

Home Again

*A 10-year plan to end homelessness in
Portland and Multnomah County*

JANUARY-MARCH 2005 REPORT

In late December 2004, the City of Portland and Multnomah County released their 10-year Plan to End Homelessness. This plan is built on three principles: focus on the most chronically homeless populations, streamline access to existing services to prevent and reduce other homelessness, and concentrate resources on

NINE ACTIONS TO END HOMELESSNESS:

1. Move people into Housing First.

One-year goals:

- ♦ 175 chronically homeless people will have homes.
- ♦ 20 “hard to reach” homeless youth will be permanently housed.
- ♦ 250 homeless families with children will be permanently housed, 50 of whom will be high resource users.

2. Stop discharging people into homelessness.

3. Improve outreach to homeless people.

One-year goal: A design will be in place for a day/ resource center to engage homeless people.

4. Emphasize permanent solutions.

One-year goal: Waiting lists for shelters and numbers of those turned away from shelters reduced by a minimum of 5%.

5. Increase supply of permanent supportive housing.

One-year goals:

- ♦ 160 new units of permanent supportive housing will be opened and 300 additional units will be under development.
- ♦ Resources for permanent supportive housing will increase from 12% to 20% of the overall amount spent by the homeless system.

6. Create innovative new partnerships to end homelessness.

One-year goal: An enhanced partnership to end homelessness will be formalized by public and private community partners.

7. Make the rent assistance system more effective.

One-year goal: Rent assistance program reforms will be completed to produce a streamlined administration and better outcomes for families and individuals.

8. Increase economic opportunity for homeless people.

9. Implement new data collection technology throughout the homeless system.

One-year goal: The new Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) database will be fully operational in 26 homeless service agencies.

programs that offer measurable results. The three principles are inherent in each of nine action steps. Below are some of the changes that have occurred in the first few months.

- ♦ From January to March, 190 chronically homeless people moved into permanent housing. Of these, 82 went directly from the streets to permanent housing.
- ♦ 52 homeless families with children moved into permanent housing, of which 39 were high-resource users.
- ♦ 7 “hard-to-reach” youth moved into stable housing.
- ♦ 59 units of permanent supportive housing opened and 91 units were added to pipeline.
- ♦ A Universal Discharge Planning Form is in use by several agencies.
- ♦ The first of several stakeholder meetings occurred to design a resource center.
- ♦ An inter-jurisdictional workgroup has agreed upon a consolidated rental assistance system that incorporates “housing first” and outcome-based program design.
- ♦ The HMIS is fully operational in four homeless service agencies.