**Plan to End Homelessness in Santa Fe: Progress for 2012 to 2017**

**Making Homelessness a Temporary Experience**

**Mayor’s Blue Ribbon Panel**

**Introduction**

Mayor David Coss appointed a blue ribbon panel to develop a plan to end homelessness in Santa Fe in 2012. The 2012 panel was given the task of building on the accomplishments from Santa Fe’s first five year plan to end homelessness from 2007, and to set the direction for the next five years of working toward the goal of ending homelessness. The New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness provided the chair for the panel and organizational support.

Despite the considerable progress made in Santa Fe since 2007, homelessness is still a problem for many in Santa Fe and further work is necessary in order develop a system that is able to end homelessness for any individual or family, quickly, whenever the need arises. It is the intent of this task force to continue shifting the focus from bed nights and meals, which provide only enough support to sustain life, to person-centered care that will catalyze viable and measurable change in the lives of persons who find themselves without a home.

**Accomplishments from 2007 through 2012**

Thanks to the support of the City of Santa Fe and the hard work of many committed nonprofit agencies and their staff members and volunteers, much has been accomplished toward the goal of ending homelessness in Santa Fe since 2007:

* A permanent home for the Santa Fe Resource and Opportunity Center for homeless people has been purchased and renovated with City funds and State capital outlay funds, and a number of services have begun operating in this space including the Interfaith Community Shelter, the St. Elizabeth Shelter Resource Center, Santa Fe Community Services, Life Link, and Health Care for the homeless.
* Twenty beds of transitional housing for homeless youth have been developed by Youth Shelters. Fourteen of the beds are in buildings owned by Youth Shelters and six are in scattered site rented apartments. Funding from the State of New Mexico, the City and the federal government was used to build five apartments for ten of the beds and to renovate a house for four beds.
* The Santa Fe Community Housing Trust constructed Santa Fe’s first mixed income apartment community with apartments reserved for homeless families and individuals. The Village Sage Apartments have 60 apartments with 15 reserved for homeless households. The Housing Trust is building a second apartment community called Stage Coach Apartments which will also have 15 apartments for homeless people in a community with 60 apartments.
* Life Link was able to expand its supply of permanent supportive housing vouchers for homeless people with disabilities through the federal Shelter Plus Care Program and the state Linkages program so that Life Link now has a total of 120 rental units rented through these programs.
* An interagency case management group was established to help manage clients who need to access services from several agencies.
* St. Elizabeth Shelter developed a separate family shelter, Casa Familia, which can shelter 5 families and 16 single women.

**Vision for Santa Fe in 2017**

**How homelessness will become a temporary experience**

We envision a Santa Fe in 5 years where people who become homeless or are at risk of homelessness can quickly find the right type of help for their situation so that they can quickly obtain permanent housing with the services they need and appropriate follow-up.

**Families Experiencing Homelessness**

1. Homeless and at-risk families are stabilized in housing within 90 days.

2. Homeless and at-risk families are stabilized with rapid, comprehensive, supportive services.

**Individuals Experiencing Homelessness**

3. Chronically homeless individuals with substance abuse and or mental illness and undiagnosed individuals who demonstrate that they are at risk for chronic homelessness are identified and engaged in services that ensure access to appropriate housing within six months.

4. Individuals who are experiencing unexpected situational homelessness or are at risk for same are provided with short-term community support services and housing as well as homeless prevention services to encourage housing retention or rapid re-housing.

**Veterans Experiencing Homelessness**

5. Veterans who are homeless are identified and engaged in services that ensure access to appropriate housing within 60 days.

6. A transitional supportive housing project is made available for homeless veterans.

**Youth**

7. Santa Fe has increased transitional and independent living programs for youth as well as support services in the community for rapid stabilization.

8. Santa Fe has appropriate emergency shelter for 18-23 year olds.

**First Contact for People Experiencing Homelessness**

9. Santa Fe has a community coordinated emergency response team to identify individuals and families who are homeless or at risk, transport them to appropriate facilities, and provide access to appropriate agencies and community services.

10. The Santa Fe Resource and Opportunity Center (ROC) is expanded with extended hours; including 5 intensive case managers to assist and direct people to appropriate agencies and services, and expanded food service.

**Homeless Prevention**

11. Protect workers’ rights and prevent wage theft.

**Resources Needed in Santa Fe for the Next Five Years**

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| **Project** | **City Request** | **County Request** | **Other Partners** |
| Increase rapid re-housing short-term rental assistance for homeless individuals and families | $45,000 per year | Rental assistance funded through the Indigent fund or other funds to keep chronically homeless people out of the emergency room and out of the jail | NM Mortgage Finance Authority (MFA), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Life Link, St. Elizabeth Shelter, Christus St. Vincent Regional Medical Center |
| Increase funding for homeless prevention | $30,000 per year | $30,000 per year | MFA and HUD, Life Link |
| Increase number of supportive housing units for homeless individuals and families including chronically homeless people | Land for more mixed income apartment housing communities;  City staff person to administer shelter plus care & other assistance | Inclusion of supportive housing units in County funded affordable housing | MFA (tax credits), HUD, Federal Home Loan Bank, Santa Fe Community Housing Trust, NM Coalition to End Homelessness, housing developers |
| Increase the number of housing vouchers for homeless veterans |  | County Housing Authority apply for more VASH vouchers | Veterans Administration, HUD, Veteran Services Department |
| Develop new transitional housing for homeless veterans | Assistance obtaining an existing building able to house 6 to 8 veterans |  | Veterans Administration, HUD, St. Elizabeth Shelter, Department of Veteran Services |
| Increased number of transitional and independent living units for youth by 10 rapid re-housing units and 1 case manager to coordinate homeless youth services | $75,000 per year to fund rental assistance and services for rapid re-housing | $75,000 per year to fund rental assistance and services for rapid re-housing | State of New Mexico, MFA, Youth Shelters and Family Services, Adelante |
| Emergency Shelter for homeless youth 18-23 | Land or existing building | Land or existing building | U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Youth Shelters and Family Services |
| Emergency Response Team | Fire Department develops team with mobile van, EMT and mental health counselor | Assistance and coordination with SF County and SF County Fire Department | Santa Fe Health Care for the Homeless, all Santa Fe service providers, automobile dealers |
| Expansion of services at the Santa Fe Resource and Opportunity Center | $100,000 per year to support service providers with their intensive case management services at the ROC | $80,000 to cover basic operations of the ROC | HUD, VA, Santa Fe Community College, SNAP office, Health Care for the Homeless and all service providers at the ROC |
| Include homelessness as a preference at public housing authorities | Include homelessness as a preference at Civic Housing Authority | Include homelessness as a preference at County Housing Authority |  |
| Add second story to Santa Fe Resource and Opportunity Center for Health Care for the Homeless and others | Legislative support | Legislative support | State Capital Outlay funding, NM Coalition to End Homelessness, granting agencies, La Familia |