or other groups could be captured better for those at risk.
- The data gathered during Point-in-Time Count offers only a rough estimate of the number of individuals who are unsheltered. Surveys of people experiencing homelessness are also not sufficiently reliable to identify their true needs.
- Explore programs to reunite homeless to their previous communities.
- Each LLC should be expected to have a minimum number of services and housing available within its boundaries, so as not to force residents to leave for assistance.

Target housing resources and supportive services to people experiencing unsheltered homelessness

- The State of Utah should mandate the construction of food banks and shelters across the state, it should be considered an essential city/county service, particularly winter shelters.
- Congregate shelters are not always an option for those with trauma issues, for those with past experiences of violence in shelters, or families.
- Parks need to be reclaimed for residents, there should be specific action steps to make this a reality.
- Medical and mental health treatment for the homeless are just as important as shelter and permanent housing. Support services keep those housed on the road to recovery.
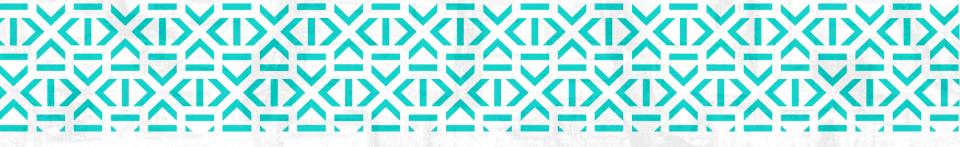
Promote alignment and coordination across multiple systems of care to support people experiencing and at risk of homelessness

- There need to be more focus and effort of peer sharing capabilities by those currently or formerly homeless.
- Better alignment of McKinney-Vento students experiencing homelessness, particularly those transitioning into early adults.
- "Regarding the initiative to form partnerships with criminal justice, etc., I want to say that I hope that we can set up, train, and staff a new group of first responders who can respond more effectively to the unsheltered homeless population than the police force."
- "We need to inspect Utah's approach towards competency evaluations and develop more resources for those who have appropriately been declared mentally incompetent."

Steps to Final Version of Plan

Steps to Final Version of Plan

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.

Final Edits Received from Utah Stakeholders

Approval from Co-Chairs and OHS

Final Version of User-friendly Strategic Plan and implementation

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