

**Big Bend Continuum of Care  
Homeless Assistance Plan FY15-16 (v.6.3.16)**

**Homeless Definition:** HUD defines homelessness as being in one of four categories: 1) Literally Homeless, 2) Imminent Risk of Homelessness, 3) Homeless under other Federal Statutes, and 4) Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence. These categories are more fully defined at the end of this document.

**Data Driven Plan:** The Homeless Assistance Plan is updated and refined quarterly through a data driven approach the using client data collected through the Homeless Management Information System and other needs assessment tools.

	<b>Veteran Homelessness</b>	<b>Chronic Homelessness</b>	<b>Family, Youth, &amp; Child Homelessness</b>	<b>All Other Types of Homelessness</b>
	<p><i>Obj. 1 – House 160 homeless veterans, with a goal of reaching functional zero of literally homeless veterans by December 31, 2015</i></p> <p><i>Obj. 2 – At least 90% of veterans with homelessness prevention financial assistance will remain in permanent housing for at least 6 months following assistance</i></p> <p><i>Obj. 3 – At least 85% of the veterans receiving rapid re-housing assistance will remain in permanent housing for at least 6 months following assistance</i></p>	<p><i>Obj. 1 – By December 31, 2016, reach functional zero of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness by housing an average of 6 chronically homeless individuals each month</i></p> <p><i>Obj. 2 – Increase referrals of chronically homeless clients to permanent supportive housing services to 80% by December 31, 2016</i></p> <p><i>Obj. 3 – Reduce referral time for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness so that individuals will be referred to permanent supportive housing services within 10 days of entering the system</i></p>	<p><i>Obj. 1 – Reduce the average length of time that a families is homeless to no more than 60 days by December 31, 2016</i></p> <p><i>Obj. 2 – Work to ensure at least 85% of the families receiving rapid re-housing assistance remain in permanent housing for at least 6 months following receipt of last rental payment or case management assistance</i></p> <p><i>Obj. 3 – Ensure that at least 95% of youth entering foster care or the juvenile system have stable permanent housing within 60 days of exit</i></p> <p><i>Obj. 4 - Work to identify runaway, homeless, and street youth, to reduce the average length of time that a youth spends on the street to no more than 60 days.</i></p>	<p><i>Obj. 1 – Establish prevention assistance programs targeted to serve the elderly designed to keep these individuals in permanent housing</i></p>

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<b><i>Emergency Shelter</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Increase resources available for emergency shelter case management needed to increase referrals and placements in permanent housing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Increase resources available for emergency shelter case management needed to increase referrals and placements in permanent housing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Assess the need for additional shelter capacity in neighboring counties for families fleeing domestic violence</li> <li>b. Increase resources available for emergency shelter case management needed to increase referrals and placements in permanent housing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Increase resources available for emergency shelter case management and assistance needed to increase referrals and placements in permanent housing</li> <li>b. Assess the need for additional shelter capacity</li> </ul>
<b><i>Employment &amp; Income Support Services</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Continue to expand veteran involvement with the HELPS and other employment programs/efforts</li> <li>b. Refer appropriate Veterans to the SOAR initiative to help improve system access to maximize for veterans trying to secure/restore SSI/SSDI benefits</li> <li>c. Work with CareerSource Capital Region and the VET program to assist all veterans seeking employment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Increase access to SOAR initiative to help improve system access to maximize for individuals trying to secure/restore SSI/SSDI benefits</li> <li>b. Assess job readiness and provide employability training support services (including financial literacy supports) to help individuals access employment programs/efforts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Continue to expand participant involvement with the HELPS employment program</li> <li>b. Refer appropriate households members to the SOAR initiative to help improve system access to maximize for individuals trying to secure/restore SSI/SSDI benefits</li> <li>c. Explore the development of a vocational training program for youth experiencing homelessness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Increase access to SOAR initiative to help improve system access to maximize for individuals trying to secure/restore SSI/SSDI benefits</li> <li>b. Continue to expand involvement with the HELPS and other employment programs/efforts</li> </ul>

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<b><i>Prevention/Emergency Assistance</i></b>	a. Increase resources available for emergency assistance and homeless prevention through collaborative partnership among agencies	a. Increase resources available for emergency assistance (food, clothing, shelter, etc.) through collaborative partnership among agencies	a. Increase resources available for emergency assistance and homeless prevention for families, youth, and children	a. Increase resources available for emergency assistance and homeless prevention through collaborative partnership among agencies
<b><i>Transportation Assistance</i></b>	a. Continue to collaborate with public transportation services to ensure homeless services programs can receive vouchers/discounted rates for clients who are homeless b. Increase transportation services options for veterans accessing homeless services	a. Continue to collaborate with public transportation services to ensure homeless services programs can receive vouchers/discounted rates for clients who are homeless b. Increase transportation services options for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness accessing services	a. Continue to collaborate with public transportation services to ensure homeless services programs can receive vouchers/discounted rates for clients who are homeless b. Increase transportation services options for families, youth, & children accessing homeless services	a. Continue to collaborate with public transportation services to ensure homeless services programs can receive vouchers/discounted rates for clients who are homeless b. Increase transportation services options for individuals accessing homeless services

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<b><i>Healthcare</i></b>	<p>a. Assess how to access Medicaid/VA Healthcare benefits can be used for case management services among veterans</p>	<p>a. Assess how to access Medicaid benefits can be used for case management services among individuals experiencing chronic homelessness</p> <p>b. The Comprehensive Emergency Services Center will provide coordinated provision of medical services for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness</p> <p>c. Assess and provide behavioral healthcare supports and substance abuse treatment services for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness</p>	<p>a. Assess how to access Medicaid benefits can be used for case management services among families experiencing homelessness</p> <p>b. Work to improve access of families and youth without insurance to ongoing behavioral health services</p> <p>c. The Comprehensive Emergency Services Center will provide coordinated provision of medical services for families and children experiencing homelessness</p>	
<b><i>Intake, Assessment, &amp; Referrals</i></b>		<p>a. Collaborate with agencies serving those who are chronically homeless so that the agencies are fully utilizing the Coordinated Entry System in HMIS, which will connect clients with appropriate services</p>	<p>a. Collaborate with agencies serving families, youth, &amp; children who are experiencing homelessness so that agencies are fully utilizing the Coordinated Entry System in HMIS, which will connect clients with appropriate services</p>	<p>a. Collaborate with agencies serving individuals experiencing homelessness so that agencies are fully utilizing the Coordinated Entry System in HMIS, which will connect clients with appropriate services</p>

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<b><i>Permanent Supportive Housing</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Our CoC's SSVF programs will work with the VA and the Tallahassee Housing Authority to house veterans in HUD VASH units</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Maximize HUD funding for PSH dollars to reinvest in the community</li> <li>b. Utilize our CoC's PSH programs to house chronically homeless as approved by the CoC's Zero:2016 initiative</li> <li>c. Utilize a multidisciplinary approach to working with housing providers to ensure that individuals with difficult backgrounds have fair access to housing</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Maximize HUD funding for PSH dollars to reinvest in the community</li> <li>b. Work with elder housing programs to refer homeless individuals to those programs</li> <li>c. Explore funding from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation for elder housing for homeless individuals</li> <li>d. Utilize a multidisciplinary approach to working with housing providers to ensure that individuals with difficult backgrounds have fair access to housing</li> </ul>

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<b><i>Childcare</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If needed, connect these individuals to various childcare opportunities through set-aside vouchers</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Refer homeless households needing childcare to the Early Learning Coalition for vouchers</li> <li>b. Establish through collaborative partnerships the development of a childcare facility that provides targeted services for families with children experiencing homelessness</li> </ul>	
<b><i>Rapid Re-housing</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Our CoC's SSVF programs will dedicate at least 60% of their Temporary Financial Assistance to Rapid Rehousing</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Build capacity through increased rapid re-housing funds by working with the city and state to allocate a greater portion of funding to rapid rehousing</li> <li>b. Encourage neighboring counties to launch rapid rehousing and homelessness prevention programs</li> </ul>	

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<i>Rental Housing</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Explore the option of securing, rehabilitating/repurposing former student apartment developments to meet needs of housing the chronically homeless by the end of 2016</li> <li>b. Tap available housing assistance programs to support creation of more low-cost reserved rental units for individuals and families experiencing homelessness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Explore the option of securing, rehabilitating/repurposing former student apartment developments to meet needs of housing extremely low income (ELI) families by the end of 2016</li> <li>b. Tap available housing assistance programs at the local government and state government to support creation of more low-cost rental units and/or rental assistance</li> <li>c. Work with the Tallahassee Housing Authority to access more affordable housing vouchers and prioritize homeless households</li> <li>d. Establish partnerships with existing SAIL apartment management agencies to refer and place specific population clients that meet unit set aside requirements</li> </ul>	

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<i>Outreach</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Increase involvement and placement into permanent housing of individuals identified who are currently residing in primitive camps</li> <li>b. Continue to explore the development of a legal campground</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Street Outreach to homeless camps, youth hotspots, local schools, and the streets to identify runaway, homeless, and street youth, ages 11-21.</li> <li>b. Provide services and goods to meet basic needs for to run away, homeless, and street youth and connect to service providers for youth to exit the streets into stable housing</li> <li>c. Provide basic needs and assistance to homeless youth to increase youth's personal safety, well-being, and self-sufficiency; and provide positive adult connections.</li> </ul>	



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<i>Education of Homeless Youth</i>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Identify “doubled up” families through school system liaisons to connect with existing services in the community</li> <li>b. Engage school system liaisons with the Coordinated Entry System and utilize referral system to minimize the time experiencing homeless among families with school aged children</li> <li>c. Provide education and prevention services to homeless, runaway, and street youth to reduce the exploitation of youth.</li> </ul>	
<i>Ownership Housing</i>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Tap state and local incentive programs to qualify low income households for home purchases</li> <li>b. Evaluate the potential for alternative, low-cost, smaller sized housing to be created for home ownership</li> </ul>	