

**Big Bend Continuum of Care  
Homeless Assistance Plan FY15-16**

**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>
<b>Emergency Shelter</b>	<p>a. Increase resources available for emergency shelter case management needed to increase referrals and placements in permanent housing</p>	<p>a. Increase resources available for emergency shelter case management needed to increase referrals and placements in permanent housing</p>	<p>a. Assess the need for additional shelter capacity in neighboring counties for families fleeing domestic violence</p> <p>b. Increase resources available for emergency shelter case management needed to increase referrals and placements in permanent housing</p>	<p>a. Increase resources available for emergency shelter case management and assistance needed to increase referrals and placements in permanent housing</p> <p>b. Assess the need for additional shelter capacity</p>
<b>Employment &amp; Income Support Services</b>	<p>a. Continue to expand veteran involvement with the HELPS and other employment programs/efforts</p> <p>b. Refer appropriate Veterans to the SOAR initiative to help improve system access to maximize for veterans trying to secure/restore SSI/SSDI benefits</p> <p>c. Work with CareerSource Capital Region and the VET program to assist all veterans seeking employment</p>	<p>a. Increase access to SOAR initiative to help improve system access to maximize for individuals trying to secure/restore SSI/SSDI benefits</p> <p>b. Assess job readiness and provide employability training support services (including financial literacy supports) to help individuals access employment programs/efforts</p>	<p>a. Continue to expand participant involvement with the HELPS employment program</p> <p>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</p> <p>c. Explore the development of a vocational training program for youth experiencing homelessness</p>	<p>a. Increase access to SOAR initiative to help improve system access to maximize for individuals trying to secure/restore SSI/SSDI benefits</p> <p>b. Continue to expand involvement with the HELPS and other employment programs/efforts</p>
<b>Prevention/Emergency Assistance</b>	<p>a. Increase resources available for emergency assistance and homeless prevention through collaborative partnership among agencies</p>	<p>a. Increase resources available for emergency assistance (food, clothing, shelter, etc.) through collaborative partnership among agencies</p>	<p>a. Increase resources available for emergency assistance and homeless prevention for families, youth, and children</p>	<p>a. Increase resources available for emergency assistance and homeless prevention through collaborative partnership among agencies</p>
<b>Transportation Assistance</b>	<p>a. Continue to collaborate with public transportation services to ensure homeless services programs can receive vouchers/discounted rates for clients who are homeless</p> <p>b. Increase transportation services options for veterans accessing homeless services</p>	<p>a. Continue to collaborate with public transportation services to ensure homeless services programs can receive vouchers/discounted rates for clients who are homeless</p> <p>b. Increase transportation services options for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness accessing services</p>	<p>a. Continue to collaborate with public transportation services to ensure homeless services programs can receive vouchers/discounted rates for clients who are homeless</p> <p>b. Increase transportation services options for families, youth, &amp; children accessing homeless services</p>	<p>a. Continue to collaborate with public transportation services to ensure homeless services programs can receive vouchers/discounted rates for clients who are homeless</p> <p>b. Increase transportation services options for individuals accessing homeless services</p>

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<b>Healthcare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Assess how to access Medicaid/VA Healthcare benefits can be used for case management services among veterans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Assess how to access Medicaid benefits can be used for case management services among individuals experiencing chronic homelessness</li> <li>b. The Comprehensive Emergency Services Center will provide coordinated provision of medical services for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness</li> <li>c. Assess and provide behavioral healthcare supports and substance abuse treatment services for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Assess how to access Medicaid benefits can be used for case management services among families experiencing homelessness</li> <li>b. Work to improve access of families and youth without insurance to ongoing behavioral health services</li> <li>c. The Comprehensive Emergency Services Center will provide coordinated provision of medical services for families and children experiencing homelessness</li> </ul>	
<b>Intake, Assessment, &amp; Referrals</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul>
<b>Permanent Supportive Housing</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>
<b>Childcare</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>Rapid Re-housing</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>	
<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>	
<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>	