

Vision 2025: Strategic Plan to End Homelessness

Executive Summary

Roughly 250-300 people live on the streets, in tents and cars, emergency shelters, and transitional housing programs in Clark and Floyd Counties. Hundreds more stay with family or move from friend to friend, couch surfing to avoid ending up on the street. In 2012, Jeffersonville Mayor Mike Moore established the Jeffersonville Homelessness Task Force to look more closely at the problem of homelessness. A year later, the group asked the City of Jeffersonville to fund a community strategic planning effort.

Vision 2025 is the product of more than a year of community meetings, interviews, surveys, and informal conversations to identify strengths and needs in local human services, the homeless crisis response system,

A homeless person is one who “lacks a fixed, regular and adequate night-time residence; and ...has a primary night time residency that is (A) a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations... (B) an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or (C) a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings” (42 U.S. C. § 11302 et seq. 1994).]

housing, education, the economy, health, mental health and substance abuse treatment.

The plan reflects local concerns and knowledge of our community service system combined with research on best practices and effective models nationwide.

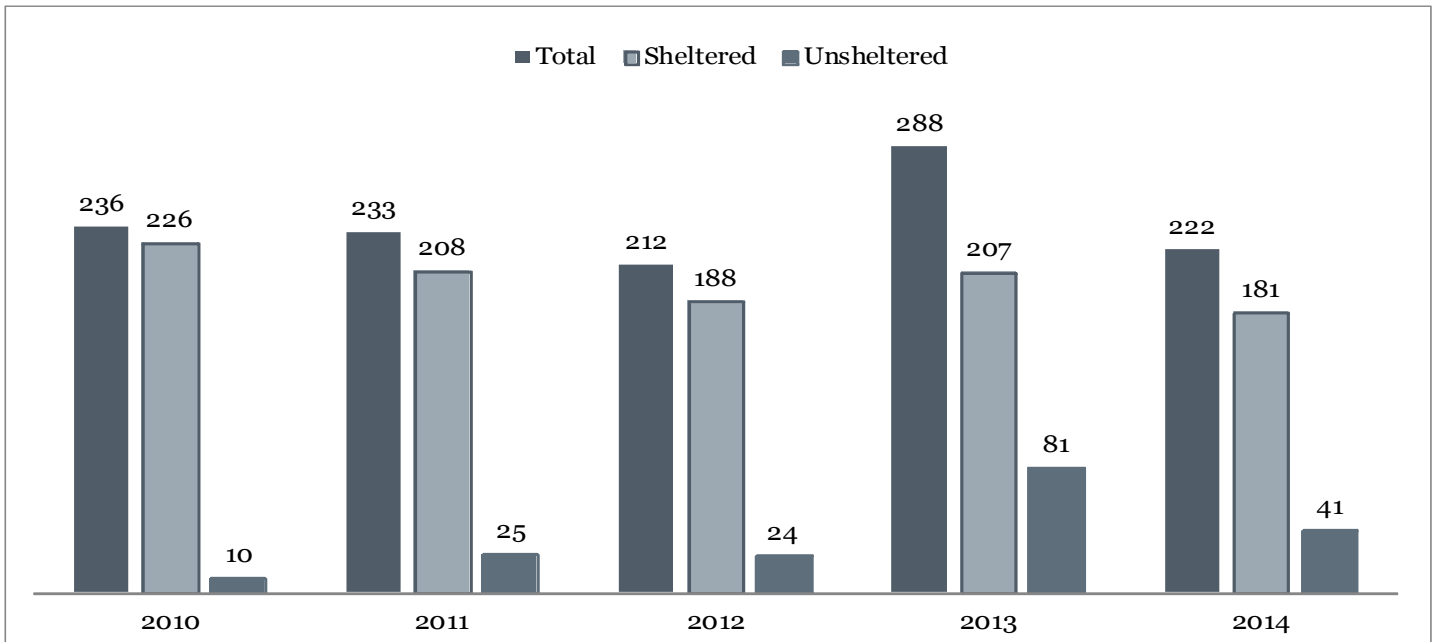
The report includes a profile of the homeless population in Clark and Floyd Counties, a discussion of the community costs of homelessness and the benefits of housing the homeless, a full description of the research and planning process, and a profile of local strengths and opportunities preceding each section of the strategic plan.

The document includes goals and objectives, as well as strategies for achieving them. Implementation of the plan will require the establishment of a new coalition organization, ongoing coordination, effective community-wide communication, and enduring commitment from local residents, government agencies, philanthropies, nonprofit organizations and the business community.

Integrate the Community Service System to More Effectively Prevent and Respond to Homelessness

Goal 1: The community service system will be well coordinated to address needs efficiently and effectively with clear connections between diverse community institutions and human services.

Figure 1: Clark and Floyd County Point-In-Time Count of the Homeless, 2010-2014



Objective 1.1: Educate, engage, and update state and local stakeholders in order to maintain focus on homelessness and support for collaborative efforts to end homelessness in Clark and Floyd Counties.

Objective 1.2: Identify who is providing which services and be sure that providers and residents have ready access to this information.

Objective 1.3: Local institutions (criminal justice, education, hospitals, mental health and substance abuse treatment facilities, foster care, and veterans' programs) will collaborate effectively with the human service system to prevent homelessness through early detection of risk and/or through facilitating supportive transitions to appropriate housing.

Objective 1.4: Create a virtually centralized intake system (soon to be required by IHCDA and HUD) that will connect the homeless crisis response system to the broader human and social service system so that (i) the homeless will be referred to needed services and (ii) the homeless crisis response system will be better able to track the number of homeless.

Goal 2: The community system that prevents and responds to homelessness will be supported by diverse funding sources to enhance our ability to provide needed services.

Objective 2.1: Utilize collaborations and the benefits of a coordinated system to seek out and attract additional public and private funding.

Objective 2.2: Build cost sharing agreements with both public and private funders in all counties served by Floyd and Clark County based organizations.

Retool the Homeless Crisis Response System

Goal 3: The service system will minimize the amount of time that individuals and families spend homeless by providing effective case management and planning for ongoing need. The network will provide quality service and will return people to appropriate stable housing.

Objective 3.1: Create a homeless coalition comprised of organizations that prevent and respond to homelessness in Clark and Floyd Counties.

Objective 3.2: The coalition for the homeless will provide a day shelter, or work in coordination with a day shelter operated by a community partner, that is a site for the virtually (digitally) centralized intake, case management, and programs that

connect the homeless to information and services needed to access stable appropriate housing.

Objective 3.3: Our community will provide emergency shelter (designed for stays up to 45 days) that is clean and safe and that allows for the maintenance of dignity and, where applicable, the integrity of the family unit.

Objective 3.4: Build and maintain a system for coordinated response to white flag night needs.

Increase Access to Stable and Affordable Housing

Goal 4: Our community service system will empower individuals and families to obtain appropriate housing and services.

Objective 4.1: Preserve and expand the number of affordable housing units (defined as rent or mortgage payment that is no more than 30 percent of monthly income).

Objective 4.2: Increase access to shelter and appropriate housing for those with health, mental health and substance abuse problems.

Objective 4.3: Increase supportive housing options for those who need some service support in order to remain housed in the community but who do not qualify for permanent supportive housing.

Increase Economic Security

Goal 5: Clark and Floyd Counties will reduce the percent of the population age 20-35 with less than a high school diploma or equivalency to six percent or less by 2025.

Objective 5.1: Prevent public school expulsion and drop outs and increase adult high school and equivalency completion rates.

Goal 6: Clark and Floyd Counties will increase access to education, training and reskilling necessary to obtain gainful employment.



Objective 6.1: As part of a uniform intake process, assess education and vocational rehabilitation needs and refer individuals to gain skills needed to obtain gainful employment.

Objective 6.2: Community service providers will provide training appropriate to existing and emerging work opportunities and will prioritize—and make services accessible to—those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Goal 7: Our local economy will produce jobs that will allow working people of varied skill levels to support themselves and will remove barriers to employment.

Objective 7.1: Prioritize investment in services that support engagement with education and work.

Objective 7.2: Remove barriers to employment for former felons and provide opportunities for former felons to establish positive work histories.

Improve Health and Stability

Goal 8: Clark and Floyd Counties will improve health and address physical and behavioral health and safety to improve stability.

Objective 8.1: Increase access to healthcare, including behavioral health and substance abuse treatment, free of charge, for those without income or insurance.

Objective 8.2: Provide medication at low or no cost to indigent and low-income patients.

Objective 8.3: Provide diverse programs to treat substance abuse and increase public education to improve response to substance abuse and behavioral health concerns in the community.

Objective 8.4: Provide targeted programming and community education in order to improve physical safety and emotional well-being of persons who have been traumatized and displaced by intimate partner/sexual violence.

Moving Forward

The Strategic Plan to End Homelessness in Clark and Floyd Counties requires ongoing coordination and commitment of the many organizations that already work hard to support community members in need.

Realizing the vision presented here will also require creative efforts to attract new funding and maintain community dedication and focus. The study and planning process indicate that existing community organizations are stretched thin. The structure of funding for the nonprofit sector and the time demands for coordination of an effective system warrant the establishment of an independent organization

grounded in the interests of the system as a whole. The planning committee and task force recommend a coalition whose mission and incentive structure is driven by the goal of effective integration and improvement in system level outcomes.

The report of findings and plan outline should be seen, not as the culmination of our community's effort, but as a beginning.

A coalition organization can effectively serve this function for Clark and Floyd Counties under the direction of representatives from key housing organizations, bridge organizations, and homeless or formerly homeless individuals who can identify and build on strengths while addressing gaps in collaboration with partner organizations.

A central element of the plan is an annual meeting to update the general public and diverse stakeholders on progress toward achieving the goals, lessons learned, revisions to pieces of the plan, and priorities for the coming year. A coalition organization can be the site for collecting and maintaining system level data and information and can organize planning and reporting efforts. The hope is that such coordination will support the continued success of existing programs and organizations and improve the efficiency of our service system in order to dramatically reduce the number of people who are homeless in Clark and Floyd Counties.

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