



HOMELESSNESS TASK FORCE STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 2023

*The crisis of homelessness during the pandemic resulted in a coming together of stakeholders comprised of housing providers, service providers, government, philanthropic, and faith-based community organizations to form the Springfield/Clark County Homelessness Task Force. The task force was charged with **assessing local capacity** and **producing a set of strategic goals** to strengthen our community's response to homelessness.*

Executive Summary

I. Coordinated Entry

Coordinated entry is a process developed to ensure all people experiencing a housing crisis have fair and equal access and are quickly identified, assessed for, referred, and connected to housing and assistance based on their strengths and needs. Those experiencing homelessness often have challenging circumstances which may include mental and physical health, alcohol and substance abuse, domestic violence, and employment among other things.

Objective One: Increase Coordinated Entry Capacity

STRATEGY	DATE	RESPONSIBLE PARTY
1) Identify funding for a full-time position dedicated to the functions of coordinated entry which includes intake, referral, and data collection.	3/2024	Funders Forum
2) Hire Coordinated Entry Position.	7/2024	COS/County
3) Add second Access Point for Coordinated Entry.	6/2024	Region 15 BoS CoC Executive Committee
4) Hire consultant to design, implement, and evaluate Coordinated Entry (CE) systems to develop a standardized pathway to permanent housing, create accountable governance structures, develop effective strategic plans, and monitor their implementation by concrete performance measures.	7/2024	COS/County
6) Utilize COHHIO for technical assistance training.	3/24	Region 15 BoS Coc

II. Housing Inventory and Gaps Analysis

a. Affordable Rental Units: Based on income, Very Low-Income households need 3,432 affordable rental units to avoid housing cost burden. With an inventory of 1,909 affordable units, **there is a gap of 1,523 affordable rental units.**

Objective Two: Increase Affordable Rental Housing (for households earning less than 80% of annual median income) Inventory by at least 40-60 Units Annually.

STRATEGY	DATE	RESPONSIBLE PARTY
1) Create (and update) inventory map of suitable sites for multi-unit housing projects.	6/2024	Land Bank/COS
2) Continue to increase staff capacity by participating in low-income housing tax credit and bond financing training.	Ongoing	COS/County
3) Identify developer/s to submit at least one LIHTC or Bond multi-family annually in the annual OHFA grant competition.	6/2024	COS
4) Set aside grant dollars to fund at least one multi-family affordable rental project.	Annually	COS
5) Obtain written certification of neighborhood support prior to bringing zoning or multifamily projects before City/County Commissions. *(Note that the City of Springfield has implemented a requirement of two neighborhood meetings hosted by the developer prior to beginning the zoning certification process.)	Ongoing	Developer
6) SMHA to move forward with portfolio analysis for RAD conversion planning.	2024	SMHA
7) SMHA to continue outreach to distribute Housing Choice Vouchers.	2024	SMHA

b. Affordable Homeownership: According to the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies (The State of Poverty in Ohio) 17.7% or 3,201 homeowners in Clark County were cost burdened.

Objective Three: Increase Inventory of Affordable (for homeowners earning no more than 120% annual median income) Homeownership Units.

STRATEGY	DATE	RESPONSIBLE PARTY
1) Utilize bank financing for the appraised value of development costs to increase the number of homeowner units built.	Ongoing	COS/County
2) Research affordable housing alternatives (i.e., manufactured/modular) to lessen housing construction cost.	6/2024	COS/County
3) Increase collaboration among housing resources including: OIC, NHP, Habitat for Humanity, 1159, SCCTC, faith-based organizations, etc.	6/2024	COS/County
4) Establish target area for housing rehabilitation and new construction to maximize collaboration (Strategy 8 above) and neighborhood impact.	7/2024	COS/Land Bank
5) When market conditions are favorable, negotiate 5-10% affordable housing set asides with for profit developers in exchange for extended tax abatements, zoning variances, down payment assistance, etc..	6/2024	COS/County

III. Emergency Shelter: There are 207 beds/47 units in inventory and a current gap of 80 beds/35 units. (Housing Inventory and Gaps analysis report).

Objective Four: Develop Permanent Emergency Shelter Campus with Supportive Services

STRATEGY	DATE	RESPONSIBLE PARTY
1) Issue RFP for consultant to evaluate Villager or alternate site for emergency shelter campus (site suitability, special populations, funding, service providers etc.).	6/2024	COS
2) Issue RFP for emergency shelter campus development partner.	12/2024	COS
3) Develop partnerships/MOUs with health care/service providers for onsite provision of services.	6/2025	Developer

IV. There is a current gap of 206 beds for permanent supportive housing.

Objective Five: Develop Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Campus

STRATEGY	DATE	RESPONSIBLE PARTY
1) Identify suitable PSH site that can score competitively with funders.	9/2024	COS/Developer
2) Finalize need and identify available funding for special populations (i.e., sex offenders).	12/24	COS
3) Determine unit type and set asides (individuals, families, and special populations).	12/24	COS
4) Issue RFP/s for PSH site development planning.	3/25	COS

V. Landlords: The lack of available rental inventory has created a high demand, allowing landlords to command increasingly high rents. There is little incentive for landlords to work with programs that have caps on rents.

Objective Six: Increase the number of landlords participating in subsidized housing programs.

STRATEGY	DATE	RESPONSIBLE PARTY
Develop a roster of landlords for outreach using Rental Registry Program, SMHA, OIC Rental Assistance Program, and Shelter Providers.	7/2024	COS
Conduct bi-annual collaborative outreach effort to recruit landlords for participation in housing programs.	9/2024	SMHA/COS

VI. Data: To adequately address housing and service needs, collect data from schools, service providers, shelter providers, faith-based institutions, SMHA, VA, etc.

Objective 7: Obtain Accurate Data for Homeless Counts, Housing Inventory and Gaps, Trends in Eviction and Foreclosure, and Special Populations.

STRATEGY	DATE	RESPONSIBLE PARTY
1) Develop research relationship (i.e., COHHIO, Corporation for Supportive Housing, colleges, and universities, etc.) to develop methodology for data collection.	12/2024	COS
2) Identify responsible party for annual data collections and updates.	6/2024	COS

VII. Resources: State and federal grant sources for housing development are limited. Local funders will play an important role in addressing homelessness in planning and administrative capacity.

Objective Eight: Leverage Additional Resources for Administration and Planning

STRATEGY	DATE	RESPONSIBLE PARTY
1) Compile a list of local funders (i.e., United Way, Springfield Foundation, Turner Foundation, Community Health Foundation, Della Selsor Trust, Crabill Foundation, Wilson Sheehan Foundation, Nehemiah Foundation, etc.).	12/23	Funders Forum
2) Develop a budget and present a request to fund planning, Coordinated Entry study, data collection, coordinated entry staff position, etc.	6/24	COS/Funders Forum

* Calculations for the housing gaps analysis utilized US Census data, HUD data (analyzed by the City of Springfield Community Development Division), HMIS data, and interviews with service providers.