

Indianapolis Community Plan to End Homelessness

Indianapolis, Indiana, USA

Project Description: This is a five-year plan (2018-2023) focused on ending homelessness through long term solutions and systemic reform. The ultimate goal is creating a system where individuals facing homelessness will spend no more than 30 days without a permanent, safe, affordable place to live.

Distinguishing Features: This program prioritizes addressing the needs of particularly vulnerable populations within the community. Four special populations are targeted; chronically homeless individuals, homeless veterans, homeless youth and young adults, and homeless families.

Population Served: All; with a focus on vulnerable populations

Five Year Plan:

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Website: www.chipindy.org/community-planning/indianapolis-community-plan-to-end-homelessness

SUMMARY

Indianapolis has a history of successful community homelessness initiatives, starting with their Blueprint to End Homelessness in 2002. Their Blueprint, Blueprint 2.0, and current Indianapolis Community Plan to End Homelessness have focused on making homelessness rare, short lived, and recoverable.

Notable landmarks include:

- Establishing a community governance structure build within the original Blueprint to End Homelessness
- Opening the Reuben Engagement Centre in 2017 for those unable to access shelters and support services due to substance abuse [See The Reuben Engagement Center PDF for further information]
- Launching a coordinated entry system in 2017, allowing for assessment, prioritization, and streamlined referrals.
- Initiating homeless housing subsidies through the coordinated entry system

Support Services Offered

The current Indianapolis Community Plan to End Homelessness has a specialized focus on vulnerable populations. The plan prioritizes mental health support, trauma-informed care, and systemic collaboration so individuals do not fall through the cracks and return to the street. Community collaboration is the main framework for the efficacy of this plan. Data from the coordinated entry system will be used to connect key intersecting systems. Hospitals will provide screening, referrals, and navigational support for those at risk of homelessness due to mental health or illness. Foster care and Child Services will also provide navigational support through the coordinated entry system to better understand where, when, and how housing is available. This program also includes coordinated efforts with the Indiana Department of Corrections to ensure pre-release programs and re-entry support for offenders. The continuum of care also includes providing resources and system education for schools, faith-based organizations, and other community connection services.

Further information on the Key Strategies for the four distinct vulnerable populations is detailed within the Five-Year Plan link.

Coalition for Homelessness Intervention & Prevention (CHIP)

The Coalition for Homelessness Intervention & Prevention (CHIP) focuses on collaborative community housing solutions. CHIP works to secure funding for housing and pre-housing services, advocates for nationwide policy changes, and unites with community partners working to end homelessness. Their mission includes professional training, support, and development within service organizations. They also prioritize educating the public about homelessness; empowering others to take action and incite change.

Website: www.chipindy.org

CHIP Infographic:

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CONNECTED PROGRAMS

Opening Doors

This is the US Federal government's comprehensive plan to prevent and end homelessness. The Indianapolis Community Plan to End Homelessness followed this federal plan identifying vulnerable populations and outlining specific strategies for each subgroup.

www.usich.gov/tools-for-action/opening-doors

The Reuben Engagement Center

The Reuben Engagement Center was founded in Indianapolis in 2017 to address the needs of those unable to access shelters and support services due to substance abuse. They provide temporary shelter, as well mental health, addictions, and withdraw/detox support. [See The Reuben Engagement Center PDF for more information]

www.indycoc.org/partnerships/reuben-engagement-center