



2019 - 2022

STRATEGIC PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The **Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County** conducted an analysis of our local homeless crisis response system with support from **Focus Strategies**, a national consulting firm dedicated to helping communities develop and implement data-driven strategies to reduce and end homelessness.

Focus Strategies conducted nine one-on-one stakeholder interviews, four community input sessions, and a focus group with people experiencing homelessness. Additionally, Focus Strategies had numerous conversations with the Alliance Board, Planning Committee and staff.

The Plan is built on input from community stakeholders, successes of the previous three-year plan, data about our current system, and four guiding principles.

Read the full strategic plan at www.suburbancook.org/strategicplan2019

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

SYSTEMS ORIENTATION

All stakeholders, programs and organizations work in coordination.

HOUSING FIRST

System partners address people's housing needs first and foremost.

DATA DRIVEN

System investments are driven by results and maximizing resources.

CLIENT CENTERED

Individuals experiencing homelessness are at the core of the system.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION



Focus Area #1

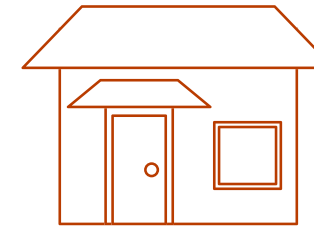
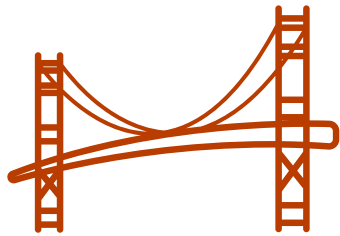
PREVENT, DIVERT, CONNECT

- Use systemwide diversion and prevention to reduce entries into homelessness
- Use street outreach and Coordinated Entry to streamline system access for highest need households

Focus Area #2

INTERIM HOUSING

- Create shelter and crisis housing options for families with children and youth age 18 - 24
- Build capacity of shelter system to support rapid exit to permanent housing



Focus Area #3

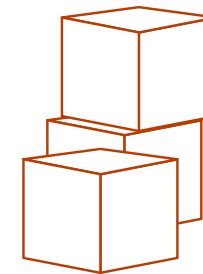
EXITS TO PERMANENT HOUSING

- Develop partnerships and collaboration to sustain housing and prevent returns to homelessness
- Expand access to RRH for all populations
- Increase PSH capacity and continue prioritizing PSH for chronically homeless people
- Expand access to housing rental market for people experiencing homelessness

Focus Area #4

SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE

- Build Continuum of Care capacity for systems change
- Develop Continuum of Care advocacy efforts
- Build Continuum of Care data collection and analysis capacity



MEASURING SUCCESS (2019 - 2022)

↑ 20%

entries from literal homelessness to TH and RRH

↑ 10%

entries from literal homelessness to ES and PSH

↑ 6%

rate of exit to permanent housing

↑ 5%

income increased for program participants

↓ 27%

in chronic homelessness and Veteran homelessness

↓ 14%

first time experiencing homelessness

↓ 13%

return to homelessness

↓ 14%

average time experiencing homelessness

PAST SUCCESSES (2014 - 2017)

37% decrease in overall homelessness

38% increase in Permanent Supportive Housing beds

50% decrease in Veteran homelessness

157% increase in Rapid Re-Housing units

300+ chronically homeless individuals housed

Developed partnerships to improve access to healthcare for people experiencing homelessness.

STATE OF HOMELESSNESS (2018)

873 individuals experiencing literal homelessness

131 individuals experiencing chronic homelessness

50 Veterans experiencing homelessness

62%

Emergency Shelter

25%

Transitional Housing and Safe Haven

13%

Unsheltered

PROJECTED HOUSING NEED

522 RRH UNITS

- 246 for families
- 213 for individuals
- 63 for youth 18 - 24

248 PSH UNITS

- 3 for families
- 233 for individuals
- 12 for youth 18 - 24

We would like to acknowledge the dedication of time, resources, and expertise of the many individuals and organizations who contributed to the development of this plan.

