

Statement of Commitment

To: The Citizens of Salt Lake County

Salt Lake County believes that the effort to end chronic homelessness in ten-years and reduce overall homelessness requires coordination with partner agencies, funding sources and other service systems. The commitment to work together will result in the creation of a solid infrastructure of programs and service pathways for people who experience the ravaging effects of homelessness. In 2004, The Long Range Planning Committee of Salt Lake County (LRPC) was asked by the State of Utah to create a unified strategy to reduce the use of shelters, and provide permanent housing with supportive services for the chronically homeless. The LRPC was also asked to recommend the best options for Salt Lake County to prevent homelessness and resolve this community problem. For the last year and a half, the LRPC has been studying the homeless challenges in Salt Lake County. This plan is a result of that work and sets the direction to follow in the coming months and years.

We share the assessment of the National Alliance to End Homelessness that, “The pieces necessary to craft a solution to the problem are in place. But we must make changes in order to address the continuing flow into the homeless assistance system, and the backlog that has been created within it. If we do not turn the ship-if we stay our current course-homelessness will be with us indefinitely”¹. It is not acceptable that the problem of homelessness continues to occur; particularly when years of research demonstrate that the means and methods to end chronic homelessness are available.

Encouraged by leadership at the Federal and State level, Salt Lake County is committed to develop, implement and monitor the best practices available to fight homelessness in our community. Salt Lake County is dedicated to securing adequate funding and to foster partnerships between federal, state, local and private entities. Salt Lake County is committed to maintaining its current levels of funding for homeless programs and preserve the existing housing stock. Similarly, Salt Lake County wants to expand and create funding sources that will aid in the development of permanent supportive housing.

The solutions require all community stakeholders to work collaboratively. Working together with a commitment to significantly reduce and/or end chronic homelessness, the American dream of decent, safe, affordable housing can be realized for all of our citizens.

Darrell Smith – President, Council of Governments
Palmer Depaulis – Chair, Long Range Planning Committee
Michelle Flynn – Chair, Salt Lake County Homeless Coordinating Council Inc.



Those who are homeless for more than a year or who are homeless more than four times during the last three years are often called “chronically homeless”

Of the homeless:

- 46% are single men
- 15% are single women
- 39% are families

A variety of issues can contribute to homelessness

Some are societal

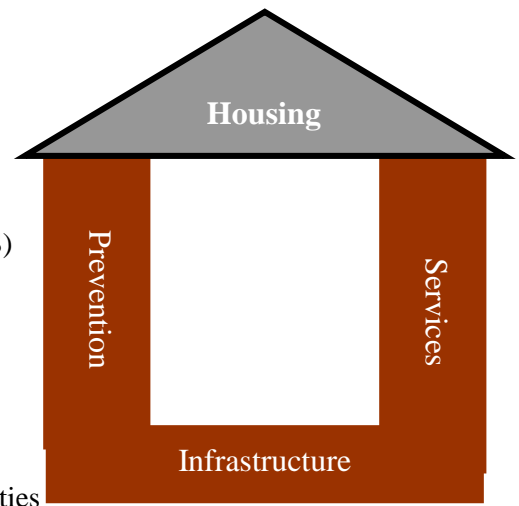
- Lack of affordable housing
- Low wages

Some are personal

- Substance abuse
- Mental Illness
- Domestic Violence
- Post traumatic

¹ Nan Roman, President of National Alliance to End Chronic Homelessness, speech to the Subcommittee on VA, HUD and independent agencies of the Committee on Appropriations U.S. House of Representatives, April 13, 2000.

COMPONENTS OF THE TEN YEAR PLAN



Infrastructure

- Implement a homeless management information system (HMIS)
- Review and update all local housing plans to address the housing needs of all residents
- Develop and secure funding resources
- Prevent homelessness

Prevention

- Develop discharge plans for persons in jail and treatment facilities
- Educate and inform those at risk of becoming homeless of available services
- Provide assistance to help people become eligible for mainstream services

Access to Mainstream Services

- Provide supportive services
- Expand homeless outreach efforts
- Increase funding for services
- Coordinate service delivery among public and private providers

Housing

- Preserve and maintain current housing stock, replace any losses
- Add 600 new units of housing targeted for the chronically homeless
- Use existing housing stock to house the homeless
- Develop a County-wide approach to fill the gaps in the housing continuum



Aspenview

Estimating Chronically Homeless

An estimated 9,000 individuals in Salt Lake County will be homeless for some period of time in 2005. A very high percentage, over 85% will be homeless for less than six months. The chronically homeless population tends to use a disproportionate share of resources. In Salt Lake County, 12% of those who were homeless six months or longer used 57% of the shelter nights at the Road Home.² It is estimated that annually there are 1,776 chronically homeless in Salt Lake County.³

² Road Home Shelter Night Usage July 1 to March 31, 2005.

³ Point in Time (PIT) count, January 2005

2006 OUTCOMES

- 48 person who are currently chronically homeless will be living in housing with appropriate support services
- Construction of 100 units of supportive housing for the chronically homeless will be underway
- Local housing plans will be updated and coordinated
- 90% of the Homeless services agencies will be using the Homeless Management Information System
- An inventory of housing units available for the chronically homeless will be created and made available to providers
- Administrative support for Salt Lake County Homeless Coordinating Council will be funded
- A Point in Time (PIT) count of the homeless will be completed
- A partnership with the Salt Lake County Housing Authority will be developed to take advantage of existing housing stock through a master lease agreement.

"We can no longer tolerate the homelessness of so many of our neighbors. Our commitment is to fulfill the promise of a home for every American." Philip Mangano, Executive Director of the Interagency Council on Homelessness.

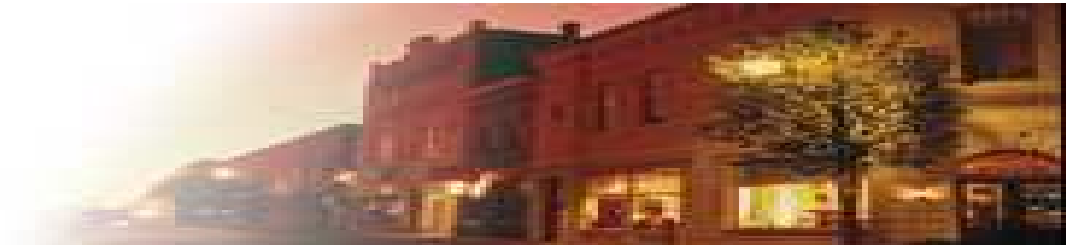


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