

SECTION 4 - HOMELESS

Specific Homeless Prevention Elements

The Lancaster community is in the early stages of developing the *Lancaster 10 Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness*. The Community Needs Committee of the Interagency Council for the Homeless (ICH), in partnership with the United Way of Lancaster County, is currently in the process of hiring staff and forming work groups to begin the development of the final 10 year plan.

Lancaster County's plan for the investment and use of funds directed toward homelessness is to utilize funding in a manner to support long-term self-sufficiency of homeless clients, and to promote a "Housing First" concept. Funding decisions will be based on performance measurements and the goals identified in Lancaster Continuum of Care Plan for the Homeless.

Sources of Funds

Resources	Use of Resource for <u>Homeless</u> Persons	Specific Project Name	\$ Amount or number of units/beds provided	
CDBG	<u>County 2004-2005</u>			
	DV Emergency shelter	\$90,000	Domestic Violence Services	34 beds
	Housing & budget counseling	\$41,500	Shelter to Independent Living	75 households
	DV Transitional housing	\$33,750	Bridge Housing	10 units
	Transitional housing	\$13,500	Jubilee House	10 units
	Case Management	\$9,000	Clare House	21 beds
	Transitional housing	\$19,950	Transitional Living Center	54 units
	Transitional housing	\$8,000	Hope House –PWA	8 beds
	Permanent supportive hsg.	\$375,000	Fordney Road	15 beds
HOME	NONE			
ESG	<u>County 2004-2005</u>			
	DV Emergency shelter	\$45,000	Domestic Violence Services	34 beds
	Emergency shelter	\$19,660	Crispus Attucks Center	20 beds
	Housing & budget counseling	\$28,109	Shelter to Independent Living	75 households

Resources	Use of Resource for <u>Homeless</u> Persons	Specific Project Name	\$ Amount or number of units/beds provided
	Transitional housing \$ 3,900	Veterans Beacon House	8 beds
	Case Management \$5,500	Clare House	10 households
	Transitional housing \$4,000	Clare House	10 households
	Transitional housing \$32,000	Transitional Living Center	54 rooms
	City 2004-2005		
	DV Emergency shelter \$20,000	Domestic Violence Services	34 beds
	Emergency shelter \$17,528	Crispus Attucks Center	20 beds
	Housing & budget counseling \$20,000	Shelter to Independent Living	75 households
	Transitional housing \$7,000	Clare House	21 beds
	Transitional housing \$15,000	Transitional Living Center	54 rooms/units
Housing Choice Vouchers (only if "priority" is given to homeless)	Lancaster City Housing Authority 2005	Homeless preference voucher	6 vouchers
	Lancaster County Housing Authority 2005	Homeless preference voucher	4 vouchers
Public Housing	NONE		
Mental Health Block Grant	PATH Project for Assistance in Transition for Homeless Program Mental health counseling- \$38,580	Supported Hsg. & Outreach	16 homeless clients
Substance Abuse Block Grant	A total of 278 homeless clients are expected to be provided with substance abuse treatment services through this source in 2005.	Services are provided at various provider facilities.	Total cost \$399,318
	Partial Outpatient \$10,766		11 homeless clients
	Partial residential services \$927		1 homeless clients
	Outpatient/intensive outpatient \$17,505		108 homeless clients
	Detox, non-hospital \$42,708		64 homeless clients
	Rehab, non-hospital \$199,254		58 homeless clients
	Halfway House \$128,158		36 homeless clients

Resources	Use of Resource for <u>Homeless</u> Persons	Specific Project Name	\$ Amount or number of units/beds provided	
Social Services Block Grant	Mental health Community Residential Rehabilitation (CRR) & respite homes	CSG & Keystone	33 homeless clients	
Welfare-to-Work	2005 Employment training	LETA	12 homeless clients	
State-Funded Programs	Dept. of Public Welfare			
	Mass shelter supplies \$5,000	DVS	34 beds	
	Dept. of Agriculture			
	Food at emergency shelter \$25,000	DVS	34 beds	
	PCADV			
	Emergency shelter \$426,851	DVS	34 beds	
	STOP			
	Legal services for DV \$39,500	DVS	34 beds	
	VOCA			
	Legal services \$129,133	DVSLC		
	Emergency shelter \$154,367	DVS	34 beds	
	FEMA	2004-2005		
		Emergency shelter \$53,000	Crispus Attucks Center	20 beds
Rental assistance \$106,328		Community Action Program		
Transitional shelter \$13,500		Hope House	8 beds	
Transitional shelter \$6,300		Mount Joy Assistance		
City/County Funded Programs				
	Lancaster County Act 137 – Housing Trust Fund			
	Permanent Supportive Hsg. \$ 125,000	Fordney Road	15 beds	
	Human Service Development Fund			
	2004-2005			
	Outreach & Case Management \$72,020	Community Action Program		
	Emergency Shelter \$20,000	Crispus Attucks Center	20 beds	

Resources	Use of Resource for <u>Homeless</u> Persons	Specific Project Name	\$ Amount or number of units/beds provided
	Housing counseling \$15,500	Supported Hsg. & Outreach	75 households
Private	United Way - 2004-2005		
	Emergency shelter \$13,718	Crispus Attucks Center	20 beds
	Emergency shelter \$50,323	Domestic Violence Services	34 beds
	Transitional shelter \$32,960	Clare House	21 beds
	Transitional shelter \$30,978	Hope House	8 beds
	Transitional shelter \$95,790	YWCA Kepler Hall	34 rooms
	Transitional shelter \$19,786	Bridge Housing	10 units
Foundations			
	Lancaster Co. Community Foundation		
	DV emergency shelter \$25,000	Domestic Violence Services	34 beds
	Transitional shelter \$10,000	House of His Creation	6 beds
	Soup kitchen \$ 3,000	St. James Episcopal	
	Oxford Foundation		
	Emergency shelter \$25,000	DVS	34
	Radio Shack		
	Emergency shelter \$500	DVS	34 beds
	Oblenders		
	Emergency shelter \$100	DVS	34 beds
	B & L		
	Emergency shelter \$2,000	DVS	34 beds
	Rite Aid Foundation		
	Operations \$2,500	Jubilee House	10 units
Churches			
	Emergency shelter \$6,465	DVS	34 beds
	Transitional housing \$35,574	Bridge of Hope	15 households
Private Contributions			
	Emergency shelter \$116,836	DVS	34 beds
	Transitional housing \$206,482	Bridge of Hope	15 households
	Transitional housing \$10,000	Jubilee House	10 units
	Housing counseling \$37,000	Shelter to Independent Living	75 households

Homelessness

The *Continuum of Care Plan for the Homeless in Lancaster* established four (4) major goals for addressing homelessness:

1. Increase prevention efforts to reduce the number of individuals and families entering the homeless service system.
2. Increase access to mainstream and community resources.
3. Increase transitional housing options.
4. Increase access to and movement into permanent housing.

The County of Lancaster is utilizing the County ESG allocation primarily for the operation of existing emergency and transitional shelters. Few funding opportunities allow for the operational costs of existing shelters. Three of the projects funded through 2005 ESG funds are for case management and housing and budget counseling services for homeless persons. These services will support Goal #2 and Goal #4.

Substantial funds from other sources assist and support to attainment of the four (4) major non-chronic homelessness goals. Additional details can be found in the *Continuum of Care Plan for the Homeless in Lancaster*.

Chronic Homelessness

The number of sheltered chronically homeless in the Lancaster Community is approximately 202 individuals. In addition, it is estimated that another 25 chronically homeless households are unsheltered throughout the community in any given month. To meet the needs of this chronically homeless population, the Lancaster Interagency Council on the Homeless has drafted a strategy to end Chronic Homelessness.

The strategy is three fold. The first facet of the strategy is the information gathering and planning strategy, conducted through two primary methods. First, with the upgrade of the HMIS system, the continuum has created a more sophisticated and systematically unduplicated count of the homeless, and now has a better tracking system to identify the chronically homeless and better understand the demographics connected to this sub-group. Second, to develop a long-term comprehensive strategy to end chronic homelessness, the Community Needs Committee, in partnership with the United Way of Lancaster, conducted an in-depth study of homelessness in Lancaster County. The report compared national data and research on the homeless to specifically collected local data. This report will detail a plan for the community to systematically address both

ends of the homelessness continuum: from prevention to the creation of affordable supportive housing.

The second facet is the prevention and outreach strategy. The Interagency Council for the Homeless has established a goal to increase prevention and outreach services to stabilize the chronically homeless. This will be achieved by improving the tracking system through the HMIS database to better identify persons who are chronically homeless. By tracking chronically homeless persons and better identifying that population, the continuum will be able to constantly monitor strategies that are effective at reducing the frequency and the duration of a person's homelessness. The Interagency Council for the Homeless will then use this data to continue identifying resources in the community to address gaps in services.

The third facet is the permanent housing strategy. This strategy has two primary objectives; first, the Interagency Council for the Homeless will utilize all available resources to create more affordable permanent housing with supportive services. Second, the ICH will continue to advocate to existing affordable housing entities to designate or set aside a portion of their units for persons experiencing chronic homelessness.

The primary barrier in eliminating chronic homelessness by 2012 is the overwhelming lack of sufficient affordable permanent housing units, permanent supportive housing units and other resources needed to end chronic homelessness and general homelessness in the community. The Interagency Council for the Homeless is in the process of implementing a plan to initiate talks with affordable housing developers to begin to address the lack of affordable housing in the community.

Homeless Prevention

Lancaster County provides several services and resources to help prevent homelessness. The organizations providing prevention services comprise Lancaster's effort to "close the front door" to homelessness. These organizations work closely together to ensure coordination of services which range from those meeting emergency needs (food, rental assistance, etc.) to specific programs that advocate for families facing homelessness by preventing evictions through budget counseling, landlord advocacy and forbearance agreements, mediation and intervention. The primary efforts include:

- Rent and utility assistance programs
- Mentoring, Housing Assistance and Supportive Services

- Legal Representation
- Housing Counseling, and Education
- Budget and Life Skills Counseling
- Food, Clothing and Furniture
- Homeowner Programs
- Outreach and advocacy
- Mental Health Services

In an effort to help people to avoid the homeless system, planned efforts include:

- Continued work on discharge planning with the local prison and local hospitals to reduce the number of people leaving these facilities and arriving on the doorstep of the emergency shelters.
- Additional and expanded educational efforts are planned to increase the knowledge of tenants' rights and responsibilities to reduce homelessness due to improper evictions.
- The plan developed by the Community Needs Committee will be used to reevaluate the gaps in prevention services to provide clear direction for development of programs to address these gaps.
- An additional 75 "at risk" households will receive case management services through Tabor Community Service's Rental Counseling to Prevent Homelessness Program.
- Bridge of Hope will provide housing assistance and supportive services through the faith-based mentoring program to an additional 5 "at risk" or "doubled up" single parent households.

Discharge Coordination Policy

The Interagency Council for the Homeless works closely with publicly-funded agencies to develop discharge plans to ensure prevention of discharges which immediately result in the individual becoming homeless. The strategy to implement this planning process includes representatives of those organizations as active members of the ongoing ICH planning meetings, as well as holding annual meetings with each individual organization to review strategies for discharge planning.

The discharge plan with the State Mental Hospitals and local psychiatric units includes their having access to four respite beds in the community that provide transitional housing, case management and support for a 30-day period. This 30-day respite allows the housing first programs in the local Continuum of Care to work with the individual to obtain permanent housing and benefits. There is also a hospital diversion program, which offers a 6-bed program for patients leaving the psychiatric hospital or for individuals who do not meet the criteria for inpatient services but need more intensive

care than what the community system can offer. Once in the diversion program, social workers develop a comprehensive plan of care that includes housing and support services to ensure that individuals do not enter the homeless system or need further inpatient care.

The ICH began working with the local Lancaster County Prison to review the discharge requirements for the local prison versus the State Penitentiary. Local limitations on discharge planning for many of the county prisoners are due to their short term incarceration, many while waiting for bail to be posted. In essence, once bail is posted or charges are dropped, the prisoner cannot be legally detained even if a discharge plan is lacking. In spite of these limitations, workable and effective discharge efforts have been developed. For prisoners with mental illness, trained social workers, funded by the Lancaster County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Program, develop discharge plans to ensure these individuals can assimilate back in the community into permanent housing options. In addition, the Special Offenders Program, an arm of the Probation and Parole system, works intensively with identified individuals to ensure that they remain in treatment and are housed in the community. The newest development in the Lancaster Community is the implementation of a faith-based organization, Transition to Community, which works with the local prison system to help prisoners reintegrate into the community and has developed special housing options upon discharge. The collaborative work with the local prison system has developed a better rapport and network for future efforts on discharge planning. There are no State prisons within Lancaster County.

An effective discharge policy is implemented through the Lancaster County Children & Youth Agency to prevent youth exiting the foster care system from entering the homeless system. Due to the discharge policy, there are few sheltered youth in the homeless network; those that are identified are not in the foster care system. In addition to the discharge policy, regular meetings are held with representatives of the Youth Intervention Center (Juvenile Incarceration) in coordination with the Children & Youth Agency to continue to revisit the policy and address any issues for youth leaving the facility to prevent their discharge into Lancaster's shelter system.

The ICH continues to work with local substance abuse treatment programs to prevent the discharge of clients into Lancaster's homeless system. While most treatment programs have their own discharge policies, progress has been made in utilizing the housing first programs to move homeless persons in treatment directly to permanent housing upon release. Efforts are underway to develop a coordinated discharge policy among the treatment providers.

Please refer to the Homeless Needs Tables in Section 9. Additional information on homelessness in Lancaster County can be found in the *Continuum of Care Plan for the Homeless in Lancaster 2004*. This document can be viewed on the Lancaster County Redevelopment Authority's website at www.lchra.com.