

BEST PRACTICES FOR IOWA'S HOMELESSNESS SYSTEM

A Collaborative Effort of the
Iowa Council on Homelessness

Introductory Webinar – November 22, 2013

Welcome!

- Webinar logistics and protocols
- Audio access: 1-800-444-2801; code 6592625
- Mute buttons as appropriate
- This webinar will be recorded
- Posted on Iowa Council on Homelessness webpage

Today you'll hear from:

- Indira Blazevic, SPPG facilitator
- Arlinda McKeen, SPPG facilitator
- Crissy Canganelli, Iowa Council on Homelessness (ICH), co-chair of the Policy and Planning Committee
- Amber Lewis, Iowa Finance Authority, Homeless Programs Coordinator

Today you'll hear about:

- Iowa Council on Homelessness goals
- Overview of how homelessness services are funded from federal and state sources
- The Council's initiative to engage homelessness services providers in strengthening the system statewide
- Have opportunities for questions and discussions

Iowa Council on Homelessness

- Council's focus is ensuring that all Iowans have access to safe, decent and affordable housing
- Created in 2003; codified in 2008
- 38 members appointed
- Iowa Finance Authority is the administrative agency
- Council sees a wide disparity in availability of services and seeks a more connected and seamless system.

State and Federal Funding Sources

- Primary funding sources
 - Shelter Assistance Fund - SAF
 - Emergency Solutions Grants – ESG
 - Continuum of Care Grants – CoC
- Trends in monitoring and compliance
- IFA and ICH roles to support local planning organizations in being successful in meeting their grant goals and requirements

Homelessness Services Statewide

- About a dozen identified, active planning organizations
- Other service providers independently in some areas of the state
- Services in rural areas are sparse
- Little opportunity for networking statewide and moving forward together

THE COUNCIL'S APPROACH...

With You at the Center

Elements of Statewide Planning

- Local involvement is at the foundation
- Create stronger networking through a regional approach
- Support the direction of services and accountability in:
 - Services
 - Operations
 - Performance
- Identify best practices to establish standards

What are the benefits?

- Enhance statewide networking and communication
- Easier to coordinate in providing comprehensive services
- Raise the profile and awareness of homelessness services with the public
- Create a system of services that works for Iowa
- Develop services with consistency and alignment with program requirements

How do you participate?

- This webinar and spreading the word
- Participating in an issues discussion in a city near you
- Assisting in identifying 5 or 6 regions for this planning effort and beyond
- Helping identify an individual to serve on a Statewide Advisory Committee to:
 - Identify and review best practices
 - Recommend standards for services, operations, and performance
 - Participate in development of a report to the Council

Timeline – on a Fast Track

- November 8 – Start-up
- November 15 – Introduced to ICH
- November 22 – Webinar
- December 2 – 13 – Statewide Meetings
- December 20 – Identify Advisory Committee
- January – April – Advisory Committee Work
- May – Report to the ICH

Help From YOU!

- Lists of providers with contact information
- Advice on best locations for outreach in each area of the state
- Help promoting participation in the outreach sessions
- Thinking about your planning group and who may be best to participate in the Advisory Committee

Discussion? Questions?

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