

HOMELESS

Specific Homeless Prevention Elements

*Please also refer to the Homeless Needs Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. Sources of Funds—Identify the private and public resources that the jurisdiction expects to receive during the next year to address homeless needs and to prevent homelessness. These include the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act programs, other special federal, state and local and private funds targeted to homeless individuals and families with children, especially the chronically homeless, the HUD formula programs, and any publicly-owned land or property. Please describe, briefly, the jurisdiction's plan for the investment and use of funds directed toward homelessness.
2. Homelessness—In a narrative, describe how the action plan will address the specific objectives of the Strategic Plan and, ultimately, the priority needs identified. Please also identify potential obstacles to completing these action steps.
3. Chronic homelessness—The jurisdiction must describe the specific planned action steps it will take over the next year aimed at eliminating chronic homelessness by 2012. Again, please identify barriers to achieving this.
4. Homelessness Prevention—The jurisdiction must describe its planned action steps over the next year to address the individual and families with children at imminent risk of becoming homeless.
5. Discharge Coordination Policy—Explain planned activities to implement a cohesive, community-wide Discharge Coordination Policy, and how, in the coming year, the community will move toward such a policy.

Program Year 3 Action Plan Special Needs response:

Sources of Funds

In addition to receiving ESG funds on an entitlement basis, the City Community Development Division works closely with the East Tennessee Coalition for the Homeless to secure McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act programs for local homeless service providers. The City coordinates the application process for the Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance. Funds received through this process goes directly to the grantee agency.

Funding available through the Action Plan will be used to address the priority need of persons who are homeless or chronically homeless as follows:

Assistance to the Homeless - \$77,622 in CDBG, and \$44,000 in HOUSE funds will supplement the City's \$83,225 ESG allocation to provide assistance to the homeless. Homeless services providers that will provide services or make shelter improvements with this funding include the CAC Homeward Bound Program, Catholic Charities for Columbus Home Children's Emergency Shelter, Child and Family Tennessee for the Family Crisis Center, Helen Ross McNabb for its Youth Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program, Legal Aid of East Tennessee Homeless Assistance Program, Volunteer Ministry Center Day Shelter, and the YWCA Transitional Shelter Residence Program. In addition, the HOUSE

program income funds will pay for rental assistance through Helen Ross McNabb Center's Housing First Program and CDBG funds will support the University of Tennessee Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). These activities will meet the specific objective of Decent Housing through Availability/Accessibility. See Table 3 A, Summary of Specific Annual Objectives, DH1.6 for detail on page 8.

Homelessness and Chronic Homelessness

During the 2005 fiscal year, the City was a partner in completing the *Knoxville-Knox County Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness*. During the upcoming fiscal year, the City will pursue the strategies identified in this Plan. These strategies are:

1. Move People into Housing First
2. Stop Discharging People into Homelessness
3. Increase Coordination and Effectiveness of Service
4. Increase Economic Opportunities
5. Implement New Data Collection Methods
6. Develop Permanent Solutions
7. Strengthen Partnerships with Faith-Based Organizations
8. Recognize Homelessness as a Community Challenge
9. Prevent Homelessness

The complete *Knoxville-Knox County Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness* is available at <http://www.cityofknoxville.org/development/homeless10yrplan.pdf> . Specific activities that will be undertaken include: participating in the East Tennessee Coalition for the Homeless, coordinating the application process for Continuum of Care funding, and providing ESG funding and technical assistance for agencies providing services to homeless persons. The City will also provide CDBG funding for the Knoxville HMIS database, a Helen Ross McNabb Center Youth homelessness prevention program, a homeless assistance program provided by Legal Aid, the Columbus Home youth emergency shelter, and an exterior improvements project at Knox Area Rescue Ministries which will respond to issues raised by the Fifth and Broadway neighborhood task force.

In addition, HOME funds will be provided to support a new, permanent housing program for the chronically homeless. Finally the City will continue to provide previously allocated CDBG funding and technical assistance to the Volunteer Ministry Center for the renovation of the Fifth Avenue Motel for use as a 60 unit permanent supportive housing facility for homeless persons. This project was budgeted and initiated in the 2005 fiscal year and is expected to be completed in late 2007.

Homeless Prevention

To help prevent homelessness, the Annual Plan includes funding to Helen Ross McNabb to provide services for youth aging out of foster care/state custody who are at risk of becoming homeless.

Discharge Coordination Policy

One of the strategies of the *Knoxville-Knox County Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness* is to "Stop Discharging Into Homelessness." The implementation plan to carry out this strategy, responsible party, desired outcomes and time frame are laid out below:

Action Step 2: Stop Discharging Into Homelessness	Responsible Person/Org	Desired Outcome	Time Frame
Seek agreement from institutions to stop discharging persons to the street.	HSD, Ten-Year Plan Advisory Board, hospitals, mental health hospitals, and state agencies	An agreement is in place and observed by all applicable agencies to assure that institutional discharge does not result in homelessness.	First two years of plan implementation
Develop a systematic discharge procedure whereby persons to be discharged from a hospital, jail or foster care are linked to appropriate community services before discharge.	HSD, Ten-Year Plan Advisory Board, hospitals, mental health facilities, state agencies, East Tennessee Coalition for the Homeless, corrections and foster care agencies	Discharge planning and implementation includes linkage to community services as necessary to help clients maintain housing.	First two years of plan implementation, with ongoing assessment and modification as needed
Connect individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless to permanent housing and a case manager prior to discharge.	Case Management Coordinator (CMC), discharging institutions, community mental health centers, and state agencies	Discharge planning and implementation includes identification of and placement in appropriate housing, coupled with case management as necessary to help clients maintain housing.	First two years of plan implementation, with ongoing assessment and modification as needed
Advocate for a state plan concerning institutional discharge.	HSD, Ten-Year Plan Advisory Board, and State Interagency Council on Homelessness	The State of Tennessee develops and fully implements a practical discharge planning policy for all applicable	Immediately and ongoing, as the State Interagency Council on Homelessness develops Tennessee's Ten-Year Plan

Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG)

(States only) Describe the process for awarding grants to State recipients, and a description of how the allocation will be made available to units of local government.

Program Year 3 Action Plan ESG response: