

Home Again

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

JANUARY - MARCH, 2007 UPDATE

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 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 last few months.

ENDING HOMELESSNESS 2007: STREET COUNT

The numbers of homeless people sleeping on Portland's streets has declined by 39 percent in the last two years, according to a county-wide count of individuals and families conducted on January 24, 2007.

The City of Portland's Bureau of Housing and Community Development led the 2007 Street Count. An expansion of previous year's counts, it coincided with the One Night Shelter Count (ONSC), which is coordinated by Multnomah County, as well as Portland Homeless Connect. In 2005, a count showed 2,355 homeless people living on the streets. In 2007, 1,438 unduplicated people were counted on the streets in Portland and Multnomah County. This included 28 families with children, 71 couples, 4 unaccompanied youth under 18, and 1,235 individuals (adults).



PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT UPDATE

On Tuesday, January 23, 2007, 550 volunteers and several community leaders gathered to launch Portland's third Project Homeless Connect event and connect with people experiencing homelessness in our community. More than 800 homeless people were connected with services including dental, medical, vision, chiropractic, veterinarian, employment, benefits and legal.

The City of Portland has recently committed funds to Project Homeless Connect (PHC) to hire two staff members. One will coordinate the events and the other will work on resource development for the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness including PHC. Since government cannot end homelessness alone the Project has signed on several new private sponsors. Currently there are eight sponsors donating at the Platinum Level (+\$10,000). Support has also poured out from several community partners and volunteers.

The next Portland Homeless Connect is scheduled for September 18, 2007. It will be a day of service and support for homeless families in the Portland area. The event will be staged at the Portland Convention Center. Learn how to participate or volunteer at www.portlandhomelessconnect.com.

As of 3/31/07

PORTLAND & MULTNOMAH COUNTY 10-YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS
3RD YEAR GOALS TO BE MET BY DECEMBER 31, 2007

- ⌚ 500 households will be prevented from becoming homeless through provision of rent assistance. After rent assistance ends, 75% will remain housed after 6 months, and 65% will remain housed at one year.
- ⌚ 390 chronically homeless people will move into permanent housing with supportive services. Of these, 40 will be ages 24 & younger. Retention: 75% will retain housing after 6 months, and 65% will remain housed after one year.¹
- ⌚ 250 homeless families with children will move into permanent housing, of which 125 will be high resource users. Retention: 75% will remain housed at 6 month, and 65% will remain housed after one year.
- ⌚ 300 homeless individuals (adults, youth, parents with children) will receive job training, placement and retention services
- ⌚ 120 new units of permanent supportive housing will be added to the development pipeline. (85 for chronically homeless people and 35 will be for homeless families)
- ⌚ 70% of homeless persons, who are assigned to Jail's homeless discharge planner's caseload, will be placed directly into stable housing upon discharge.
- ✓ Hold Portland Homeless Connect event in order to reach out to under-served homeless persons and attract new community resources – funds, services, and volunteers.
- ⌚ Determine a site for an “access center,” with services focused on ending homelessness, such as housing placement.
- ✓ Complete a coordinated, comprehensive One Night Shelter and Turnaway Count as well as a One-Night Street Count to re-establish a baseline of homeless persons.
- ⌚ Create community plan to increase the number of eligible persons who receive SSI/SSDI benefits and expedite approval process.
- ⌚ Provide timely reports on the numbers of people exiting chronic and other homelessness. In addition, a community-wide data collection system will include 75% of all shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing beds.

The goals above will help our community achieve the nine Action Steps outlined in the 10-year plan:

1. Move people into Housing First.
2. Stop discharging people into homelessness.
3. Improve outreach to homeless people.
4. Emphasize permanent solutions.
5. Increase supply of permanent supportive housing.
6. Create innovative new partnerships to end homelessness.
7. Make the rent assistance system more effective.
8. Increase economic opportunity for homeless people.
9. Implement new data collection technology throughout the homeless system.

★ Exceeded goal ✓ Achieved/On schedule ⌚ Still collecting data or behind schedule

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