

MEMORANDUM

April 23, 2015

TO: Planning, Housing, and Economic Development Committee
Health and Human Services Committee

FROM: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst 

SUBJECT: **FY16 Operating Budget: Housing Initiative Fund and Housing First**

Housing Initiative Fund (HIF)

County Executive Recommendation for the FY16 HIF Appropriation

A multi-year table of HIF funding prepared by Council staff is attached at © 1 and the FY16-21 Fiscal Plan display for the HIF included in the Executive's FY16 Operating Budget is attached at © 1A-1B.

- For FY16, the Executive's Budget recommends \$43,974,751 as the "Total Investment in Affordable Housing." This includes both funding appropriated to the operating and capital parts of the HIF (a non-tax supported fund).
- The total resources shown as funding this program is \$51,460,271 with the following components:

Beginning balance (FY15 rollover)	\$ 7,241,980
Transfer from the General Fund	18,572,277
Other non-CIP revenues	14,196,554
New CIP proceeds	12,265,000
CIP carryover, including repayments	2,460,000
<u>Less end of year balance</u>	<u>-3,275,540</u>
TOTAL	\$ 51,460,271
Less debt services and indirect costs	(7,485,520)
TOTAL available for investments	\$43,974,751

- The overall funding for the HIF is increased by \$368,090 from the FY15 Approved. As is the case in many areas of the Executive’s FY16 Recommended Budget, the budget maintains the current level of annual investment.
- **The transfer from the General Fund is \$18,572,277. This is the same amount as FY15 and is assumed across the 6-year plan. If the General Fund Transfer were equal to 2.5% of the actual property taxes paid in FY14, the transfer would be \$27,727,025 (actual property taxes paid were \$1,109,081,029). This would be an increase of \$9,154,748 over the amount recommended by the County Executive.**

Public Hearing Testimony

As part of the public hearing testimony, the Council was asked to do several things regarding the HIF.

- Work to support funding to develop 1,000 new affordable housing units a year.
- Dedicate 2.5% of property tax revenue to the HIF.
- Re-align the funds so that 80% of the HIF can be used for the development of affordable housing.
- Grow the HIF to an annual allocation of \$70 million while continuing to fund Housing First, the 100,000 Homes campaign, and Rental Assistance Program.
- Do not reduce funding available for the Affordable Housing Initiative line from the FY15 level.

With the exception of recommendations later in this memo for additional funds for the Zero:2016 campaign (Veteran homelessness) and Rapid Re-Housing for families, Council staff is recommending approval of the Executive’s recommendation for the Housing Initiative Fund. While it is critical that the County continue to find ways to increase the number of affordable housing units, Council staff urges caution about any one goal or benchmark as an adequate amount of investment or number of units preserved or constructed. Council staff offers the following for the joint Committees’ ongoing consideration.

- The number of new affordable units produced will vary significantly from year to year depending on both the level of private development (the source of MPDUs) and other opportunities that may be available to the County (such as redevelopment of White Flint Fire Station or joint development with the new Silver Spring library or Progress Place). The FY16 Recommended Budget includes the following for produced and preserved units.

	Actual FY13	Actual FY14	Estimated FY15	Target FY16
Units Preserved	1,663	2,544	2,594	2,710
Units Produced	1,627	1,180	892	762

The budget says that FY14-17 increases in preservation are due to increases in MHI rental assistance

- The number of units preserved or produced could be impacted depending on the incomes being targeted and the funding available. A higher amount of funding from the County was invested in the Bonifant (Silver Spring Library) to ensure some units would be affordable to very low income seniors (30% to 50% of area median income). More units could be produced for the same amount of County subsidy if units were affordable to households at 60% to 70% of area median income.
- Funding through the General Fund Transfer may or may not be a better source of funding than some other source, so it is not clear that the 2.5% of property tax equivalent is important. Some efforts, like permanent supportive housing, may require increased General Fund transfer but others might be achieved through other financing sources.
- Assumptions about ending and beginning fund balances can change the funding available for expenditures during the year. With regards to the \$1 million reduction in the FY16 funds available for loans and grants, reducing the assumption on the end of year balance could add funding for FY16 but would impact the amount of new funding needed in FY17.
- Initiatives to increase affordable housing production like exempting units from Impact Taxes is a substantial monetary investment. It does not show up in the HIF but may be as effective as increased funding to the HIF. Staff notes that in FY16, there will be \$12.8 million in non-HOC payment-in-lieu of taxes agreements.

Council staff makes these comments only to point out that it is more important to know that the County has the capacity to help finance appropriate projects and programs that having a specific benchmark for the amount in the HIF. If there are good opportunities that are being missed because of a lack of funds there should be a way for the Council and Executive to discuss these needs.

Expenditures for Neighborhoods to Call Home

Each year, funding is allocated for contractual services that are funded in the HIF for the Building Neighborhoods to Call Home program. These contracts recognize that services are needed to support the overall effort to increase affordable housing and support improvements in existing neighborhoods that already have affordable housing. The following services are recommended for funding in FY16. The amounts are unchanged from FY15:

Rebuilding Together	\$200,000
Long Branch Tenant Counseling (CASA)	\$250,000
Pine Ridge Center	\$146,340
TOTAL	\$596,340

Council staff recommends approval.

Housing First

Update on Housing First and the Homeless Point-in-Time Survey

Attached at © 2-11 is an update from DHHS Director Ahluwalia on the Housing First Plan. It includes information from the 2015 Point-in-Time survey (© 11).

- A total of 1,100 homeless individuals were counted on January 28, 2015. Unfortunately, this is a 23.5% increase from the 2014 count (891). It is a 9.5% increase from the 2013 count (1,004).
- Of this total, about 54% (598) are individual adults. Among individual adults the count actually decreased slightly, from 603 to 598. While it is positive that there were fewer total individual adults, the number that was unsheltered increased by over 8% (from 95 to 103).
- The total number of homeless families with children increased by over 74%. The number of families increased from 91 to 159 and the total number of people in these families increased from 288 to 502. **There are no unsheltered families with children that were identified during the Point-in-Time survey.**
- It is important to note that in terms of subpopulations, those identified as chronically homeless decreased by 10.5% and unsheltered chronically homeless by 48.4%. These are the subpopulations that have been the focus of the 100,000 Homes campaign and in Council staff's view, while the overall count numbers have grown, it does show that there can be success when resources are focused in specific ways.

In addition, the report highlights:

- For all of FY14, there were 78 households with children that were headed by a transition aged youth (age 18-24). As of February (66% of FY15), 76 of these households have been served. These households have many barriers including little or no income, no experience living independently, and limited education. DHHS is in the process of implementing a Rapid Rehousing program for this population and the joint Committee have wish to hear more from Director Ahluwalia about this effort.
- In FY14, there were 3,749 crisis intervention grants totaling \$2,922,700 with about one-half the funding from County sources. The average grant was \$779.
- The County Rental Assistance Program (RAP – shallow subsidy) is fully enrolled at 1,720 and as of February 28th there was a wait list of 2,745.
- The family shelters continue to focus on reducing barriers to permanent housing and the average stay has declined from 117 days in FY14 to 81 days so far in FY15.

FY16 Funding for Rental Assistance and Housing First Programs

The FY16 recommended budget provides for the following number of subsidies for the following County programs.

Rental Assistance Program	1,720 subsidies
Housing Initiative Program	225 subsidies
Housing Initiative Program	25 subsidies for medically vulnerable
Partnership for Permanent Housing	96 subsidies
Cordell Project	24 subsidies
100,000 Homes Medically Vulnerable	30 subsidies
Rapid Re-Housing for Families	20 subsidies

In addition, DHHS, the HIF, and State grants support the National Center for Children and Families, the Dwelling Place, and Stepping Stones. Total funding for Homeless Outreach services (to multiple organizations) is \$1,435,980 which is unchanged from FY15. The County expects to provide a match of \$1,882,017 to HUD SuperNOFA funding of \$7,537,481 to the organizations in the Continuum of Care. Funding is provided to the Housing Opportunities Commission for the Rent Supplement Program.

Two Initiatives for FY16

Zero:2016

Montgomery County's Continuum of Care is a participant in Community Solution's Zero:2016 initiative to end Veteran homelessness. A summary of the effort is attached at © 12-14. Locally, the District of Columbia, Arlington County, and Montgomery County are participants. Later, Council staff will provide a recommendation for funding to help keep the County's commitment to this effort.

Regional Coordinating Council on Homelessness

On March 17th County Executive Leggett, Prince George's County Executive Baker, and District of Columbia Mayor Bowser held a regional summit on homeless. At this summit, they committed to: (1) establish a high-level regional coordinating council on homelessness, (2) develop and implement an actionable plan to permanently end homelessness in the region, particularly chronic homelessness, and (3) and set time frames. They identified four key areas for collaboration: (1) affordable housing, (2) workforce development, (3) economic development, and (4) supportive services. The news release from this event is at ©15-18.

Council Staff Recommendations

Zero:2016

The Point-in-Time Survey found 24 people who were identified as Veterans. As the joint Committee is aware, this is a number on a specific day and not all people who may be a Veteran are identified. In addition, Veteran homelessness includes people who are not in stable housing, for example staying temporarily with friends, but would not be counted in the Point-in-Time effort. That said, the 24 identified in the count is a relatively small number and Council staff believes that with resources Montgomery County can meet its goal.

The Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless' Zero:2016 manager has been working with the Continuum of Care to review all names in the Homeless Management Information System. This review found that there were 33 homeless individuals identified, but 10 had minimal information, so there is a range between the 24 and 33. The Zero:2016 campaign recommends having a multiplier for planning the number of placements that may be needed and Montgomery County estimates that a multiplier of 2 is appropriate, so between 28 and 66. National (not County) guidelines indicate that about 33% of homeless Veterans need permanent supportive housing and 67% need short-term assistance. Permanent Supportive Housing could be provided through VASH vouchers, County Permanent Supportive Housing approved specifically for Veterans, Permanent Supportive Housing Programs already in place or Housing Choice Vouchers.

The Permanent Supportive Housing costs for a Veteran will be different than for the Housing Initiative Program because there will be a set of medical and other services available. The cost of Permanent Supportive Housing in the HIP program is about \$29,000 per client.

Council staff recommends that the Council approve \$500,000 for housing subsidies and supportive services for Veterans in support of the Zero:2016 campaign. Because Council staff believes the Continuum of Care has additional work to complete, Council staff is proposing that the Council use the process that was used when the Council first moved to a Housing First policy – these funds would be appropriated but could not be spent until the Council receives a Zero:2016 plan. However, the plan must include at least 10 Permanent Supportive Housing units for Veterans and at least 10 Rapid Re-Housing subsidies. The spending plan may also include funding for one-time grants for security deposits or client needs to assist entry into stable housing. The plan must show how non-County resources such as VASH Vouchers and Safe Havens will be leveraged and how private funding can be used to support client needs such as furniture, linens, etc. The spending plan must be forwarded to the Council no later than July 15, 2015.

This appropriation would be from the General Fund and then transferred to the Housing Initiative Fund. Council staff encourages the Zero:2016 team to think creatively about how programs might be different for this population. For example, Rapid Re-Housing has generally been a 12 month program. It may be helpful to provide a longer period with assistance that tapers off over time.

The Council should also require a written progress report by December 1, 2015 so that the Council may understand the progress that has been made and so the Executive and Council can plan for what may be needed to achieve the goal of ending Veteran homelessness.

Rapid Re-Housing for Families

The Point-in-Time Survey highlights the need to have more capacity to move families into housing. The Department is finding that the Rapid Re-Housing model can be successful and can move people from motels more quickly.

Council staff recommends the Council approve \$150,000 for an additional 10 Rapid Re-Housing subsidies for families with children. This appropriation would be from the General Fund and would be transferred to the Housing Initiative Fund.

Payment in Lieu of Taxes

Each year the Council must include a provision in the Operating Budget resolution specifying the monetary cap for non-HOC PILOTs.

The Director of Finance must maintain a record of all payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) agreements currently in effect under the Tax-Property Article of the Maryland Code. The record must estimate (in current year dollars) the amount of property taxes abated for each agreement for each of the next 10 fiscal years. As authorized by the County Code, Section 52-18M, the Director of Finance may sign payment-in-lieu-of-taxes agreements for affordable housing that abate annual property tax revenues up to the following annual limits for all properties not owned or operated by the Housing Opportunities Commission.

FY16	\$12,803,659
FY17	\$13,699,915
FY18	\$16,165,900
FY19	\$17,297,513
FY20	\$18,162,389
FY21	\$19,070,508
FY22	\$20,024,034
FY23	\$20,624,755
FY24	\$21,243,497
FY25	\$21,880,802

The Director of Finance must not sign any payment-in-lieu-of-taxes agreement that would increase the total amount of abated property tax revenues above any of the listed annual limits without prior approval of the County Council by resolution.

Council staff recommends approval.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	Housing Initiative Fund	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16
2	Original Approved Budgets	Approved	Recommend							
3										
4	Resources (non-CIP):									
5	Beginning Balance	3,475,930	7,583,260	1,951,890	208,760	5,189,990	425,189	5,964,840	2,960,408	7,241,980
6	Transfer from the General Fund	20,760,060	9,782,490	19,919,268	10,475,420	9,573,290	15,589,247	17,816,367	18,572,277	18,572,277
7	Miscellaneous Revenues	5,518,260	14,452,370	13,316,490	5,917,070	5,426,730	9,810,276	14,212,529	14,799,007	14,196,554
8										
9	Resources Before Required Transfers	29,754,250	31,818,120	35,187,648	16,601,250	20,190,010	25,824,712	37,993,726	36,331,692	40,010,811
10										
11	Required Transfers:									
12	Transfer to Debt Service Fund (debt service on acquisition and preservation bonds)	NA	(1,850,000)	(2,180,000)	(2,500,000)	(4,619,190)	(5,643,610)	(7,510,400)	(7,196,010)	(7,196,110)
13	To General Fund for Indirect Costs	(108,300)	(159,630)	(177,150)	(182,720)	(190,720)	(186,970)	(251,900)	(280,930)	(289,410)
14	To General Fund for Tech Modernization	NA	(18,470)	(24,770)	(20,160)	(14,340)	(15,590)	(12,605)	(14,551)	-
15										
16	Non-CIP Resources Available for Programs	29,645,950	29,790,020	32,805,728	13,898,370	15,365,760	19,978,542	30,218,821	28,840,201	32,525,291
17										
18	Uses:									
19	Personnel Costs	862,240	1,239,370	1,290,230	1,436,060	1,514,880	1,540,363	1,605,462	1,770,182	1,811,074
20	Housing First	NA	4,500,000	8,900,000	7,250,000	7,172,800	7,537,655	7,537,655	7,856,455	7,856,455
21	Rental Assistance Programs (previously tied to Recordation Tax)	NA	2,615,500	3,047,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	4,415,500	10,363,973	9,252,551	9,605,920
22	Neighborhoods to Call Home	1,000,000	1,003,000	933,500	466,420	596,340	596,340	596,340	596,340	596,340
23	Other Operating	26,617,700	19,274,570	16,894,660	2,672,310	1,629,500	1,631,610	1,590,060	1,502,707	1,502,707
24	Other Debt Service (Non-tax Funds)	78,260	76,870	75,300	73,580	71,730	69,770	67,730	65,630	63,480
25	Special Needs and Non-Profit Housing	NA	NA	NA	NA	2,380,510	2,380,510	2,380,510	2,380,510	2,380,510
26	Senior Housing - Silver Spring (The Bonifant)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1,500,000	4,500,000	0	NA
27	100,000 Homes*	NA	437,120	437,120						
28	Affordable Housing - loans and grants*								3,796,166	2,721,145
29	Uses of Non-CIP HIF	28,558,200	28,709,310	31,140,690	13,898,370	15,365,760	19,671,748	28,641,730	27,657,661	26,974,751
30										
31	Ending Balance	587,750	1,080,710	1,665,038	0	0	306,794	1,577,091	1,182,540	3,275,540
32										
33	New CIP Funding	500,000	25,000,000	25,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	10,000,000	2,720,000	9,280,000	12,265,000
34	Loan Repayment Proceeds	-			2,200,000	6,669,085	7,231,000	7,280,000	6,670,000	2,460,000
35	CE Estimated CIP Funding**	500,000	25,000,000	25,000,000	17,200,000	21,669,085	17,231,000	10,000,000	15,950,000	14,725,000
36										
37	HIF Funding available for Program Uses	29,645,950	54,790,020	57,805,728	31,098,370	37,034,845	36,902,748	38,641,730	43,607,661	43,974,751
38										
39	Other operating includes closing cost assistance, foreclosure assistance, support for MPDU homebuyers									-
40	*These categories added for FY15 - previously included in other operating categories									
41	**CIP shows \$17 million in available CIP funding; however \$2.275 million will be appropriated in the operating budget in Affordable Housing loans and grants									

The Fiscal Plan display does not accurately reflect funding for the 30 100,000 Homes subsidies, however adequate funding is included in the FY16 budget.

FY16-21 PUBLIC SERVICES PROGRAM: FISCAL PLAN		Montgomery Housing Initiative					
FISCAL PROJECTIONS	FY15 APPROVED	FY16 REC	FY17 PROJECTION	FY18 PROJECTION	FY19 PROJECTION	FY20 PROJECTION	FY21 PROJECTION
ASSUMPTIONS							
Indirect Cost Rate	15.87%	15.98%	15.98%	15.98%	15.98%	15.98%	15.98%
CPI (Fiscal Year)	2.0%	2.0%	2.2%	2.3%	2.5%	2.8%	3.1%
Investment Income Yield	0.35%	0.65%	1.25%	1.75%	2.25%	2.75%	3.50%
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	2,960,408	7,241,980	3,275,540	2,052,300	829,060	562,000	562,000
REVENUES							
Taxes	9,658,371	9,182,680	10,443,700	11,064,790	11,790,390	12,006,050	12,568,410
Miscellaneous	5,140,636	5,013,874	4,985,223	4,755,986	4,526,188	4,295,853	4,317,367
Subtotal Revenues	14,799,007	14,196,554	15,428,923	15,820,776	16,316,578	16,301,903	16,885,777
INTERFUND TRANSFERS (Net Non-CIP)							
Transfers To Debt Service Fund	(7,196,010)	(7,196,110)	(7,200,310)	(7,208,010)	(7,201,510)	(7,205,600)	(7,200,460)
Debt Service Other/MHI Property Acquisition	(7,196,010)	(7,196,110)	(7,200,310)	(7,208,010)	(7,201,510)	(7,205,600)	(7,200,460)
Transfers To The General Fund	(295,481)	(289,410)	(290,420)	(290,420)	(290,420)	(290,420)	(290,420)
Indirect Costs	(280,930)	(289,410)	(290,420)	(290,420)	(290,420)	(290,420)	(290,420)
Technology Modernization CIP	(14,551)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers From The General Fund	18,572,277	18,572,277	18,572,277	18,572,277	18,572,277	18,572,277	18,572,277
TOTAL RESOURCES	28,840,201	32,525,291	29,786,010	28,946,923	28,225,985	27,940,160	28,529,174
CIP CURRENT REVENUE APPROP.	0	(2,275,000)	0	0	0	0	0
PSP OPER. BUDGET APPROP/ EXP'S.							
Operating Budget	(3,272,889)	(3,313,781)	(3,422,911)	(3,540,401)	(3,669,351)	(3,813,261)	(3,975,761)
Debt Service: GO Bonds (Non-Tax Funds only)	(65,630)	(63,480)	(61,274)	(59,021)	(56,727)	(54,396)	(54,396)
Labor Agreement	n/a	0	(6,313)	(6,313)	(6,313)	(6,313)	(6,313)
Rental Assistance Program (RAP)	(9,252,551)	(9,605,920)	(10,866,940)	(11,488,030)	(11,819,450)	(11,768,050)	(12,330,410)
Housing First	(7,856,455)	(7,856,455)	(7,856,455)	(7,856,455)	(7,856,455)	(7,856,455)	(7,856,455)
Neighborhoods to Call Home	(596,340)	(596,340)	(596,340)	(596,340)	(596,340)	(596,340)	(596,340)
Special Needs and Nonprofit Housing	(2,380,510)	(2,380,510)	(2,380,510)	(2,380,510)	(2,380,510)	(2,380,510)	(2,380,510)
100,000 Homes	(437,120)	(437,120)	(437,120)	(437,120)	(437,120)	(437,120)	(437,120)
Affordable Housing Initiative	(3,796,166)	(2,721,145)	(2,105,847)	(1,753,673)	(841,719)	(465,715)	(329,869)
Subtotal PSP Oper Budget Approp / Exp's	(27,657,661)	(26,974,751)	(27,733,710)	(28,117,863)	(27,663,985)	(27,378,160)	(27,967,174)
TOTAL USE OF RESOURCES	(27,657,661)	(29,249,751)	(27,733,710)	(28,117,863)	(27,663,985)	(27,378,160)	(27,967,174)
YEAR END FUND BALANCE	1,182,540	3,275,540	2,052,300	829,060	562,000	562,000	562,000
TOTAL INVESTMENT							
Total Use of Resources	(27,657,661)	(29,249,751)	(27,733,710)	(28,117,863)	(27,663,985)	(27,378,160)	(27,967,174)
Affordable Housing Acquisition and Preservation CIP Project #760100	(15,950,000)	(14,725,000)	(2,185,500)	(7,085,900)	(1,293,500)	(4,651,000)	(4,555,000)
TOTAL INVESTMENT IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING (MHI Fund + CIP Project)	(43,607,661)	(43,974,751)	(29,919,210)	(35,203,763)	(28,957,485)	(32,029,160)	(32,522,174)

Assumptions:

1. Maintains the County Executive's commitment to affordable housing. In addition to expenditures reflected in this fund, the Affordable Housing Acquisition and Preservation CIP Project #P760100 includes the issuance of \$7.7 million of debt in FY16 in addition to \$2.5 million in estimated loan repayments in FY16, and \$6.8 million in other resources to provide continued high level of support for the Housing Initiative Fund Property Acquisition Revolving Program created in FY09.
2. The amount shown in the Fiscal Plan for the Affordable Housing Acquisition and Preservation CIP project in FY16 is different from the PDF by \$2,275,000. This is because that amount is already included in the Total Use of Resources in the MHI fund.
3. Montgomery County Council Resolution #15-110 provides for an allocation from the General Fund to the Montgomery Housing Initiative fund (MHI) of \$16.1 million or the equivalent to 2.5 percent of actual General Fund property taxes from two years prior to the upcoming fiscal year, whichever is greater, for the purpose of maintaining and expanding the supply of affordable housing. The actual transfer from the General Fund will be determined each year based on the availability of resources.

Notes: 1. These projections are based on the Executive's Recommended budget and include the revenue and resource assumptions of that budget. The projected future expenditures, revenues, and fund balances may vary based on changes not assumed here to fee or tax rates, usage, inflation, future labor agreements, and other factors not assumed here.

Affordable Housing Support Summary													
Actual Operating Budget Expenditures: FY2008-2014, FY15 Approved Budget, and FY16 Rec.	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 Approved	2016 Recommended	Total Funding	Non-County Dollars Leveraged	Creation/ Preservation of Affordable Housing Units 2008-2015	Projected FY16 Creation/ Preservation of Affordable Housing Units
MHI Fund													
Operating Budget	33,715	23,083	27,266	16,450	13,890	21,021	24,312	27,658	26,975	214,371			
Debt Service (Int. only)	000	000	000	1,572	2,183	2,454	2,930	3,646	3,566 *	16,351			
Total MHI Operating Budget	33,715	23,083	27,266	18,023	16,073	23,475	27,242	31,304	30,541	230,722			
Other General Fund Affordable Housing Support													
HHS Housing Programs (General Fund)			9,588	10,442	9,642	9,549	10,169	11,823	11,854	73,066	14,776	10,901	1,980
HOCNDA	5,731	6,141	6,136	5,804	5,514	5,583	6,093	6,376	6,401	53,781			
Total Other General Fund Support	5,731	6,141	15,724	16,246	15,156	15,132	16,263	18,199	18,255	126,847			
Total Operating Budget	39,446	29,224	42,990	34,269	31,229	38,607	43,505	49,503	48,796	357,568	14,776	10,901	1,980 Clients Served
Funding Sources: Programed Funding Thru FY13, FY14, FY15 and FY16 Rec.													
Affordable Housing Acquisition and Preservation Project (CIP)													
MHI						2,500	000	000	2,275	4,775			
HIF Revolving Loan Program						73,310	19,410	7,280	000	100,000			
Loan Repayment Proceeds						9,701	7,280	6,670	2,460	26,111			
G.O. Bonds						000	000	2,000	7,725	9,725			
Recordation Tax Premium						000	000	000	4,540	4,540			
Total CIP						85,511	26,690	15,950	17,000	145,151			
Total Units include Operating and CIP Funding (DHCA)											909,732	22,359	2,934
Other Affordable Housing Support													
PILOTS (Payments in lieu of Taxes Non-HOC)	6,252	6,581	7,944	7,986	8,022	8,514	9,677	10,305 **	12,804 **	78,084		7,479	7,779
Sub Total Affordable Housing										580,804	924,508	7,479	7,779
HOC (PILOTS)	7,205	8,095	8,625	8,213	8,266	8,496	9,312	9,345	9,500 **	77,058		6,927	7,077
Total Affordable Housing Support										657,861	924,508	36,765	17,790
* Estimated Debt Service Interest for FY16													
** Estimated PILOT value for FY15 and the FY16 PILOT Cap													

1.8



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Uma S. Ahluwalia
Director

MEMORANDUM

April 15, 2015

TO: George L. Leventhal, Chair
Health and Human Services Committee

Nancy Floreen, Chair
Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee

FROM: Uma S. Ahluwalia, Director *Uma*

SUBJECT: Housing First Plan Update

The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and our partnering public and private agencies continue to align the County's Homeless Continuum of Care (CoC) to a Housing First approach for which the core mission is to provide a rapid exit from homelessness for families and individuals. Attached please find the Housing First Implementation Plan Status Report, which outlines our progress to date on the major Housing First components.

Montgomery County's homeless Point-in-Time Survey was conducted on January 28, 2015. A total of 1,100 homeless persons were counted that day. This is a 23% increase since the 2014 count. Details of the Survey are provided in the attached April 2015 Housing First Implementation Plan Status Report.

As part of our Housing First Eviction Prevention program, during the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 (July through February) 2,802 Eviction Prevention/Housing Stabilization Grants were issued utilizing county general funds, state funds, and recordation tax funds, totaling over \$2,348,000. This is a 2.1% increase in number of grants and a 9% increase in grants funds spent as compared to the same time period last year.

In addition to implementing the original Housing First Plan, the following strategies have been employed to address the current need for services:

- Montgomery County has signed up for the Zero: 2016, which is a rigorous follow-up to the 100,000 Homes Campaign designed to help communities end Veterans homelessness by December 2015 and chronic homelessness in the next two years. The CoC housing providers have agreed to prioritize vacancies in their existing programs for Veterans and for those experiencing chronic homelessness. Furthermore, the local public housing authority, the Housing Opportunities Commission, has agreed to set aside 10 housing choice vouchers for persons identified as vulnerable and/or chronically homeless. Montgomery County has housed 13 homeless veterans from July 1, 2014 through April 4, 2015.

Office of the Director

- Montgomery County's Fourth Annual Homeless Resource Day was held on November 13, 2014 at the Activity Center at Bohrer Park located in the City of Gaithersburg. Over 460 households attended the event and received services. There were over 70 vendors and 270 volunteers to provide a wide array of benefits including medical care and counseling in addition to a variety of other community services. At the Homeless Resource Day, staff from Emergency Services, the Rental Assistance and the Office of Home Energy Programs manned information tables to provide program and application information. Additional staff from DHHS also worked as volunteers to support the event throughout the day.
- Given the escalating need for housing for homeless families, the following steps were taken:
 1. FY15 – County Rapid Re-Housing Program was implemented serving an additional 20 families.
 2. FY15 – Rapid Re-Housing Request for Proposal was posted and a contract is being negotiated to serve an additional 20 young adults households with children.
 3. Special Needs Housing initiated weekly Intensive Team Meetings with participation from Child Welfare Services, Behavioral Health and Crisis Services and other vendors to staff families who are in motels for over 30 days.
- Continued collaboration between the Housing First Plan and the Neighborhood Opportunity Network to bring emergency assistance and entitlement programs to neighborhoods most impacted by the recession.
- Interagency Commission on Homelessness meetings were held on December 17, 2014 and March 18, 2015. The CoC Ten-Year Strategic Plan and Governance Charter were adopted.
- A Regional Summit on Homelessness was held on March 17, 2015 at Progress Place in Silver Spring, Maryland. The Principals included The Honorable Isaiah Leggett, County Executive Montgomery County; The Honorable Rushern L. Baker III, County Executive Prince George's County; and The Honorable Muriel E. Bowser, Mayor, District of Columbia. The purpose of the summit was to collaborate regionally in strategic areas such as sharing of data and best practices, regional planning and development, creating a collaborative client focused system of services, and joint funding and fundraising. A Regional Coordinating Council on Homelessness with Executive membership from each of the three jurisdictions have been established and charged with the development and implementation of an actionable plan to work towards permanently ending homelessness in the Washington Metropolitan Area.

USA:gh

Attachments

Montgomery County Housing First Plan Implementation Status Update April, 2015

The Montgomery County Housing First Initiative is designed to reduce homelessness through a broad array of strategies that help stabilize at-risk individuals and families to prevent loss of housing and to help homeless individuals and families rapidly exit homelessness. The Housing First Initiative is a public-private partnership that includes County and other government agencies, nonprofit service providers, landlords and others who have a role in the County's housing market. The underlying philosophy of the program reflects a shift away from "housing readiness" towards a model where the primary focus is to quickly house persons and address service needs once they are in permanent housing.

The key performance measure in Montgomery County's Housing First plan is to continue to reduce the length of stay in homelessness and provide stable housing for those exiting homelessness. Efforts focus both on assisting households at imminent risk of homelessness to remain housed and assisting homeless households to rapidly exit homelessness to permanent housing. Outlined below are the accomplishments and ongoing activities for the past year.

1. Annual Point-in-Time Count

Montgomery County's homeless Point-in-Time Survey was conducted on January 28, 2015. A total of 1,100 homeless persons were counted that day. This is a 23.5% increase since the 2014 count and a 9.6% increase since 2013. The overall increase in homelessness is attributed to the increase in households with children. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 a total of 78 transitioned age youth (18-24 TAY) households with children were served; however in FY15 as of February 28, 2015 a total of 76 TAY households were served. This population has increased housing barriers that include limited education, little to no work experience, never lived independently, and minimal or no income. Montgomery County continues to experience high housing costs which effect TAY and all homeless households obtaining and maintaining permanent housing. According to the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, a family living in Montgomery County would need to earn a housing wage of \$28.25 per hour or \$58,760 annually to afford the fair market rent on a two-bedroom apartment of \$1,469 per month. In contrast an extremely very low-income household earning \$32,100 annually can afford to pay no more than \$803 monthly in rent. A household of four (mom and 3 children) receive \$762 in Temporary Aide to Needy Families (TANF) per month and the maximum Supplemental Security Benefit for an individual is \$721 which illustrates the inability to secure housing without additional income or rental subsidy.

Households without children experienced a slight reduction in 2015 to 598 from 603 in 2014 (.83%). In comparison to 2013 there was a 6.27% decrease from 638. This decrease is attributed to the Continuum of Care (CoC) concerted effort in providing additional funding for permanent supportive housing which included the Housing Initiative Program (HIP) Medical component, the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program (VASH) and the County Council appropriation of 31 units for chronically homeless and/or vulnerable adults.

This enumeration indicated a 75% increase in the overall number of homeless households with children from 117 households in 2014 to 159 households in 2015. As discussed above, this population increase is the primary reason for the overall increase in homelessness. Briefly, this increase can be attributed to several factors:

- 1) the reduction of federal funding to Public Housing Authorities affecting Housing Choice Vouchers and affordable housing to low-wage working families;
- 2) an increase in head of household age 18-24 with limited education and work experience; and
- 3) the exhaustion of family and or friends that could provide any financial resources or temporary housing.

2. Homelessness Prevention

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) provides an array of strategies including financial assistance, case management and linkages to community resources to resolve housing emergencies and stabilize the living situation of vulnerable households including the following:

- Emergency Assistance Grants - In FY14 almost \$3 million in County and State funds were expended for 3,749 crisis intervention grants to stabilize at-risk households. In FY15 (July-February), 2,801 State and County funded Emergency Assistance Grants were issued compared to 2,744 grants for the same time during FY14, representing a 2% increase this year.

Crisis Intervention Emergency Grants Issued in FY14 by Funding Source

GRANT TYPE (Most grants are given to prevent eviction and utility cut-offs.)	# of Grants	Expenditure	Average
STATE Funded	756	\$441,460	\$583
COUNTY Funded	2,166	\$1,427,225	\$659
County Recordation Tax	827	\$1,054,015	\$1,275
Total	3,749	\$2,922,700	\$779

GRANT EXPENDITURE UPDATE

Emergency Grants	# County Funded Grants*	Expenditures (County)	# State Grants	Expenditures (State)	# of County Recordation Tax Grants	Expenditures Recordation Tax	Total # Grants
July-Feb FY15	1,581	\$1,030,669	468	\$319,604	753	\$998,193	2,802
July-Feb FY14	1,322	\$759,670	621	\$364,347	801	\$1,026,475	2,744

- Effective in FY15, County funds were reinstated for use to help low-income families with burial assistance. This assistance had been discontinued in FY12 due to budget reductions.

- Due to a problem with their new billing system, Pepco has been unable to issue disconnection notices to customers starting in January, 2015. This has led to a decrease in requests for State and County Funded emergency housing assistance which will continue until the issue is resolved. It is anticipated that there will then be a spike in requests for utility assistance.
- Rental Assistance – An average of 1,675 households have received County Rental Assistance Program (RAP) each month in FY14. Effective July 1, 2015 the RAP capacity increased to 1,720 households and the program is fully enrolled. As of February 28, there were 2,745 names on the RAP waiting list. Applicants are experiencing an approximately 8 month wait before being pulled off the waiting list.
- Energy Assistance – A total of 11,372 Office of Home Energy Program (OHEP) applications were received during FY14, a 4% increase over FY13. In FY15 as of February 28, 2015, 8,791 applications have been received compared to 8,881 for the same time last year. Pepco's inability to issue disconnection notices starting in January, 2015 is leading to lower than anticipated application volume.
- Neighborhood Opportunity Network – Continued to collaborate with the Neighborhood Opportunity Network to bring emergency assistance and entitlement programs to neighborhoods most impacted by the recession. Emergency Services intake staff is deployed to the Gaithersburg and Wheaton offices one day each week to assess the needs of families applying for emergency assistance to prevent eviction.

3. Rapid Exit from Homelessness:

Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), in collaboration with community partners, provides a range of services to homeless households including temporary shelter, case management and permanent supportive housing designed to limit the time spent in homelessness and improve housing outcomes.

- Outreach – Four providers conduct outreach services in Montgomery County via contracts with the County: People Encouraging People Homeless Outreach, Community Visions, Bethesda Cares, and City of Gaithersburg. These organization have provided outreach to approximately 600 homeless persons from July 1, 2014 through April 1, 2015.
- Family Assessment Shelters – Family shelters continue to focus on reducing the barriers to obtaining permanent housing. In FY14, the average length of stay for discharged families increased to 117 days. As of February 28, 2015, the average length of stay for discharged families has increased to 81 days. DHHS continues to utilize a Service Integration Team model to work collaboratively with shelter staff to help families address their behavioral health, credit and criminal justice issues.
- Motel Overflow Shelter – DHHS continues to utilize hotels as overflow emergency shelter for families to ensure that families remain safe. DHHS implemented a Service Integration

Intensive Teaming Model to include participation from Child Welfare Services, Behavioral Health and Crisis Services, and other providers to address the needs of families in hotel for over 30 days. The goal is to work collaboratively to help families address their behavioral health, credit and criminal justice issues that are barriers to obtaining housing.

SNH Household Placements			
	Hotel Placement	Emergency Assessment Placements	
		Family Shelter Households	Individual Shelters
FY 15* Jul-Feb	266	84	1,044
FY 14 Jul-Feb	284**	71	1,081

- Emergency shelter for single adults – In FY14, a total of 1,243 homeless singles were provided emergency shelter compared to 1,283 in FY13. The average length of stay of those exiting shelter was 57 days. As of February 28, 2015, 1,044 homeless adults have been provided emergency shelter and for those exiting shelter the average length of stay is 69 days. All seasonal and overflow shelters are encouraged to refer unsheltered homeless adults to People Encouraging People Homeless Outreach for continued case management services.
- Housing Initiative Program (HIP) – The HIP provides permanent supportive housing including deep rental subsidies and service coordination services to up to 223 vulnerable low-income homeless households. Since the inception of the program to date, a total of 322 households have been placed in permanent housing, of which 221 are still housed. An additional four households were newly enrolled in the program and searching for housing.
- Medically Vulnerable Initiative – A total of 25 HIP slots have been designated for medically vulnerable homeless adults. In addition to service coordination, Special Needs Housing has partnered with Public Health Services to provide nursing support to these clients to triage medical issues, coordinate medical care, link to medical services and provide health education. A total of 28 households have been placed in housing to date, of which 24 are still housed. An additional household is newly enrolled and searching for housing.
- Cordell Avenue Private Living Quarters (PLQ) – Twenty-four rental subsidies from the HIP program are being used to support the Cordell Avenue PLQ, which opened in November, 2010. The program serves 32 formerly homeless single adults and is operated by the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless. All subsidies are committed at this time.
- Rapid Re-housing Program (RRH) – The Rapid Re-housing program provides a time-limited, shallow rental subsidy (\$400 per month for singles, \$600 per month for families) and case management services for up to twelve months. This has been a valuable resource for households who are not in need of permanent supportive housing but who cannot exit homelessness without assistance. Federal Emergency Solutions Grant funds support 22 subsidies – 15 for families and 7 for singles – while County funds support an additional 20 subsidies for families. Through February 28, 2015 a total of 35 households have received rapid re-housing assistance. In response to the growing utilization of hotel placements in

FY15, DHHS has issued a RRH proposal to serve an additional 20 young adult households with children.

- Housing Locator Services – Housing Locator services continue to be a critical resource to help households quickly locate housing and exit homelessness. The Housing Locator provides assistance to HIP participants and RRH households. When possible, the Housing Locator will assist households in hotel or family shelters with significant housing barriers. In FY15, DHHS expanded its housing locator services so that more households could be assisted
- Veterans Housing – Montgomery County continues its efforts to meet the needs of homeless veterans living in Montgomery County via its one-stop center, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, where veterans can apply for benefits, get linked to housing and receive case management. Montgomery County has received a total of 80 veteran subsidies and works with Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) providers to serve individuals and veteran family households. In March 2014, Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless opened a Veteran Safe Haven (which serves the metropolitan area including Baltimore County and City) to provide shelter for 15 homeless veterans, which further increases options to serve this population.
- Special Needs Housing Homeless Services relocated two single adult transitional shelters, Dorothy Day Place and Bethesda House. The new site is located at 5320 Marinelli Road. The facility now serves a total of 18 men and 19 women.
- Due to community concerns regarding continued placement at the East County Community Center, the County has identified a permanent location for the Winter Overflow Shelter at Crabbs Branch Road. According to the Department of General Services the Overflow Shelter will be ready to open in time for hypothermia season in November 2015 and will be able to accommodate 75 to 100 individuals experiencing homelessness.

4. Special Projects

- Montgomery County has signed up to participate in Zero: 2016, which is a rigorous follow-on to the 100,000 Homes Campaign designed to help communities end Veterans homelessness by December 2015 and chronic homelessness in the next two years. CoC housing providers have agreed to prioritize vacancies in their existing programs for Veterans and for those experiencing chronic homelessness. Furthermore, the local public housing authority, Housing Opportunities Commission, has agreed to set aside 10 housing choice vouchers for persons identified as vulnerable and/or chronically homeless.
- Montgomery County participated in a Regional Summit on Homelessness that was held on March 17, 2015 at Progress Place in Silver Spring, Maryland. The Principals included The Honorable Isaiah Leggett, County Executive Montgomery County, The Honorable Rushern L. Baker III, County Executive Prince George's County and The Honorable Muriel E. Bowser, Mayor, District of Columbia. The purpose of the summit was to collaborate regionally in strategic areas such as such as sharing of data and best practices, regional planning and development, creating a collaborative client focused system of services, joint funding and fundraising. A Regional Coordinating Council on Homelessness with Executive

membership from each of the three jurisdictions has been established and charged with the development and implementation of an actionable plan to work towards permanently ending homelessness in the Washington Metropolitan Area.

- Montgomery County's Fourth Annual Homeless Resource Day was held on November 13, 2014 at the Activity Center at Bohrer Park located in the City of Gaithersburg. Over 460 households attended the event and received services. There were over 70 vendors and 270 volunteers to provide a wide array of benefits including medical care and counseling in addition to a variety of other community services. At the Homeless Resource Day, staff from Emergency Services and RAP/OHEP manned information tables to provide program and application information. Additional staff from DHHS also worked as volunteers to support the event throughout the day.
- Interagency Commission on Homelessness (ICH) began operating as the CoC Governing Board. Commission meetings were held on December 17, 2014 and March 18, 2015 and will continue meeting quarterly. In FY15, The CoC adopted an updated Ten-Year Strategic Plan and a CoC Governance Charter.
- Montgomery County continues planning for the relocation of the Interfaith Works Community Visions Program and Shepherds Table from Progress Place in downtown Silver Spring to a new location. The site also includes plans for a new single room occupancy program.

	Singles	Families	Total
Housing Initiative Program Placements			
Effective 4/1/2007 (FY 08) - 6/30/2013 (FY13)	108	174	282
7/1/2013 - 6/27/2014 (FY14)	14	10	24
7/1/2014 - 4/10/2015 (FY15)	9	7	16
Total HIP Placements to Date	131	191	322
Single/Family Reconfiguration	7	-7	0
Total HIP Housed	138	184	322
Closures			
<i>Deceased</i>	-15	0	-15
<i>Received HCV - Other Subsidy</i>	-9	-11	-20
<i>Closed - Terminated Failed to Comply</i>	-22	-16	-38
<i>Closed - Client Request</i>	-5	-7	-12
<i>Moved</i>	-8	-5	-13
<i>Over Income</i>	-2	-4	-6
<i>Over Assets</i>	0	-1	-1
TOTAL Closures	-61	-44	-105
TOTAL HIP CURRENTLY HOUSED IN HIP	77	140	217
Assigned to Housing Locator-Search for Housing	3	1	4
TOTAL HIP SUBSIDIES COMMITTED	80	141	221
Total HIP Subsidies Available	2	0	2
HIP SUBSIDIES BUDGETED	82	141	223
Housing Initiative Program Placements - Medically Vulnerable			
Housed HIP - Medically Vulnerable (FY13)	15	0	15
Housed HIP - Medically Vulnerable (FY14)	10	0	10
Housed HIP - Medically Vulnerable (FY15)	3	0	3
Total HIP Housed - Medically Vulnerable	28	0	28
TOTAL Closures - Medically Vulnerable	-4	0	-4
TOTAL HIP CURRENTLY HOUSED - Medically Vulnerable	24	0	24
Assigned to Housing Locator-Search for Housing	1	0	1
TOTAL HIP SUBSIDIES COMMITTED	25	0	25
Total HIP Subsidies Available - Medically Vulnerable	0	0	0
Total HIP - Medically Vulnerable Budgeted	25	0	25
Cordell Place	24	0	24
TOTAL HIP SUBSIDIES BUDGETED	131	141	272

Montgomery County Homeless Point-in-Time Count	2013	2014	2015	% Change
				2014-2015
Total Homeless Persons	1,004	891	1,100	23.46%

Individual Adult's				
• Unsheltered	143	95	103	8.42%
• Emergency Shelters	337	352	338	-3.98%
• Transitional Housing	158	156	157	0.64%
• Total Individual Adults	638	603	598	-0.83%

Families with Children				
• Unsheltered	0	0	0	
• Emergency Shelters	66	48	110	129.17%
• Transitional Housing	51	43	49	13.95%
• Total Families	117	91	159	74.73%
• Total Persons in Families	366	288	502	74.31%
FY 15 Family Shelter/Hotel Households (7/1/2014-4/06/2015)	388	343	379	10.50%

Total Persons in Permanent Supportive Housing Programs (PSH)				
• Individual Adults	636	646	723	11.92%
• Families with Children	312	324	353	8.95%
• Total Persons in Families	1,059	1,125	1,237	9.96%
• Total Persons in PSH	1,695	1,771	1,960	10.67%

Montgomery County's Homeless Subpopulations				
	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	% Change 2014-2015
Chronic Substance Abuser (CSA)	146	93	76	-18.28%
Severe Mental Illness (SMI)	174	165	204	23.64%
Dually Diagnosed (CSA & SMI)	134	123	144	17.07%
Chronic Health Problem	184	164	194	18.29%
Living with HIV/AIDS	2	5	15	200.00%
Physical Disability	98	99	80	-19.19%
Domestic Violence Victim *	231	187	291	55.61%
Limited English Proficiency	104	85	73	-14.12%
U.S.Veterans	31	35	24	-31.43%
Chronically Homeless	228	181	162	-10.50%
Unsheltered Chronically Homeless	143	95	49	-48.42%
* Any History of Domestic Violence				

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

Strengthening Communities
Ending Homelessness

Communities Announced for Zero: 2016

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“These communities represent a potential tipping point. If they can show that getting to zero is possible, we think it will become untenable for other communities not to follow suit.”

Community Solutions announced today that it has selected 71 communities to participate in Zero: 2016, a national campaign to end veteran and chronic homelessness in the next two years. The organization said it would work intensively with these communities to meet the federal goals set by President Obama to end veteran homelessness by Dec. 2015 and chronic homelessness by Dec. 2016. The initiative, made possible by the support of generous sponsors including Deutsche Bank, JP Morgan Chase, The Home Depot Foundation, and Got Your 6, is a rigorous follow-on to the group’s successful 100,000 Homes Campaign, which announced in June that it had helped communities house 105,000 chronically homeless Americans in under four years. (A full list of Zero: 2016 communities can be found at the end of this release.)

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Zero: 2016 will formally launch in January of 2015, when the majority of communities participating say they will walk their

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streets block by block to survey each of their homeless neighbors during the national 2015 Homeless Point-in-Time Count (PIT). Communities will use this information to develop by-name files on each person experiencing homelessness on their streets -- a strategy designed to help communities connect people to available subsidies and appropriate housing options as quickly as possible.

“Chronic and Veteran homelessness are urgent, solvable problems,” said Beth Sandor, Director of Zero: 2016 for Community Solutions. “These communities represent a potential tipping point. If they can show that getting to zero is possible, we think it will become untenable for other communities not to follow suit. Zero: 2016 is about bringing shared accountability to this work. Participants are making a public commitment to get to zero on time, and they are going to use that commitment to drive measurable progress.”

This announcement comes on the heels of the release of the 2014 Homeless Point-in-Time Count, issued last week by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which showed that homelessness continues to decline across virtually all major categories. According to the report, communities selected to join Zero: 2016 account for a combined 31,669 chronically homeless Americans and 16,218 homeless veterans. Community Solutions estimates an overlap of 10,000-12,000 between these two populations.

The 71 communities selected for Zero: 2016 represent 30 different states and the District of Columbia. Among them are 55 communities who also participated in the 100,000 Homes Campaign and 16 new communities. Combined, the group represents the joint, public commitment of 234 housing authorities, local government entities, non-profit organizations and community agencies. Four states (Connecticut, New Mexico, Rhode Island and Utah) are participating as full states.

Sandor said participating communities would seek to accelerate their housing efforts through four key areas of work: closing the research-to-practice gap, real-time data and performance management, local systems redesign and local leadership development. Community Solutions will provide hands-on coaching and data tools, and will curate a national peer-to-peer learning network to accelerate innovation across communities.

Zero: 2016 will dovetail with other large-scale initiatives working to help communities end homelessness, including the 25 Cities Initiative, led by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Mayor's Challenge to End Homelessness, championed by First Lady Michelle Obama. Many communities selected to join Zero: 2016 are also participating in one or both of these initiatives, and Community Solutions has coordinated extensively with VA and other federal agencies to ensure that all three initiatives complement each other as well as possible.

Selected Communities:

Communities applied by Continuums of Care (CoCs), the 414 local groups set up to administer HUD funding to end homelessness in each region of the country.

Arizona:

Tucson/Pima County CoC

California:

Sacramento City & County CoC

Richmond/Contra Costa County CoC

Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County CoC

Fresno/Madera County CoC

→ Packet does not have full list
of participants



News Releases

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND



For Immediate Release: 3/17/2015

Leggett Partners with District of Columbia, Prince George's County to Tackle Homelessness

Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett, Washington D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser, and Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker joined forces at the Regional Summit on Homelessness today. The event was organized by area leadership as a call to action to funders, developers, banks, employers, landlords, service providers, schools, institutes of higher learning, and community members to join in the work to end homelessness.

The Summit was held at Community Vision at Progress Place, a facility in Montgomery County, Maryland that provides services for persons experiencing homelessness, and commenced with remarks from the leaders of each of the three regions.

"Montgomery County has committed enormous resources to providing shelter, lending a helping hand to the homeless, and working to create and preserve affordable housing in the County," said County Executive Leggett. "That has resulted in decreases in homelessness over the last several years, both among families and single homeless individuals. No one, however, can rest on their laurels in this area. This year's 'Point in Time' survey will show an uptick in homelessness in the County. Clearly, even with using best practices, there is no easy answer.

"That's why we need to develop and implement a plan for transformation of our local efforts to include our partners in the region. That's why it is so important that Montgomery, Prince George's and the District are coming together here today to commit ourselves to regional coordination and collaboration to reduce and end homelessness in our respective jurisdictions."

"We all know that we are going to have to be proactive to solve this issue. Our response cannot be limited to sheltering people today. If we are ever going to get ahead of this issue, we must go further to truly address the root causes of housing instability," said Mayor Bowser.

"Every one of us standing in this room plays a critical role. And for that reason, we are eager to be kicking off this long overdue regional collaboration between the District, Montgomery County, Prince Georges County – and all of you," she continued.

"Homelessness is a growing problem in our region that will require us to use our collective energy to reduce the number of people and families in the Washington Metropolitan Region who have no permanent place to call home," said Prince George's County Executive Baker. "Partnering and consolidating our resources will allow all of us to help more people who are on the cusp of homelessness. We want to take a holistic approach to help people avoid this tragedy by providing wrap around services as well as shelter and stability focused programs."

The three leaders, Leggett, Bowser and Baker, each signed Charters confirming their commitment to work together to eliminate homelessness in the Metropolitan area; to establish a high-level regional coordinating council on homelessness; to develop and implement an actionable plan to permanently end homelessness in the region, particularly chronic homelessness; and set timeframes. Regional leaders have committed to collaborating in four key areas:

- affordable housing
- workforce development
- economic development
- supportive services

Each offers opportunities for sharing of data and best practices, regional planning and development, collaborative client focused system of services and joint funding and fundraising.

Homelessness is largely related to the lack of access to affordable housing, a trained workforce with jobs that pay a living wage, and sustainable support networks. The DC Metropolitan area is one of the least affordable in the country. Today's Summit will help pave the way to leverage and target resources around common issues facing all three jurisdictions.

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LaToya Foster, District of Columbia, 202-727-5011

15



Speeches & Testimonies

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND



ID: 15-015

County Executive Leggett's Remarks the Regional Summit on Homelessness

As prepared

Good morning.

Mayor Bowser and County Executive Baker, welcome to Silver Spring. I look forward to a productive morning.

All three of us share a deep commitment to end homelessness. Our jurisdictions are strong, our staff and non profit and faith based partners competent and our personal relationships go back a long time.

There has never been a better opportunity for the District, Prince George's and Montgomery to collaborate on this issue than today.

We are here today to discuss a unique issue that creates certain difficult challenges and, at the same time, certain opportunities to meet those challenges.

There are those who might think of homelessness as something that happens to someone else. And there are those who think that it is not a problem in our community.

And yet, for many, becoming homeless can be closer than you think.

There is no community in this region that is without homeless people.

Families might be only a lost job or a serious illness or addiction, a divorce or the death of a family member, away from losing their home.

These events happen in the best of times. They happen, unfortunately, with more frequency and with greater severity when times are tougher.

Things have been tough here in the Washington region, not only through the great recession but continuing through government shut downs and sequestration.

These unfortunate situations have consequences on those living on the margin

Our homeless are old, and they are young. They are single, and they are in families.

They are veterans. Some are well, others ill. All deserve a home.

Although the overall economy is improving, times are still tougher than we would like for many people.

Here in Montgomery County, we take an annual one-day survey to use as a measuring tool for our progress in combating homelessness.

The Point-in-Time survey is coordinated by the Council of Governments, so I am sure other areas do the same thing.

Some years, the results are easier to predict than others.

In 2014, we saw a decrease in homelessness from 2013. There were 891 homeless persons, 11 percent fewer than in 2013.

We don't yet have the figures from this year, but we expect to see an increase from last year for family households and for singles that are homeless.

In Montgomery County has, as other jurisdictions, a number of ways to help alleviate homelessness and to help those who are

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homeless by providing shelter, food, health care and other kinds of support.

We do this with our own government programs and by working together with a very comprehensive and dedicated network of non-profit and faith based agencies.

We have devoted considerable resources to building affordable housing, and to providing emergency shelter.

Montgomery County was one of the first localities nationally to produce a 10-year plan, adopting a strategy developed by the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

Our plan proposed strategies to end homelessness on three fronts:

- 1) Closing the Front Door through efforts to prevent people from entering homelessness,
- 2) Opening the Back Door by rapidly moving people out of homelessness into permanent housing, and
- 3) Building a Foundation to assure that people have access to employment, treatment and other supports that they need to be successful members of our community.

Over the past decade, guided by this plan we have transformed our system to a "Housing First" model that emphasized rapidly moving people to permanent housing and address service needs once in housing.

Montgomery County Continuum of Care has recently approved an updated Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness.

The plan's goals include:

setting a path to ending all types of homelessness in 10 years;

ending veterans' homelessness by 2015;

ending chronic homelessness by 2016; and

ending family homelessness within 5 years

We do what we can. That is not enough.

Now it is time for a new approach. That is why we are here today.

We, the District and Prince George's County, already work together on a wide assortment of issues, from emergency planning to water and sewer services to mass transit.

Now, we have the opportunity to work more closely together on the issue of homelessness, which affects us all.

This is a unique challenge because within our three jurisdictions, there are no boundaries for our homeless.

People can easily cross from Montgomery County into the District and into Prince George's County.

There will undoubtedly be some who will have dinner tonight, right in this very room, who are from the District or from Prince George's County.

We welcome them, as our friends in the District and Prince Georges welcome those from Montgomery into their services.

This is why it is crucial that our three jurisdictions work together toward the goal of ending homelessness.

We have no physical or natural boundaries separating us, as the Potomac River separates our areas from Virginia.

That accident of geographical convenience gives us the opportunity to closely tie our jurisdictions more closely as we jointly decide to work on a serious problem that affects us all.

As prepared

County Executive Leggett's Remarks at the Signing of the Charter

Today, Mayor Bowser, County Executive Baker and I will sign a Charter To End Homelessness.

Let us be clear. This is no photo op.

This charter is the beginning of a determined effort among the three of us to end homelessness.

We agree on some basic points.

Every resident of every jurisdiction deserves a home.

We can eliminate homelessness.

We can use the tools at our disposal – affordable housing, workforce development, economic development and other services – all of which contribute to our fight against homelessness.

So what we are going to do here today is to sign on the dotted line, putting actions to our words.

I pledge for Montgomery County to be part of a Regional Coordinating Council on homelessness.

This Council will come up with an action plan to attack the problem of homelessness on a regional level, with resources, suggestions, ideas and programs from all of our areas to be directed toward one goal – ending homelessness in our region.

I am proud to be part of this effort today, and pleased that my colleagues and I are joining together on this landmark agreement.

Thank you to the staff members from all of our jurisdictions who made today possible and who work together to make our goals a reality.

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