



# *Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness*

*...to educate and mobilize our community and coordinate services to prevent and reduce homelessness in the Capital Region*

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**Home Run: The Capital Area's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in the  
County of Dauphin and the City of Harrisburg**  
Blueprint Implementation Team Activity Report to  
County of Dauphin Commissioners, City of Harrisburg Mayor Eric Papenfuse and  
Harrisburg City Council  
January 2016

*Report on Activities January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015*

The Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness (CACH) has been charged by the County of Dauphin and the City of Harrisburg's elected officials with coordinating the plan's implementation. CACH has undertaken its oversight role with vigor, and it has successfully implemented many of the recommendations and approaches to ending homelessness found in **Home Run**. The Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness (CACH) is a voluntary collaborative effort of more than 40 organizations working to address homelessness in the City of Harrisburg and the County of Dauphin involving faith based organizations, local and state governments, foundations, non-profit organizations, and businesses. This past year the City of Harrisburg and County of Dauphin made significant strides in developing the infrastructure and services to address chronic homelessness. The following is a compilation of the activities that have been undertaken to achieve the six major strategic elements contained in **Home Run**.

**Continuum of Care Grant:** CACH prepares the Continuum of Care Grant proposal for the City of Harrisburg and County of Dauphin application to US Department of Housing and Urban Development. Our community submitted a grant application for \$1,757,348 on November 19, 2015 to support seventeen different programs assisting individuals and families to overcome homelessness.

This year, HUD did not open the Continuum of Care (CoC) application process until 18 September 2015 – with a due date of 20 November 2015. Long before September, CACH already had its Project Homeless Connect scheduled for November 20<sup>th</sup>. So, with barely 60 days to complete the CoC application – and deliver Project Homeless Connect – you can imagine how hard we had to work to keep both endeavors on track and successful.

This year's HUD CoC application totaled \$1,757,348. A decision on the grant application is expected in spring 2016. The application consists of individual projects/activities/programs, by individual agencies – with whom HUD contracts directly. (CACH is not a pass-through of HUD CoC funds).

Each year, HUD limits the total dollar amount available to each Continuum of Care across the country. This means that since about 2005, our community has been able to add very few new projects. On top of that, the last two years have seen HUD change its award process which effectually reduces CoC funding, forcing a cut to renewal programs and a slim chance of new program applications being funded. So this year, we will be pleased to have as many renewal program applications approved as possible, and it will be a happy bonus if our one New Project is awarded.

HUD has issued specific guidelines with which we must “rank” all of the programs. The seventeen programs in priority ranking are:

**Renewal - Permanent Housing Programs:**

1. YWCA of Greater Harrisburg 2015: Safe Haven Permanent Supportive Housing \$130,171.00,
2. YWCA of Greater Harrisburg 2015: YW-Veterans Housing \$67,262.00,
3. Housing Authority of the County of Dauphin: Dauphin Co 2008 Shelter + Care Expansion Renewal \$33,012.00,
4. YWCA of Greater Harrisburg 2015: YWCA PHD Renewal \$110,643.00,
5. Brethren Housing Association Renewal: Side By Side 2015 \$67,094.00,
6. Shalom House: SHARP \$90,161.00,
7. Housing Authority of the County of Dauphin: Dauphin Co. Housing Authority Shelter + Care Renewal \$218,889.00,

**Renewal – Safe Haven:**

8. Christian Churches United: Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven \$317,210.00,

**Renewal - Homeless Information Management System (HMIS) – Required by HUD for all CoC-funded Programs:**

9. Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness: HMIS Renewal \$48,705.00,

**Renewal - Transitional Housing Programs:**

10. Gaudenzia – Delta: DELTA Transitional Housing \$85,668.00,
11. YWCA of Greater Harrisburg 2015: YWCA Transitional Housing Renewal \$171,096.00,
12. YWCA of Greater Harrisburg 2015: Linda House Renewal \$50,000.00,
13. Gaudenzia – Delta: DELTA Community Transitional Apartments \$31,648.00,

**Renewal – Supportive Services Programs:**

14. YWCA of Greater Harrisburg 2015: YW-WORKS Singles Renewal \$98,032.00,

15. YWCA of Greater Harrisburg 2015: YW-WORKS Parents Renewal \$48,040.00,

**New – Permanent Housing Program:**

16. YWCA of Greater Harrisburg 2015: YWCA Permanent Supportive Housing Bonus Project \$140,833.00,

**New – Planning Grant** – HUD assigns the dollar amount and will award if funds are available

17. Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness Planning Grant \$48,884.00.

The Continuum of Care grants required a local match from other private or governmental sources. The competitive Continuum of Care grants represent the largest federal commitment to addressing homelessness in the City of Harrisburg and County of Dauphin. Since 2000 (excluding 2015's application), the Continuum of Care grants have brought more than \$16,000,000 to our community. In addition, more than \$13,000,000 has been committed in cash matching and leverage funds to support services to the homeless individuals and families through the grant.

Details on the grant submission and individual programs are available by contacting Tim Whelan at 717-732-0700 extension 4053.

- **Project Homeless Connect:** Through the efforts of the Service Delivery Committee, CACH held its sixth Project Homeless Connect (PHC) on November 20, 2015 at the Farm Show. The project is designed to bring all of the resources needed to assist unsheltered, chronically homeless individuals together in a single location. The format was modeled on other successful programs conducted around the United States. By having all of the service providers in a single location, it improves access to resources, and it aids problem-solving between community organizations in addressing barriers to providing services. The Project served 344 guests plus 31 children seeking various forms of assistance; with a total equaling 375 people. Three unaccompanied youth attended PHC. In addition, many other individuals obtained support and made connections with service providers that will work with them in addressing barriers to obtaining permanent housing. There were more than 82 hours of case management services following the event as of December 31, 2015. The Project was supported by more than 460 volunteers and had 72 different service providers and agencies available to offer assistance. The Project used a new format this year that concentrated services on unsheltered individuals and those persons living in emergency shelters. This approach led to improved service accessibility for the most vulnerable members of our community. The effort was fully funded by more than \$25,500 in private donations. More information on Project Homeless Connect can be obtained from Deborah Ritchey at 717-255-6587.

- **Drop-in Center Expanded Outreach Services Available:** Key to helping unsheltered and chronically individuals achieve permanent housing are active and comprehensive outreach services. Currently, outreach services are provided by Bethesda Mission, Downtown Daily Bread, the two safe havens, Isaiah 61 Ministries, and other charitable programs. One element that was missing from our community's outreach services was a "drop-in center". This service opened in October 2015 and is available at Downtown Daily Bread (Pine Street Presbyterian Church, Boyd Center) in the afternoons daily (Monday to Friday). The drop-in center provides a safe place for homeless individuals to gather and where outreach services are provided in a caring manner.
  
- **New Affordable Housing Units:** A critical strategy component for preventing homelessness is adding new affordable housing units. With assistance from local developers and financing from the Pennsylvania Housing Financing Agency, new housing units are being added to our housing stock. A total of 112 new affordable housing units were funded in 2015 in Dauphin County. These new units include:

  - Union House Apartments, Lykens*
    - ✓ 28 units of affordable housing
    - ✓ 4 units designed for individuals needing accessible features
    - ✓ 3 units with rents at 20% of area median income
  - Sunflower Fields, Susquehanna Township*
    - ✓ 34 units of affordable housing
    - ✓ 4 units designed for individuals needing accessible features
    - ✓ 2 units with rents at 20% of the area median income
    - ✓ 5 units set aside for CACH as Local Lead Agency, to refer individuals with mental illness and/or co-occurring substance use disorders
    - ✓ 18 units subsidized (including accessible and supportive units) with project-based vouchers from Dauphin County Housing Authority
  - Mulberry Apartments, Harrisburg City*
    - ✓ 50 units of affordable housing
    - ✓ 6 units designed for individuals needing accessible features
    - ✓ 5 units with rents at 20% of area median income
  
- **Point In Time Survey 2015:** The on-going efforts to address homelessness in the Capital Region are growing, remain strong and are active. Yet, there continues to be a need for additional affordable housing and services to support homeless individuals and families in the region. The 2015 Point in Time survey tracked all participants through the use of anonymous identifiers enabling an unduplicated count of homeless census participants at multiple locations. There were 16 unsheltered. At temporary facilities: 199 were in emergency shelter; 166 in transitional housing; and 21 in safe havens. A total of 402 persons, 268 adults and 134 children, were unsheltered or at known temporary housing programs. The census also counted 183 formerly homeless individuals and children who are now in permanent housing homeless programs. 47 are classified as near homeless, i.e. not unsheltered or at a temporary housing program. The full Point

In Time Survey Report and a Five-Year Analysis of Point In Time Reports is available by contacting Tim Whelan at 717-732-0700 extension 4053.

- **HMIS:** CACH continued coordination of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) with ongoing support for operation of the system. The network has been fully implemented and using the Bowman Service Point since June 2013. The system is a cornerstone for gathering updated information on the homeless situation. All U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) mandated service providers are participating in the HMIS system. CACH provides ongoing technical support for existing and new users in addition to refresher trainings. There are eight (8) agencies using the system for 29 different programs. Work began to add to Bowman the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services program titled, Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH), in early 2016. CACH will again submit to HUD the Annual Homeless Analysis Report (AHAR) in 2015. It was able to base this report on the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). The Bethesda Mission does not participate in CACH's HMIS, so that the AHAR did not include their services provision. Discussions are taking place to address this absence of a major provider to the HMIS work. The AHAR is submitted to Congress and provides an annual "snapshot" of homelessness in Dauphin County. CACH earns a point in its standing with HUD by submitting the AHAR. This report states that between October 2014 and September 2015 there were 497 families and 194 individuals homeless in Dauphin County. This is a reduction in homelessness since our last report. In addition to these accomplishments by CACH, for the first time our network agencies submitted to HUD Annual Performance Reports (APR) based on HMIS. These agencies earn points in their standing with HUD by this accomplishment. Through the financial support of the City of Harrisburg and the County of Dauphin, CACH is able to provide these services without a cost to our network agencies.
- **Website Revised and Updated:** To help facilitate access to needed housing and support services for homeless individuals and families, CACH developed and maintains a vigorous website. The website address is: [www.cachpa.org](http://www.cachpa.org). The website includes information on how to access services, service availability, contact information and background about homelessness in the region. In addition, thanks to support from a Shippensburg University MSW student field placement, CACH has developed its social media presence with the introduction of Facebook, Twitter and a blog accounts.
- **Community Conversations Committee:** This effort facilitates partnership and collaboration with focus in the faith community, with leadership support from Christian Churches United (HELP), Partnership for Hope, Heart of Harrisburg Church, The (Martin Luther) King Center, Penbrook Church of God and others, continue to develop unifying strategies (among churches and then with the community at large) and action steps that can help churches in their role of serving community (independently and collectively), establishing (or re-

establishing) local churches as foundational, credible, reliable resources for anyone in need, being the cornerstone of "neighborhoods" as they are already positioned to be.

Out of this overarching effort of the faith community connecting in a unifying way with a common vision, work has been started to address the need for day care services, expand aftercare mentoring services for persons transitioning from shelter or transitional housing, launching a non-denominational, cooperative gardening project to effect a "farm to table" opportunity for shelters which in turn can yield instruction on nutrition, cooking and resource management. For 2016, a priority objective of building upon the foundation of partnership and unified vision among the faith partners is underway.

- **Changing Conditions Threaten Progress:** The efforts to implement the recommendations contained in *Home Run* need to be vigorous and sustained. Progress is being made in addressing chronic homelessness, but current economic conditions are causing more people to lose their housing. In addition, there have been reductions in financial support from governmental and charitable sources to address homelessness. These reductions are impacting needed services by reducing assistance available for prevention services and reducing the number of case managers available. Further, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development keeps placing additional burdens on local communities for addressing homelessness without providing funding assistance.

### *Background*

***Home Run: The Capital Area's 10-Year Plan to End Homeless in the County of Dauphin and the City of Harrisburg (Home Run)*** is the culmination of an eight month planning effort by providers of homeless services, emergency service providers, regional, state and local government leaders, affordable housing providers and developers, community leaders, and homeless people themselves.

***Home Run*** is a long-range, comprehensive plan to help our citizens who are homeless establish healthy and stable lives in permanent housing. Concurrently, it is a long-range plan to prevent families and individuals from becoming homeless. Its recommendations are evidence-based, and draw from the best practices of innovative programs and initiatives throughout the country.

***Home Run*** is intended to end long-term or chronic homelessness in our community by incorporating evidence-based practices in the continuum of care. A growing body of research demonstrates that members of this group are poorly served by traditional efforts which results in a disproportionate share of emergency services and resources being dedicated to them. In Dauphin County and the City of Harrisburg, an estimated 83 people who are chronically homeless in 2015 use services that cost our community over \$1,568,700 each year. Due to the change in community services and housing first

approach, progress is being made and the number of chronically homeless has dropped from 172 persons reported in the 2007 Point In Time Survey.

***Home Run*** originally was adopted in the fall of 2006 by the County of Dauphin and the City of Harrisburg as the comprehensive approach to ending homelessness. The plan was presented to and accepted by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness on January 17, 2007. The plan was updated in April 2012 following a series of community engagement meetings. Plans are underway to update and revise *Home Run* throughout 2016.

The multi-year effort has demonstrated continued progress in implementing the plan. Yet, much more remains to be accomplished. These activities have laid the foundation for a successful effort to eliminate chronic homelessness from our community. The Blueprint Implementation Team welcomes additional members willing to actively work on addressing homelessness.

Questions about this report should be directed to Tim Whelan, Chair, Blueprint Implementation Team, at 717-732-0700 extension 4053 or [twhelan@uwcr.org](mailto:twhelan@uwcr.org).

The Blueprint Implementation Team members are:

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Source: 2015 Point In Time Survey, CACH

Based on a recent cost analysis in similar sized jurisdiction, where the conservative average cost for chronic homeless population was \$18,900 per person, per year.