

Policy Academy on Homeless Families and Children
Summary of Action Strategy Recommendations for FY 2005-FY2006

Goal 1	Status Code	Expand Supply of Affordable Housing and Increase Access to Existing Housing	D I T	F I A	D L E G	D C H	D O C	M S H D A	D O E
Strat 1	CS	<i>Develop and initiate implementation of a web-based statewide housing locator technology to support moving homeless families into existing housing.</i>	X	X	X	X	X	L	X
Strat 2	EW	Develop and initiate implementation of a pilot project – linked to Family Resource Centers – that will increase access to affordable and safe housing for Family Independence Agency consumers who move frequently during the school year.		L				X	X
Strat 3	AS	Utilize up to 100 units of tax-reverted real estate owned by USDA Rural Development to expand transitional housing in rural communities, to be linked to supportive services provided through mainstream resources.						L	
Strat 4	AS	Increase production of new housing targeted to homeless households through Low Income Housing Tax Credit program by revising definition of eligible “Special Needs Populations” to include homeless families with “transitional” special services needs.						L	
Strat 5	AS	Contract with the Community Economic Development Association of Michigan (CEDAM) to convene a task force to produce and disseminate recommendations and both state/local legislative advocacy strategies relative to “best practices” in promotion of inclusionary zoning—consistent with HUD’s Regulatory Reform Initiative.						L	
Strat 6	EW	Implement Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative demonstration project blending MSHDA support for scattered-site leasing for transitional housing with MDOC resources for supportive services in 10 “Northern Tier” communities.		X	X	X	L	X	
Strat 7	CS	<i>Expand participation by State departments (DOE, DOC, FIA, DLEG, DIT) in collaborative Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MSHDA, DCH, and the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) regarding partnership to expand supply of supportive housing for homeless families and youth.</i>	X	X	X	X	X	L	X
Strat 8	EW	Expand use of “homeless preference” and “project-based vouchers” in MSHDA’s Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program to create 150 additional units of supportive housing for homeless families (in partnership						X	

		with local service providers).							
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Strat 9	AS	Create attentiveness to issues of displacement and/or homelessness as part of required strategy in next round of "Cool Cities" awards			L			X	
Strat 10	AS	Create local demonstration projects that increase access to existing housing by supporting partnerships between landlords/management companies and local service providers in creating "early warning and response" for households at-risk.						L	
Strat 11	EW	Expand supply of Permanent Supportive Housing for homeless families with disabilities through increased use of HUD SHP and Shelter Plus Care funding by: (1) supporting submission of PSH grant applications each year through the Statewide Continuum of Care and (2) supporting submission of "bonus award" projects by all Continuum areas.		X		X	X	L	
Strat 12	CS	<i>Work through Department of Information Technology to develop mapping of specific housing needs for homeless and at-risk populations as well as mapping of local housing initiatives. (Moved to Goal 4)</i>	L	X	X	X	X	X	X
Strat 13	CS	<i>Contract with Technical Assistance Provider (to be identified) to develop and conduct cost-analysis study in targeted communities to illustrate systems costs of homelessness for families and children.</i>	X	X	X	X	X	L	X
Strat 14	AS	Develop and implement Training and Technical Assistance strategy to promote public-private partnerships that increase production of new units of affordable housing for homeless families						L	
Strat 15	EW	Expand supply of "Transition in Place" strategies by investing HUD SHP funding in development of new scattered-site leasing assistance projects for homeless families and youth in transition.		L				X	
Strat 16	EW	Conduct an evaluation of MSHDA (and other PHA) programs targeting Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers to homeless populations, and build on "lessons learned" as means of expanding access to Section 8 program across the State.						L	
Strat 17	AS	Develop strategy for leveraging targeting of public housing units for homeless populations through new MSHDA program of financing for PHA repairs						L	

Goal 2	Status Code	Strengthen and Expand Efforts to Prevent Homelessness	D I T	F I A	D L E G	D C H	D O C	M S H D A	D O E
Strat 1	AS	Create process through Michigan Homeless Assistance Advisory Board (MHAAB) for ongoing review of pending State legislation that informs both the Legislative and Executive branch on potential impact of pending legislation on homelessness.						L	
Strat 2	EW	Implement Round 4 of Homeless Prevention Challenge Grants program through MSHDA & Council of Michigan Foundations partnership to enhance and expand existing prevention services through joint efforts of Community Foundations, Continuum of Care groups, and Community Collaboratives.		X	X	X	X	L	X
Strat 3	CS	<i>Develop and distribute “Communique” from Interagency Directors to Community Collaboratives to develop a local cross-systems training plan to ensure that all public or private agencies providing services to homeless or at-risk populations are adequately prepared with working knowledge of existing resources to help prevent homelessness.</i>	X	X	X	L	X	X	X
Strat 3	CS	<i>Develop and distribute “Communique” from Interagency Directors to Community Collaboratives to develop a local cross-systems training plan to ensure that all public or private agencies providing services to homeless or at-risk populations are adequately prepared with working knowledge of existing resources to help prevent homelessness.</i>	X	X	X	L	X	X	X
Strat 4	CS	<i>Increase effectiveness of Department of Education training for LEA and PSA homeless liaisons by including local or regional homeless service providers, expanding focus on cross-systems relationships, and using McKinney-Vento funds to support investment of coordinating staff in training for liaison role.</i>		X		X		X	L
Strat 5	AS	Alter current FIA policy requiring court-ordered eviction as qualifier for Emergency Services assistance in order to enable provision of aid for households at imminent risk prior to receiving eviction notice.		L					
Strat 6	AS	Advocate with Public Housing Agencies across the state to target up to 10 % of their Section 8 vouchers to homeless families (through adoption of “homeless preference” or use of “project-based vouchers”) in partnership with non-profit homeless service providers in their communities.						L	
Strat 7	AS	Review, and where necessary, alter FIA policies to ensure that families receive emergency food assistance in a timely, accessible and consistent manner.		L					

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Strat 8	AS	Issue Communique to Community Collaboratives to develop local strategies that ensure that cost-free and readily accessible financial management and economic literacy programs are available to homeless and at-risk populations in all communities.				L			
Strat 9	CS	<i>Design and implement strategy to encourage Public Housing Agencies throughout Michigan to adopt policies/education that are sensitive to domestic violence survivors.</i>		X				L	
Strat 10	CS	<i>Issue "Communique" to encourage local Continuum of Care Planning Bodies and Community Collaboratives to work more closely together in planning to address issues of homelessness and homelessness prevention for children and families. This Communique should also encourage engagement of statewide non-profit coalitions (e.g. United Way, Council of Michigan Foundations) in this process of collaborative planning for developing strategies to prevent homelessness.</i>	X	X	X	L	X	X	X
Strat 12	EW	Support replication of "Cascade Engineering" model (i.e., Berrien and Kent Counties) as supported employment alternative in other areas of the State.		L	X				
Strat 13	CS	<i>Revise FIA/TANF Work First policies and Workforce Development Program incentives to increase education and employment options for homeless clients.</i>		L	X				X
Strat 14	AS	Increase capacity of FIA to fully implement existing Youth in Transition policies to serve youth who are aging out of foster care (ages 14-21), in part through designation of person within each FIA office as a "Youth-in-Transition Specialist".		L					
Strat 15	AS	Increase knowledge of and access to homelessness prevention funds through inclusion of comprehensive prevention resources within local 211 information and referral databases.	L						
Strat 16	EW	Increase the number of landlords who accept Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers by adopting administrative commitment to payment processing schedule that assures payment by the first of the month.						L	

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Strat 17	AS	Create partnerships between local homeless service providers and legal service offices to develop and present trainings that educate FIA workers about tenant rights and the eviction process.		L					
Strat 18	EW	Create demonstration project in partnership with utilities companies that establishes “early warning system” that identifies and assists households falling into arrears BEFORE they make it to point requiring utilities cutoffs (“Energy Direct”)		L					
Strat 19	AS	Encourage local legislators to provide copies of “Know Your Rights” publication to all FIA offices and affiliated program sites.		L					
Strat 20	CS	<i>Explore the potential costs-benefits and programmatic impact of expanding the definition of “homelessness” to include “at risk of homelessness” as common eligibility criterion for State-funded homeless assistance.</i>	X	L	X	X	X	X	X
Goal 3	Status Code	Increase Awareness and Use of Mainstream Services and Community Resources	D I T	F I A	D L E G	D C H	D O C	M S H D A	D O E
Strat 1	CS	<i>Design and implement a pilot cross-systems training program that will increase customer focus, reduce variability in customer services practice, and emphasize responsibility for problem resolution – thereby expanding access to existing services and reducing duplication of services. All departments will review and modify, as necessary, policies to assure that front line workers consider issues of homelessness with their customers (e.g., CMH workers, FIA Emergency Workers, School Social Workers, etc.)</i>	X	L	X	X	X	X	X
Strat 2	CS	<i>Create new outreach strategies to expand access to existing services for hard-to-serve/hard-to-reach populations (e.g., isolated populations, special populations, rural populations) -- bringing services to consumers rather than forcing the consumer to come to the services.</i>	X	L	X	X	X	X	X
Strat	AS	Establish a desk reference/“cheat sheet” for FIA emergency assistance and payments staff to aid in determination of a		L					

3		youth's eligibility status for services.							
Goal 3	Status Code	Increase Awareness and Use of Mainstream Services and Community Resources	D I T	F I A	D L E G	D C H	D O C	M S H D A	D O E
Strat 4	AS	Design cross-systems, customer-focused services training to reduce variability in customer service practices and to eliminate barriers to user accessibility to mainstream services.		L					
Strat 5	CS	<i>Facilitate replication of Washtenaw County "Barrier Buster" strategy through development and distribution of "Barrier Buster" program guide to all Community Collaboratives.</i>	X	X	X	L	X	X	X
Strat 6	CS	<i>Develop communications and outreach campaign targeting homeless families and children that identifies housing assistance resources and assists these populations in becoming permanently housed.</i>	X	X	X	X	X	L	X
Strat 8	CS	<i>Seek out opportunities to "piggy back" on existing conferences (e.g., Substance Abuse, MCAAAA, MACMHB, etc.) to elevate the visibility of needs of homeless children and families.</i>	X	X	X	X	X	L	X
Strat 9	CS	<i>Utilize new processes being implemented by Community Collaboratives and State Interagency Planning Team to create "barrier-busters" process that promotes more effective efforts to link homeless/at-risk families to needed services.</i>	X	X	X	L	X	X	X
Goal 4	Status Code	Increase Efficacy of Collaborative Planning & Availability of Data	D I T	F I A	D L E G	D C H	D O C	M S H D A	D O E
Strat 1	CS	<i>Begin "data mining" process with the data already collected by FIA, DCH, and DOE in the State Data Warehouse. Provide a set of reports/queries that will enable the Policy Academy to better understand the demographics of homelessness and the services that have been provided.</i>	L	X	X	X	X	X	X

Goal	Status Code	Increase Efficacy of Collaborative Planning & Availability of Data	DIT	FIA	DLEG	DCH	DOC	MSHDA	DOE
Strat 2	AS	Develop and implement strategy for linking required federal homeless education data collection to Statewide Homeless Management Information System (MSHMIS) database.							L
Strat 3	CS	<i>Work through DIT and other partnerships to develop de-identified cross systems data needed to explore a variety of public policy and research questions re: homeless families and children, and to expand data collection on Child and Family Homelessness beyond what is currently entered into the State Data Warehouse.</i>	L	X	X	X	X	X	X
Strat 4	AS	Expand training for Local Education Agency (LEA) and Public School Academy (PSA) homeless liaisons to include other local agencies and service providers.							L
Strat 5	CS	<i>Add reports on homeless family/children's data to regular agenda for meetings of the Interagency Human Service Directors, Children's Cabinet, and Children's Action Network (CAN).</i>	X	L	X	L	X	X	X
Strat 6	CS	<i>Expand implementation of HMIS to include broader array of mainstream service providers (e.g., FIA, Homeless Education liaisons). Enable, through executive approval, FIA workers who deal with homeless families and Homeless Education Coordinators (local school districts) to participate in use of HMIS technology.</i>	X	X				L	X
Strat 7	CS	<i>Issue "Communique" (via Interagency Planning Team) to Community Collaboratives encouraging more active participation by local representatives of State Systems (e.g., FIA, DCH, DOC, DLEG, DOE) in local Continuum of Care planning bodies.</i>	X	X	X	L	X	X	X
Strat 8	CS	<i>Work through Department of Information Technology to develop mapping of specific housing needs for homeless and at-risk populations as well as mapping of local housing initiatives, by March 2005.</i>	L	X	X	X	X	X	X
Goal 5		Build Political Agenda and Public Will							

Strat 1	EW	Increase level of visibility and impact of Homeless Awareness Week (2004) strategies across State of Michigan.	X	X	X	X	X	L	X
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