

# Ending Family Homelessness: A Focus on the Entire Family

United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

April 23, 2018





# Statutory Authority and Mission

USICH is charged with:

- **Coordinating the federal response** to homelessness
- **Creating a national partnership at every level of government and with the private sector** to reduce and end homelessness in the nation
- **Maximizing the effectiveness of the federal government** in contributing to the end of homelessness



# Coordinating the Federal Response

- The Council
- Council Policy Group
- Interagency Working Groups
- Performance measurement and accountability





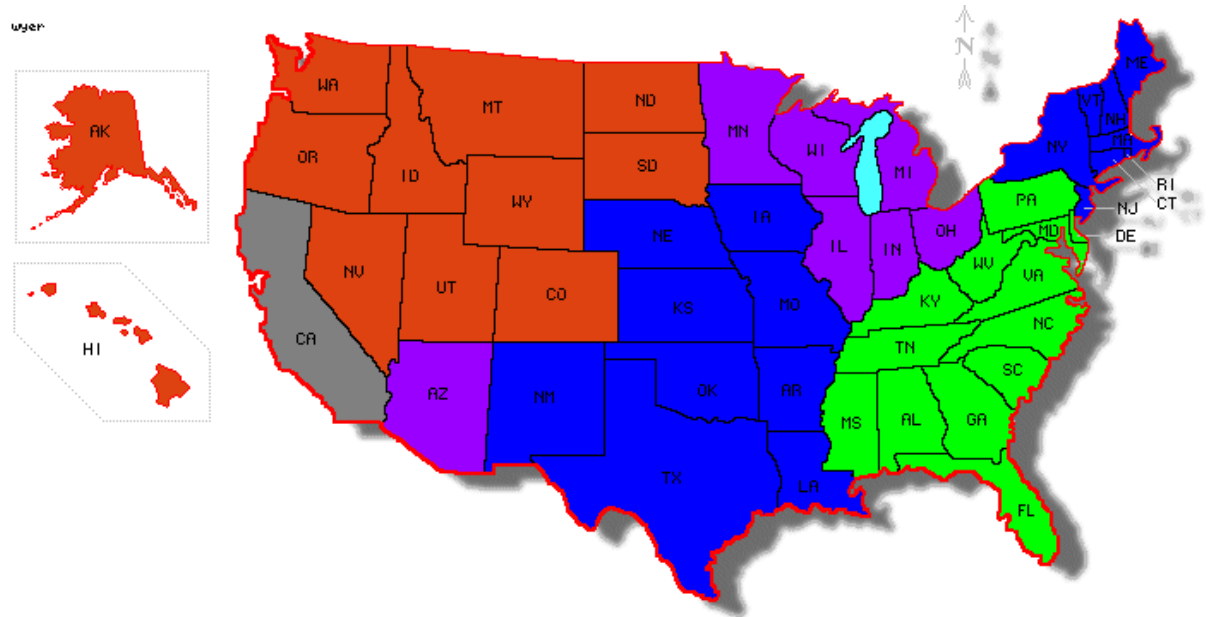
# USICH Roles and Activities

- **DC-Based Policy Team** – Coordinating strategies across federal agencies
- **Field-based National Initiatives Team** – Driving progress in communities
- **Communications Activities** – Providing tools and resources to strengthen practices



# Our Regional Expertise

**National Initiatives Team**  
5 regionally based staff  
with expertise in state  
and local  
implementation



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# Areas of Focus in 2018/2019

- Increasing the **range and supply** of **affordable housing** options
- Continuing to strengthen our **data collection and analysis**
- Continuing to **innovate** around and **expand** the range of housing and services interventions necessary
- Enhancing connections to support economic self-sufficiency, including **stronger partnerships** with employment services and **education**
- Strengthening our ability to **respond rapidly**
- Enhancing **partnerships** at all levels of government
- Building a **lasting response** that will sustain our success

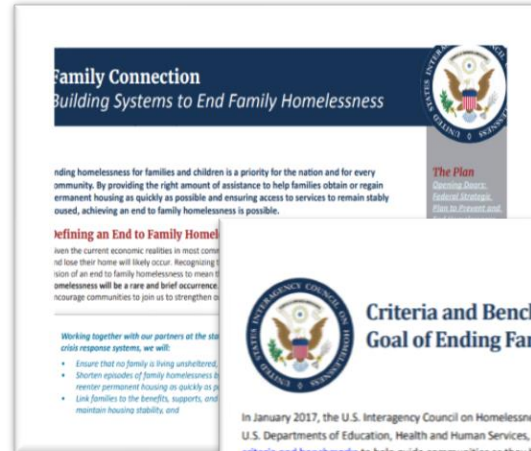
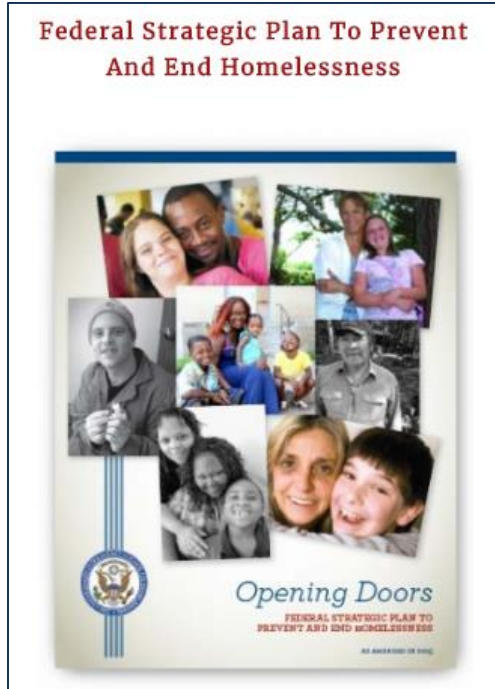


# The Work Underway (A Snapshot)

- Revising the Federal Strategic Plan
- Prevention and Diversion
- Employment
- Strengthening Implementation of Interventions
- Piloting Criteria and Benchmarks
- Regional Interagency Strategy



# Ending Homelessness Among Families with Children



Version 2, July 2017



## Criteria and Benchmarks for Achieving the Goal of Ending Family Homelessness

In January 2017, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) and our member agencies—including the U.S. Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and Housing and Urban Development—released [criteria and benchmarks](#) to help guide communities as they bring together many different programs and systems to build a [coordinated community response](#) to ending homelessness among families with children. They reflect the understanding that housing, health care, and family service providers—among many others—must work together to meet the unique needs of diverse families.

These criteria and benchmarks have been updated to reflect input from external stakeholders on the original release and to ensure clearer communication of the expectations and intentions behind some of the elements. The updates primarily focus on:

- Refining indicators 1 through 4 under Benchmark A to streamline and more clearly articulate expectations around the identification of families experiencing homelessness, access to emergency shelter, and connections to services for families identified as experiencing homelessness who are doubled up.
- Adding indicators 5 and 6 under Benchmark A, which reflect considerations highlighted in the initial version of the criteria and benchmarks released in January 2017. We will be working with a select number of communities to pilot the benchmarks over the coming months. As part of that pilotline, for example, we





# Interagency Actions Driving Progress: Families with Children

- Driving the end of family homelessness in communities
- Deepening partnerships with domestic violence service providers
- Strengthening solutions and lifting up best practices
- Strengthening education outcomes for young children



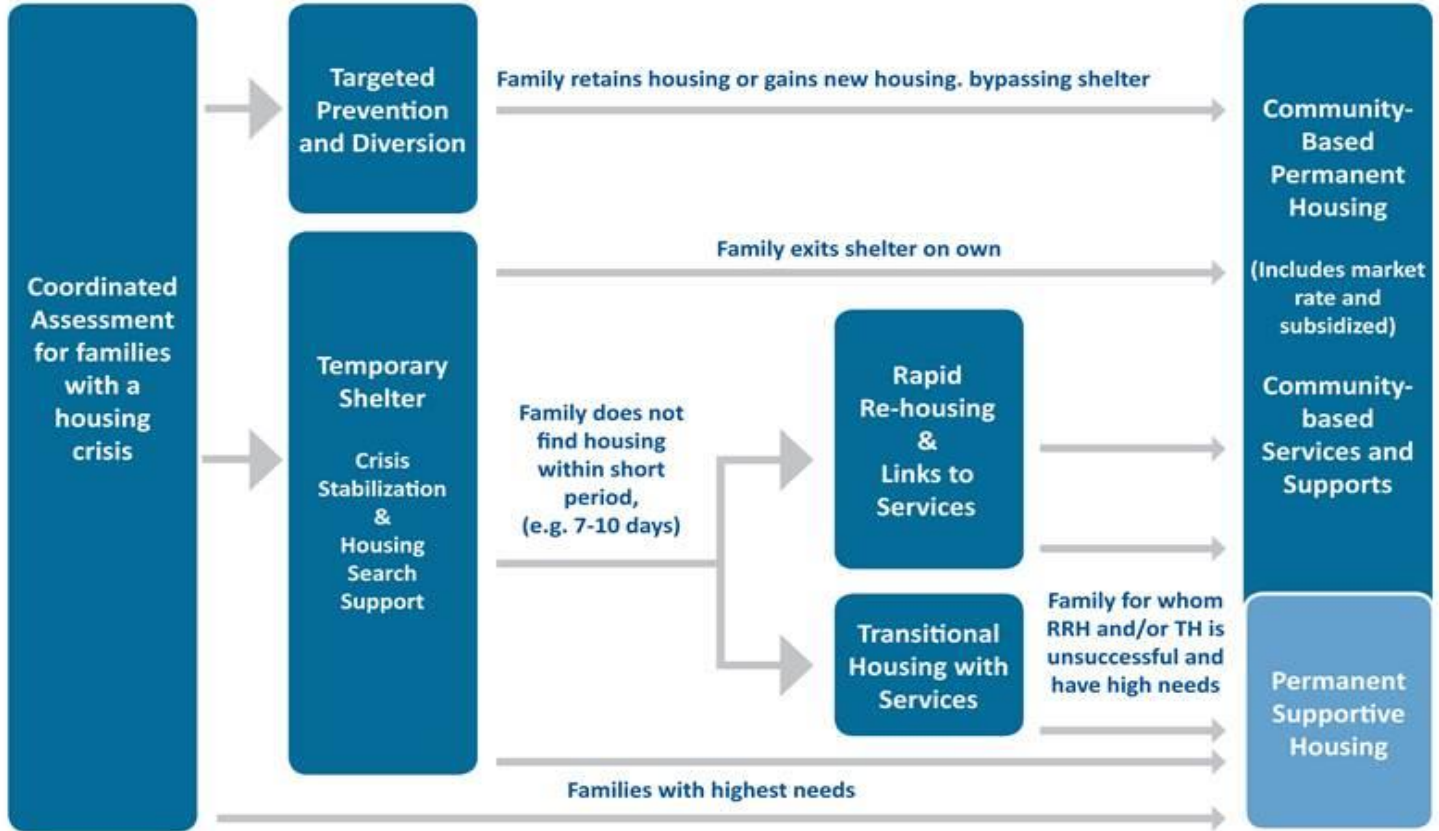
# National Trends

- Data: PIT and EHCY
- Key Strategies
- Effective Interventions
- Promising Practices



# State and Local Efforts

- Building a coordinated community response
- Understanding what the system looks like now
- Right-sizing the scale and scope of interventions
- Testing and innovation
- Assessing capacity and outcomes (on-going)





# Achieving the Goal of Ending Family Homelessness

## Criteria

- Identify all families experiencing homelessness
- Prevention and diversion strategies; immediate access to low-barrier shelter
- Coordinated entry processes
- Act with urgency
- Continue to prevent and quickly end future experiences of homelessness

## Benchmarks

- Few families experiencing homelessness at any given time
- Swiftly connected to permanent or non-time-limited housing options



# What Does CT's Current Response Look Like?

February 2017

- What does our data tell us?
- Have we right-sized our response?
- Are we creating opportunities for sustained exits?



## Assessing Whether Your Community Has Achieved the Goal of Ending Family Homelessness

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), and its member agencies, have adopted [specific criteria and benchmarks for ending homelessness among families with children](#) in order to guide communities as they take action to achieve the goal through a [coordinated community response](#).

The following questions can help you begin to assess your community's progress. Our interagency review team will also ask for documentation that addresses these questions, if you choose to seek federal confirmation of your community's achievements. The questions proposed below reflect our best thinking at this time. We are continuing to solicit stakeholder input and assess available data to support recommendations for proposed indicators under the current benchmarks and will similarly refine these questions as necessary moving forward. Revised guidance, including definitions for key terms used throughout these resources, will be posted to the [Family Criteria and Benchmarks webpage](#) on the USICH website.

Please consult with one of your local federal representatives for guidance prior to submitting your responses.

Your [HUD Field Office or Regional Office](#)

Your [HHS Regional Office](#)

Your [USICH Regional Coordinator](#)



# Moving Forward...



# Adding to Your Toolbox

- [Family Connection](#)
- [Criteria and Benchmarks for Achieving the Goal of Ending Family Homelessness](#)
- [Joint Policy Guidance on Meeting Needs of Families With Young Children](#)
- [Improving Outcomes for Children](#)
- [Early Childhood Homelessness](#)
- [Self-Assessment Tool for Early Childhood Programs](#)
- [ACF Early Childhood Services and Resources](#)
- [CE: Building Mutual Engagement Between Schools and CoCs](#)
- [Childrens Bureau IM on Child Welfare Response](#)





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The screenshot shows the Twitter profile page for USICHgov. At the top, there are navigation links for Home, Moments, Notifications, and Messages, along with a search bar and a "Tweet" button. The profile header features the USICHgov logo on the left and a large blue banner with the text: "We know how to END HOMELESSNESS in this country. Together, we can make it happen." Below the banner, the profile statistics are displayed: 8,388 Tweets, 449 Following, 11K Followers, and 2,025 Likes. A "Following" button is visible on the right. The main content area shows a tweet from USICHgov dated Feb 22, which reads: "Starting in just over an hour (3pm Eastern): @HUDgov's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program: What to Expect and Strategies for Success. Register here: bit.ly/2DmYvC".

Home Moments Notifications Messages Search Twitter Tweet

We know how to  
**END HOMELESSNESS**  
in this country.  
Together, we can make it happen.

**USICHgov**  
@USICHgov Follows you  
The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness coordinates the Federal government response to homelessness.

Tweets 8,388 Following 449 Followers 11K Likes 2,025 Following

Tweets Tweets & replies Media

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