

# A Place to Call Home

## A framework for action to address homelessness in Columbus and Franklin County, Ohio

Columbus and Franklin County Continuum of Care  
PARTNER SUMMARY • May 2018

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A Place to Call Home is a new strategic framework that articulates our community’s vision for making sure everyone has a place to call home. This is a framework for action that includes goals tailored to specific populations of people facing homelessness, and goals aligned with broader community work already underway. Each goal aligns with federal and state plans to address homelessness, and includes priority strategies for action during FY2019.



### GOAL:

Homelessness is prevented.  
If it can't be prevented, it's rare, brief, and one time.
















The vision and related goals in this framework serve as a fixed point on the horizon – a common direction for our efforts to continually improve and optimize our response to homelessness in Columbus and Franklin County. While we expect the vision and goals to remain relatively constant over time, strategies may change as they are achieved or when there is need to modify them based on lessons learned, changing conditions, or capacity to act. Our community’s Continuum of Care and Community Shelter Board will work with conveners and partners to annually update the strategies in the framework and periodically revisit our goals as we learn and develop more effective and systemic solutions to housing crises and homelessness.

### Collective input for collective impact

Community Shelter Board convened stakeholders from across the community to establish the framework and strategies:

- Columbus and Franklin County Continuum of Care members
- CSB’s board of trustees
- people who have experienced homelessness
- homeless assistance agencies
- healthcare
- criminal justice
- neighborhood and family service providers
- providers serving youth, veterans, and victims of domestic violence
- workforce development
- faith-based community
- local governments
- corporate and philanthropic partners

GOAL AREA	CONVENERS & LEADING PARTNERS	HIGHLIGHTS
<b>1 – Veterans</b> 	<b>Veterans System Operations Workgroup</b> Columbus Veterans Administration Community Shelter Board	Conduct a Veteran Challenge and make system efficiency improvements to achieve federal benchmark targets. Further develop targeted prevention approach.
<b>2 – Chronically homeless</b> 	<b>Single Adults &amp; Chronically Homeless Ad Hoc Group</b> <b>Adult System Operations Workgroup</b> Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health (ADAMH) Board of Franklin County Community Shelter Board	Further develop outreach approach to improve outcomes for unsheltered people. Increase permanent supportive housing capacity and targeting.
<b>3 – Families with children &amp; pregnant women</b> 	<b>Families &amp; Pregnant Women Ad Hoc Group</b> <b>Family System Operations Workgroup</b> Franklin County Children Services Community Shelter Board	Improve consistency and efficiency of rapid re-housing intake. Establish routine means for identifying long-staying, repeat, and high complexity families. Increase capacity of rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing. Further develop a care pathway for pregnant women.
<b>4 – Youth</b> 	<b>Continuum of Care Committee to Address Youth Homelessness</b> <b>Youth Core Team</b> Huckleberry House Community Shelter Board	Further develop a list of all youth who are homeless. Develop access points, shelter options, and services tailored for youth. Explore and develop additional permanent housing options. Further develop and support the Youth Action Board and inclusion of youth in system development and oversight.
<b>5 – Single adults</b> 	<b>Single Adults &amp; Chronically Homeless Ad Hoc Group</b> <b>Adult System Operations Workgroup</b> ADAMH Board of Franklin County Community Shelter Board	Further develop outreach approach to improve outcomes for unsheltered people. Increase rapid re-housing capacity.
<b>6 – Affordable housing</b> 	<b>Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio</b> <b>Affordable Housing Ad Hoc Group</b> Community Shelter Board	Actively support efforts to increase the availability of affordable rental housing. Develop system-wide landlord recruitment initiative. Preserve and increase supply of permanent supportive housing.
<b>7 – Equity</b> 	<b>Equity Ad Hoc Group</b> Columbus Urban League Equitas Health Community Shelter Board	Examine select system policies, procedures, and related data to identify areas to improve equitable access. Institute standardized cultural competency training. Promote affirmative hiring and retention practices.
<b>8 – Employment</b> 	<b>Employment/Benefits Ad Hoc Group</b> Franklin County Department of Job & Family Services Workforce Development Board of Central Ohio Community Shelter Board	Develop standardized screening tool for identifying employment-related needs and connecting to right community-based services.
<b>9 – Benefits</b> 	<b>Employment/Benefits Ad Hoc Group</b> Franklin County Department of Job & Family Services Workforce Development Board of Central Ohio Community Shelter Board	Ensure homeless system staff are trained and capable of providing assistance accessing benefits. Educate homeless system staff on new Franklin County Department of Job & Family Services online benefits application process.

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<b>10 – Health care</b> 	<b>Health Care Ad Hoc Group</b> ADAMH Board of Franklin County Mount Carmel Health Community Shelter Board	Improve data sharing across providers and systems. Develop new medical respite program. Explore opportunities for local hospital systems' investment in supportive housing.
<b>11 – Criminal justice</b> 	<b>Criminal Justice Ad Hoc Group</b> Franklin County Office of Justice Policy & Programs Community Shelter Board	Support county-led development of a common release of information across systems. Develop tenant education program for justice-involved prospective tenants. Improve standardized system screening tools to identify justice-involved individuals.
<b>12 – Domestic violence</b> 	<b>Domestic Violence Ad Hoc Group</b> Lutheran Social Services/CHOICES Community Shelter Board	Further integrate existing and expanding/new domestic violence services, shelter, and housing options into the homeless crisis response system. Provide updated training for homeless crisis response system staff.
<b>13 – Homelessness prevention</b> 	<b>Targeted Prevention Ad Hoc Group</b> Prevent Family Homelessness Collaborative Community Shelter Board	Develop targeted prevention initiatives for specific sub-populations. Evaluate local prevention model and explore other best practices. Increase awareness and responsiveness among other public institutions of the need for housing-focused discharge planning. Support further development of community-based prevention system.

With the right resources and community support, we can achieve the goal of preventing homelessness whenever possible, or otherwise ensuring it is rare, brief, and one time. Our local experience and the experience of other communities demonstrate that a comprehensive, effective, and efficient response to homelessness is possible when we act collectively to accomplish a shared vision.

Additional information and resources concerning the framework are available online. We encourage you to explore these resources and participate in the ongoing work to ensure everyone has a place to call home.

[FULL REPORT: A Place to Call Home](#)

[COMMUNITY SUMMARY: A Place to Call Home](#)

[WEBINAR and ASSOCIATED MATERIALS: A Place to Call Home](#)

[Strategic Action Plan Matrix for FY2019](#)

[Implementation resources relevant to each goal](#)

Community Shelter Board leads a coordinated, community effort to make sure everyone has a place to call home. CSB is the collective impact organization driving strategy, accountability, collaboration, and resources to achieve the best outcomes for people facing homelessness in Columbus and Franklin County. With the support of a compassionate community, our system of care served more than 12,000 people last year with homelessness prevention, shelter, street outreach, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing.

Community Shelter Board is funded by the City of Columbus, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, the United Way of Central Ohio, The Columbus Foundation, Nationwide Foundation, American Electric Power Foundation, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the State of Ohio, and many other public and private investors.

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