

GUAM'S STRATEGY TO ASSIST THE HOMELESS

Objective 1: Create new permanent housing beds for chronically homeless persons.

Guam's CoC (Guam Homeless Coalition) short-term (12 month) plan to create new permanent housing beds for persons who meet HUD's definition of chronically homeless:

The CoC continues to identify gaps in services for the chronic homeless (CH) and evaluate the effectiveness of current programs serving CH persons through the use of HMIS HUD standard and customized reports. The CoC's planning committee discussed possible programs for this year's CoC application to include two permanent housing (PH) programs, Empowered Together and Forrester's Refuge, which will create PH beds that can be available for the chronic homeless. CoC programs will continue to conduct outreach to engage the most hard to reach CH persons in available services. The CoC will also conduct the island wide Point-in-Time Homeless Count and Homeless Passport To Services outreach event to identify CH, capture information on the characteristics of CH persons, and link CH persons to available CoC programs and community resources. Additionally, the CoC is in the process of converting 30 transitional housing units to permanent housing which will be available to CH persons.

Long-term (10 year) plan to create new permanent housing beds for persons who meet HUD's definition of chronically homeless:

Guam's CoC will continue to utilize the HMIS to identify needs/gaps, evaluate the effectiveness of current programs, and create new permanent housing (PH) beds for the CH. The CoC will continue to conduct the annual Point-in-Time Homeless Count and the Passport to Services Outreach to identify the number of persons who are CH and will utilize the data to identify characteristics of CH and thus develop new programs that will create new PH beds. CoC programs will continue to provide outreach and will adopt the "Housing First" model that will immediately match and place CH persons, to include CH families, in PH with continued engagement and supportive services to help CH participants increase income and self-sufficiency and achieve greater self-determination. The CoC will continue to apply for new vouchers through the Housing Choice and/or Project Based Veterans Affairs HUD-VASH and will evaluate changes made to CoC programs to address HUD initiatives.

Objective 2: Increase the percentage of participants remaining in CoC funded permanent housing projects for at least six months to 77 percent or more.

Short-term (12 month) plan to increase the percentage of participants remaining in CoC-funded permanent housing projects for at least six months to 77 percent or higher:

Guam's CoC recognizes the need to provide supportive services to address the long-term needs of participants transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing. Supportive services such as referrals to mainstream services and job placement, advocacy, coordination and linkage towards obtaining inaccessible resources, and life skills education are integral in helping participants maintain housing. Additionally, programs are required to conduct follow-up within six months to demonstrate the participant's ability to maintain their housing. Conducting follow-up also enables programs to re-evaluate households to identify new needs/gaps that require support to ensure participants remain in permanent housing beyond six months. The CoC also utilizes the Annual Progress Report and other customized reports to identify programs effectively matching participants with housing placement and services.

Long-term (10 year) plan to increase the percentage of participants remaining in CoC-funded permanent housing projects for at least six months to 77 percent or higher:

The Guam CoC will continue to provide supportive services and conduct followup for all participants residing in permanent housing to address any long-term needs of participants. Follow-up services will allow programs to evaluate their client's ability to maintain housing and live independently and identify new need/gaps. The CoC will continue to utilize Annual Progress Reports and other customized reports generated by the local HMIS to discuss program performance, identify gaps, review capacity to meet needs/gaps, and develop and implement strategies and action plans. The CoC will continue to work with stakeholders and community partners to incorporate their services and expertise as part of a working solution to address and end homelessness. The CoC recognizes the success of a participant relies on effective partnerships that produce sustainable employment, linkage to mainstream and community based services and resources, and permanent/supportive housing.

Objective 3: Increase the percentage of participants in CoC-funded transitional housing that move into permanent housing to 65 percent or more.

Short-term (12 month) plan to increase the percentage of participants in CoC-funded transitional housing projects that move to permanent housing to 65 percent or more:

Transitional housing programs continue to provide services to ensure 65% participants transition to permanent housing. Programs will continue to match participants to appropriate housing and services through proper assessment of barriers and assets, especially for families with children to ensure the emotional, physical and behavioral health development needs of a child is met. During their stay in transitional housing, participants are also provided supportive services such as case management, support to establish savings plan to afford move in cost, access to health care, employment and other public benefits, life skills education, and identifying goals and services to obtain and maintain permanent housing and self-sufficiency

through the development of a Service Plan. Programs also conduct follow-up to assess progress and provide additional support in the event other barriers or potential threat to housing stability arises.

Long-term (10 year) plan to increase the percentage of participants in CoC-funded transitional housing projects that move to permanent housing to 65 percent or more:

Guam's CoC will continue to ensure most, if not all, its transitional housing participants move to permanent housing. The CoC will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of programs in transitioning clients to permanent housing and success of participants maintaining that housing for at least 6 months through the use of the Annual Progress Reports and other customized reports generated by the HMIS. The CoC will continue to collaborate with leaders at all levels of the Government of Guam and other private sectors to educate about, plan, develop, and implement interventions to prevent and end homelessness. The CoC will continue to ensure programs conduct proper assessment of each household's barriers and assets, match participants to the appropriate housing type and services, provide supportive services and follow-up to prepare and equip participants with the tools necessary to obtain and maintain housing stability and self-sufficiency.

Objective 4: Increase percentage of participants in all CoC-funded projects that are employed at program exit to 20 percent or more.

Short-term (12 month) plan to increase the percentage of participants in all CoC-funded projects that are employed at program exit to 20 percent or more:

Guam's CoC will ensure that providers assess their participant's capabilities and barriers to employment and will identify services needed to obtain employment during their program stay. CoC providers will continue to network and collaborate with the One Stop Career Center (OSCC) to identify realistic employment plans in relation to the participant's service plan and match participants to appropriate employment training opportunities and placement and will assist in referrals to higher or alternate education programs. OSCC's Disability Navigator will also conduct outreach to homeless shelters to assess the participant's employment and training needs. Disabled participants will be referred to the Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities/Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) where the counselor and participant identify the impediments to employment and develop an Employment Plan that reflects the services needed to address the barriers to employment.

Long-term (10 year) plan to increase the percentage of participants in all CoC-funded projects who are employed at program exit to 20 percent or more:

Project sponsors will continue to partner with the OSCC and DVR to provide services to participants in CoC funded projects. Programs will provide supportive services such as case management, counseling, linkage to mainstream services, and life skills education. Providers

will ensure employment is identified in the participant's service plan and are matched appropriately to services such as vocational rehabilitation services for individuals with disabilities, pre-employment training, and on-the-job training for unskilled workers. Case managers will follow-up with participants to evaluate their progress in completing goals identified in their service plan. The CoC will continue to utilize HMIS HUD standard reports and customized reports to evaluate the effectiveness of CoC funded programs when securing their program participants in employment.

Objective 5: Decrease the number of homeless households with children.

Short-term (12 month) plan to decrease the number of homeless households with children:

The CoC anticipates the release of the Emergency Solutions Grant which will provide financial assistance to rapidly re-house homeless families. The CoC will refer and assist low-income homeless households with children to apply for eligible low-income housing in collaboration with LADA Gardens operated by the Guam Housing Corporation; Ironwood Estates and GHURA's affordable homes and homeownership programs; HUD-VASH, Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher Program, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Micronesia Self-Help; and the planned conversion of Liheng's transitional housing units to affordable rental apartments. The CoC will continue to utilize reports generated by the HMIS to assess progress to decrease the number of homeless households with children. Lastly, the CoC will review the strategic plan to identify viable options to increase housing possibilities

Long-term (10 year) plan to decrease the number of homeless households with children:

The CoC's long-term plan will continue to utilize data from the Housing Inventory, HMIS and Point in Time Counts to project future trends. The data will assist the CoC plan accordingly to meet this objective. The CoC will conduct a periodic review of the Housing Inventory/HMIS/Point in Time data to identify barriers that prohibit achievement of this objective. This process will enable the CoC to identify and implement intervention/s to overcome said barriers. CoC members will continue to refer and assist low-income homeless households with children to partners that offer permanent housing and supportive services. The CoC will continue to partner with the Guam Interagency Council on Homelessness to advocate for policy, procedural and structural changes to strengthen the provision of services to prioritize placement of homeless households with children and chronic homeless families.