
The Doorway

A Newsletter for

HOMELESS MISSOURIANS INFORMATION SYSTEM

...a tool toward housing all Missourians.

Volume 3

Issue 2

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"THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE SHALL BE THE SUPREME LAW"

MISSOURI ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL WELFARE – SINCE 1901

HMIS Update

	McKinney-Vento Funded	Unfunded
Agencies	26	82
On-Line	26	17
Total On-Line	43	
Percentage	40%	

	McKinney-Vento Funded	Unfunded
Beds/Units	300	325
On-Line	300	223
Total On-Line	523	
Percentage	80%	

2006 Site Visits

This years Site Visits for those agencies enrolled in the HMIS are currently being planned. Each agency in the Balance of State* will be contacted via mail by the end of June regarding these visits. We understand that having all the agency's users at the meeting may be difficult, so, as requested in the letter, we are asking that at least one person that does data entry is a part of the scheduled meeting—preferably one who will be able to retain and share the information with the other agency's users.

Each agency will be contacted via phone. As there are several agencies that must be visited, we can only project at this time that the calls will begin being made to the agencies within the next couple of weeks.

* Balance of State *includes all counties except:* Boone, Buchanan, Christian, Clay, Greene, Jackson, Jasper, Lincoln, Newton, Platte, St Charles, St Louis County and City, Warren, and Webster counties.

Wish You Well

Dianna Moore, Executive Director of MASW, resigned her position effective May 15, 2006 to pursue other interest. Dianna had been Executive Director since Peter DeSimone retired in August, 2002.

During her tenure with MASW the HUD Grant was approved and implemented. Ms. Moore was a very firm believer in helping the less advantaged persons in the State of Missouri.

We wish her well in her new adventures.

In the course of a year as many as 3.5 million people become homeless. That is 11% of the poor population per year.

—National Alliance to End Homelessness

The average income of homeless families is less than half of the poverty line.

—National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty

“Key Data Concerning Homeless Persons in America,” July 2004

The Ten Essentials *What Your Community Needs to Do to End Homelessness*

The National Alliance to End Homelessness has created the following checklist as a guide to help communities identify the minimum requirements for an effective permanent solution to prevent and end homelessness.

The essentials are based on the Alliance's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness, which draws from over twenty years of research and experience with communities around the country.

No essential is more important than another. All require participation from every sector of the community.

PLAN: Your community has a set of strategies focused on ending homelessness. A wide range of players (government programs, elected officials, homeless providers, etc.) has made funding and implementation commitments to these strategies.

DATA: Your community has a homelessness management information system that can be analyzed to assess how long people are homeless, what their needs are, what the causes of homelessness are, how people interact with mainstream systems of care, the effectiveness of interventions, and the number of homeless people.

EMERGENCY PREVENTION: Your community has in place an emergency homelessness prevention program that includes rent/mortgage/utility assistance, case management, landlord/lender intervention, and other strategies to prevent eviction and homelessness.

SYSTEMS PREVENTION: I. Mainstream programs (mental health, substance abuse, TANF, child welfare, etc.) that provide care and services to low-income people consistently assess and respond to their housing needs; and II. There is placement in stable housing for all people being released from public institutions.

OUTREACH: Your community has an outreach and engagement system designed to reduce barriers and encourage homeless people so that they enter

appropriate housing (including safe havens) linked with appropriate services.

SHORTEN HOMELESSNESS: The shelter and transitional housing system in your community is organized to reduce or minimize the length of time people remain homeless, and the number of times they become homeless. Outcome measures will be key to this effort.

RAPID RE-HOUSING: Your community has skilled housing search and housing placement services available to rapidly re-house all people losing their housing or who are homeless and who want permanent housing.

SERVICES: When households are re-housed, they have rapid access to funded services, and mainstream programs provide the bulk of these services.

PERMANENT HOUSING: I. Your community has a sufficient supply of permanent supportive housing to meet the needs of all chronically homeless people; and II. Your community is implementing a plan to fully address the permanent housing needs of extremely low-income people.

INCOME: When it is necessary in order to obtain housing, your community assists homeless people to secure enough income to afford rent, by rapidly linking them with employment and/or benefits. It also connects them to opportunities for increasing their incomes after housing placement (opportunities provided primarily by mainstream programs).

Article Summary copied from the National Alliance to End Homelessness. For the full report and other articles released by the Alliance visit their web site at:

<http://www.endhomelessness.org/pub/toolkit/tenessentials.htm>

Domestic Violence is the second leading cause of homelessness among women.

—National Alliance to End Homelessness

There is no jurisdiction in the United States in which a full-time job at the prevailing minimum wage (either federal or state) provides enough income to allow a household to afford a two-bedroom home at the region's fair market rent.

—National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty “Key Data Concerning Homeless Persons in America,” July 2004

HMIS Staffing

As most of you may know, Tom Gould, the former HMIS Director, resigned his position December 31, 2005, since that time, the HMIS Associate, Rosanna Cassidy has continued the project alone.

We are happy to announce that we will be bringing aboard a new director here soon. Look for an update in the next issue of The Doorway.

Homeless Families with Children

“One of the fastest growing segments of the homeless population is families with children. A survey of 27 US cities found that in 2004, families with children accounted for 40% of the homeless population (US Conference of Mayors, 2004). These proportions are likely to be higher in rural areas; research indicates that families, single mothers, and children make up the largest group of people who are homeless in rural areas (Vissing, 1996).

“Recent evidence confirms that homelessness among families is increasing. In 78% of the 27 cities surveyed, requests for emergency shelter by families with children increased. The same study found the requests increased by an average of 7% in 2004 (US Conference of Mayors, 2004). While the average number of emergency shelter beds for homeless families with children increased by 16% in 2004, an average of 32% of requests for shelter by homeless families were denied in 2004 due to lack of resources.”

The above article was copied from the National Coalition for the Homeless, for the full article or other articles, visit:

www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/facts.html

For more information about the coalition, visit:

www.nationalhomeless.org

Major Cities Surveyed

The National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty (NLCHP) released a report regarding a survey completed in 27 major cities in the United States. While the findings are heartbreaking and disturbing, they are not a complete picture of the depth of homelessness endured everyday.

The homelessness across the United States is wide-spread and constantly increasing as programs and funds continue to decrease. The NLCHP notes that within one year's time, over three million people, individuals and families, were homeless and the demand for homeless services, namely shelter, rose by 14%.

Some of the findings included the following:

- 41% are single men
- 14% are single females
- 5% are unaccompanied children
- 40% are families with children
- 67% are single parent families
- 23% are mentally disabled
- 10% are veterans
- 30% are drug/alcohol dependent

The NLCHP states further the need for new policy implementations, which include affordable housing, income, and services and government assistance programs. They have compiled a full summary of the statistics from this survey, which is available on-line at:

http://www.nlchp.org/FA_HAPIA/HomelessPersonsInAmerica.pdf

The above information was copied from the NLCHP web site, for more information on the organization and additional releases/reports, visit their web site at: <http://www.nlchp.org/>

Domestic Violence is the second leading cause of homelessness among women.

—National Alliance to End Homelessness