

Opening Doors Input Session

NAEH Preconference Session
Washington, D.C.
July 29, 2014





USICH Introductions

- **Matthew Doherty, Director of National Initiatives**
- **Amy Sawyer, Regional Coordinator**
- **Beverly Ebersold, Regional Coordinator**
- **Robert Pulster, Regional Coordinator**
- **Jay Melder, Director of Communications and External Affairs**
- **Peter Nicewicz, Management and Program Analyst**



Roles of USICH

- **Coordinates** the Federal response to homelessness
- **Maximizes** the effectiveness of 19 Federal agency partners
- **Shares** best practices
- **Drives** collaborative solutions



Plan for Discussion

- Intent for *Opening Doors* Amendment
- *Opening Doors* Refresher Course
- Facilitated Discussions to Gather Input



Opening Doors Poll

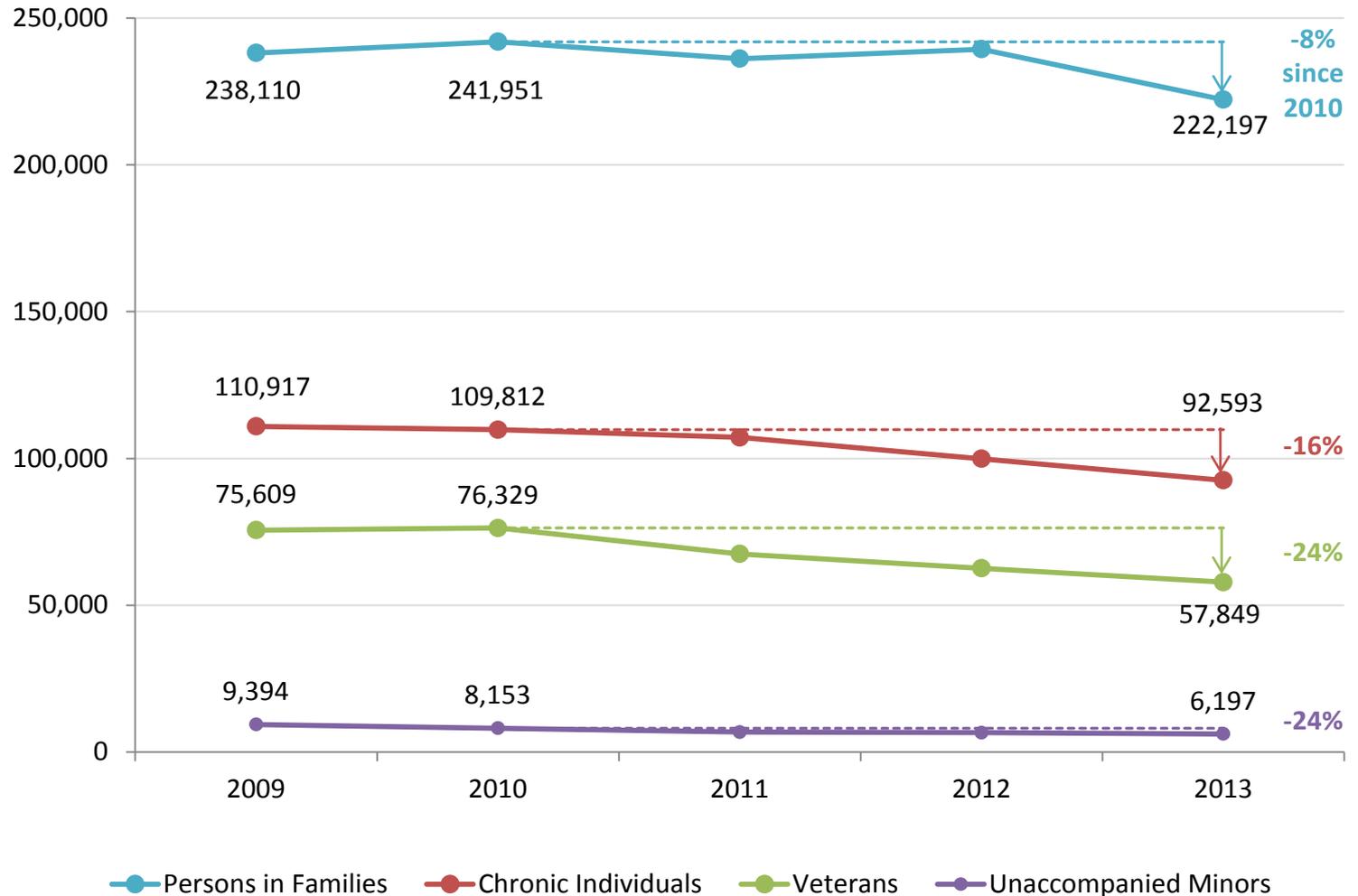
- On a Scale of 1 (not so familiar) to 5 (very familiar) how familiar are you with the objectives and strategies of *Opening Doors*?

Intent for *Opening Doors* Amendment



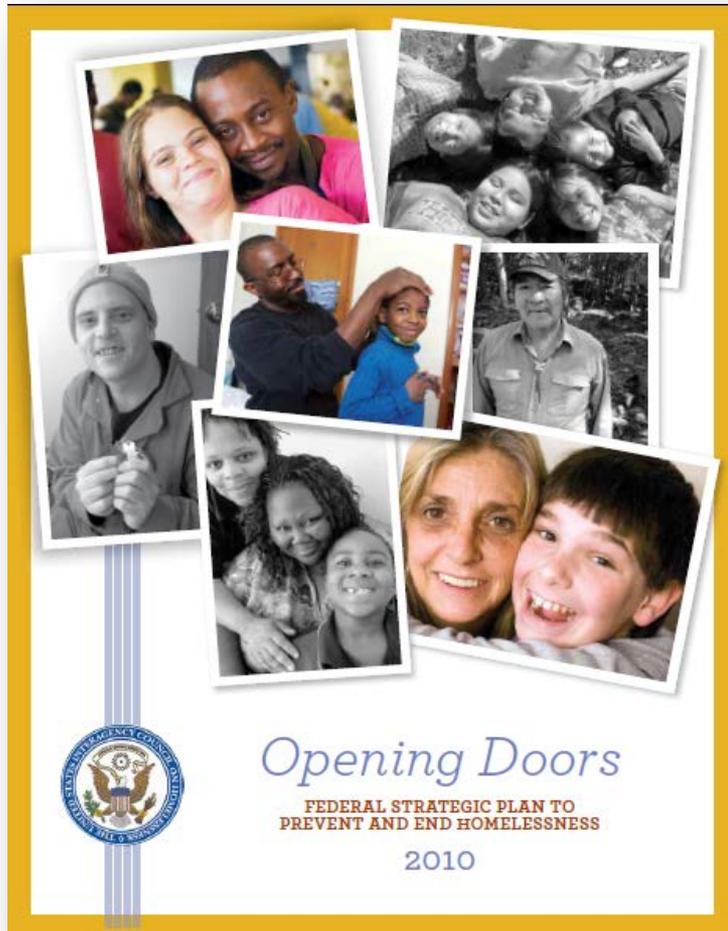


Point-in-Time Count Progress





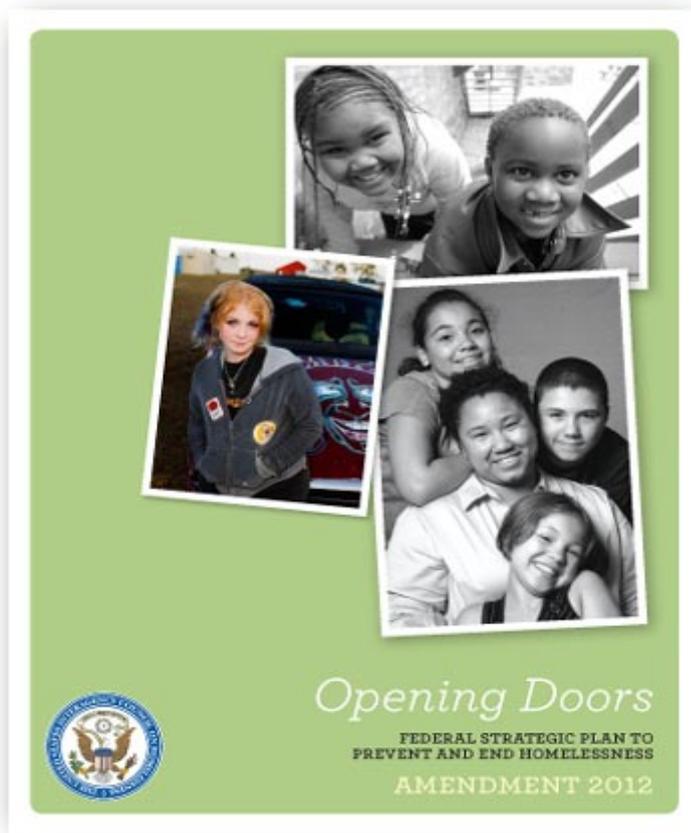
Opening Doors



- **Entering fifth year of implementation** – still the right plan, progress is accelerating
- **Every strategic plan should be a living document** – strengthened with new information, informed by lessons learned



2012 Amendment



*With this amendment, we are specifically addressing what is needed to **improve the educational outcomes of children experiencing homelessness** and adding specific steps that must be taken to **prevent and end homelessness for unaccompanied youth.***

- Secretary Sebelius
2012 USICH Chair



Some Focus Areas for Amendment

- Achieving the goal of ending chronic homelessness;
- Retooling the crisis response system;
- Medicaid and the opportunities created through ACA; and
- Data, goal setting, and definitions for what it means to end homelessness



Other Opportunity for Input

- Online forum at <http://usich.uservoice.com/>
- Share and vote for the ideas you think would have the greatest impact in an amendment to *Opening Doors*

Opening Doors Refresher Course





Opening Doors: Clear Vision

- ***No one should experience homelessness***
- ***No one should be without a safe, stable place to call **home*****



Opening Doors: Four Goals

1. Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness by **2015**
2. Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans by 2015
3. Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children by 2020
4. Set a path to ending all types of homelessness



Opening Doors: Five Themes

- 1. Increase leadership, collaboration, and civic engagement**
- 2. Increase access to stable and affordable housing**
- 3. Increase economic security**
- 4. Improve health and stability**
- 5. Retool the homeless crisis response system**



Increase Leadership, Collaboration & Civic Engagement

Objective 1

Provide and promote collaborative leadership at all levels of government and across all sectors to inspire and energize Americans to commit to preventing and ending homelessness

Objective 2

Strengthen the capacity of public and private organizations by increasing knowledge about collaboration, homelessness, and successful interventions to end homelessness



Increase Access to Stable and Affordable Housing

Objective 3

Provide affordable housing to people experiencing or most at risk of homelessness

Objective 4

Provide permanent supportive housing to prevent and end chronic homelessness



Increase Economic Security

Objective 5 (as amended in 2012)

Improve access to education and increase meaningful and sustainable employment for people experiencing or most at risk of homelessness

Objective 6

Improve access to mainstream programs and services to reduce people's financial vulnerability to homelessness



Improve Health and Stability

Objective 7

Integrate primary and behavioral health care services with homeless assistance programs and housing to reduce people's vulnerability to and the impacts of homelessness

Objective 8 (as amended in 2012)

Advance health and housing stability for ***unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness and*** youth aging out of systems such as foster care and juvenile justice



Improve Health and Stability

Objective 9

Advance health and housing stability for people experiencing homelessness who have frequent contact with hospitals and criminal justice



Retool the Homeless Crisis Response System

Objective 10

Transform homeless services to crisis response systems that prevent homelessness and rapidly return people who experience homelessness to stable housing

Timeline for Goal for Ending Chronic Homelessness





Opening Doors: Four Goals

- 1. Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness by *2016***
- 2. Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans by 2015**
- 3. Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children by 2020**
- 4. Set a path to ending all types of homelessness**



FY 2015 Budget Request



United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

Preventing and Ending Homelessness in the United States

Proposed Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Fact Sheet: Homelessness Assistance

President Obama's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget clearly demonstrates the high priority this Administration has for achieving to the goals of *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*. This year's budget proposal includes more than \$5.69 billion for targeted homeless assistance funding, a 12 percent increase over Fiscal Year 2014 appropriations. This fact sheet serves as an overview of the homeless assistance programs across the government.

The 2013 point-in-time count documented that *Opening Doors* is working and that this Administration, working in partnership with communities across the country, is changing the trajectory of homelessness. During the first three years since *Opening Doors* was launched, homelessness has declined overall, and homelessness among families was reduced by eight percent. Chronic homelessness has declined by 16 percent, and homelessness among Veterans has declined by 24 percent. The President's Budget request will provide the resources needed to reach the goals of ending homelessness among Veterans and chronic homelessness, and will sustain and advance progress on ending homelessness among families, youth, and children.

"The President's Budget includes historic investments to prevent and end homelessness," said incoming USICH Executive Director Laura Zeilinger. "Together, we have proven that investing in data-driven, evidence-based solutions to homelessness works on a national scale."



FY 2015 Budget Request

- **\$2.4 billion** for Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Homeless Assistance Grants, **\$301 million above the 2014 enacted level**
- Maintains more than **330,000 HUD-funded beds and housing opportunities** nationwide.
- Enables nation to achieve the goal of ending chronic homelessness in 2016 through the **creation of 37,000 new permanent supportive housing opportunities**



Discussion Questions

Q1: How will amending the *Opening Doors* goal to end chronic homelessness from 2015 to 2016 **affect your community's / organizations' efforts?**

Q2: Does *Opening Doors* fully explain the strategies needed to end chronic homelessness in 2016 or **are there strategies for which additional information is needed?**

Retooling the Crisis Response System





Strategies from Objective 10

- a. Develop and promote best practices for crisis response programs** and increase their adoption by agencies receiving federal funds.
- b. Determine opportunities to utilize mainstream resources to provide housing stabilization assistance** to clients who are homeless or at high risk of homelessness.
- c. Develop implementation strategies for the HEARTH Act—especially the new Emergency Solutions Grant—that sustain best practices** learned from HPRP and the Rapid Re-Housing Demonstration.



Strategies from Objective 10

d. Ensure continuity in the provision of homeless prevention and rapid re-housing services to families, youth, and individuals—including Veterans and their families—through HUD’s HPRP.

e. Ensure that homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing strategies are coordinated with Education for Homeless Children and Youth, and incorporated within federal place-based strategies to improve neighborhoods and schools, including Promise Neighborhoods and Choice Neighborhoods.



Discussion Questions

Q1: Are there **additional strategies for retooling the crisis response system** that you think should be reflected in an amendment to *Opening Doors*?

Q2: How would your community / organization benefit from **greater clarity on these issues, such as the roles coordinated assessment, rapid re-housing, and transitional housing play** in effective coordinated response systems?

15-Minute Break



Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act





Strategy from Objective 6

Objective 6:

e. Prepare for Medicaid expansion to effectively enroll people who experience or are most at risk of experiencing homelessness. This should include systems to reach out to, engage, and enroll newly eligible people in health care insurance benefits.



Strategies from Objective 7

Objective 7:

- a. Encourage partnerships between housing providers and health and behavioral health care providers to co-locate or coordinate health, behavioral health, safety, and wellness services with housing** and create better resources for providers to connect patients to housing resources.
- b. Build upon successful service delivery models** to provide services in the homes of people who have experienced homelessness including using Medicaid-funded Assertive Community Treatment Teams for those with behavioral health needs.



Strategies from Objective 7

e. Increase availability of behavioral health services, including community mental health centers, to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

f. Improve access to child and family services that improve early child development, educational stability, youth development, and quality of life for families— including expectant families, children, and youth experiencing or most at risk of homelessness.



Discussion Questions

Q1: Are there **additional strategies for fully realizing the opportunities created through the Affordable Care Act** that you think should be reflected in an amendment to *Opening Doors*?

Q2: What information would be most helpful to you in an amendment to *Opening Doors* that includes **updated information around Medicaid's role in ending homelessness?** How would that information strengthen your community's / organization's efforts?

Data, Goal-Setting, and Definitions





Strategies from Objective 2

g. Continue to increase use of the Homeless Management Information System by local communities and encourage its use by additional programs targeted at homelessness. Develop standards that permit data inter-operability between data systems while protecting the confidentiality of all individuals.

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Strategies from Objective 2

h. Create a common data standard and uniform performance measures if feasible, especially related to housing stability, across all targeted and mainstream federal programs. This will facilitate data exchanges and comparisons between both targeted programs and mainstream systems in order to improve identification of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Encourage the dynamic use of state and local data warehouses.



Strategy from Objective 8

As amended in 2012:

- **Obtain more comprehensive information on the scope of youth homelessness** by improving counting methods; better coordinating and disseminating the information collected by different programs and systems; and conducting new research to expand and improve our understanding of the problem.



Discussion Questions

Q1: Would including a **definition on what ending homelessness means and how it should be defined benefit your community's or organization's efforts** - if so, how?

Q2: Are there **additional strategies for increasing the focus on data-driven decision making and setting measurable goals** that you think should be reflected in an amendment to *Opening Doors*?

Input on Other Elements of *Opening Doors*





Discussion Question

Q1: Besides the topics we discussed, are there **other areas of the Plan you feel would benefit from updated information or the incorporation of additional strategies?**



Prioritize Recommendations

- Discuss at your tables what ideas or suggestions you've heard today that you would prioritize for input for the *Opening Doors* Amendment
- Don't have to reach agreement as a group – but use discussion to hear and inform each other's perspectives
- Each person writes down their top 5 priority ideas or suggestions on the form provided, and please leave it on your seat or turn it in before you leave the room



Stay Connected



United States Interagency
Council on Homelessness

No one should experience homelessness. No one should be without a safe, stable place to call home.

An Energizing Council Meeting & New Ideas on Ending Homelessness Among Families

July 17, 2013

Cabinet Secretaries Advance Efforts to End Family Homelessness

On July 9th, the Obama Administration convened a meeting to push forward its agenda to end homelessness.

USICH Chair, VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki, and Vice Chair, HUD Secretary Shaun

Donovan, met with other Council leaders including ED Secretary Arne Duncan and DOL Acting Secretary Seth Harris, USICH Executive Director Barbara J. Poppe, Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service Wendy Spencer, Director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships Melissa Rogers, and representatives from 11 other member agencies. The group discussed ways to leverage opportunities created by the Affordable Care Act and ways to better serve families who are experiencing homelessness. Donna Seymour, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Warrior Care Policy at the Department of Defense, also updated the Council on DoD's efforts since the last Council meeting to coordinate transitions from active service to Veteran status for our



FROM THE
SOLUTIONS
DATABASE

Home Free is a program of the Volunteers of America - Oregon designed to expand access to services among survivors of domestic violence facing housing instability.

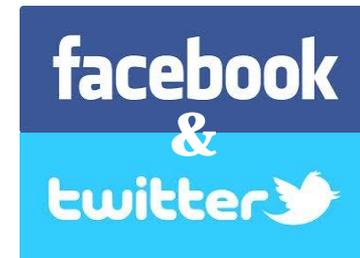
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Join the Online Discussion

- Online forum at <http://usich.uservoice.com/>
- Share and vote for the ideas you think would have the greatest impact in an amendment to *Opening Doors*



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