

# BLUEPRINT TO END HOMELESSNESS

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A TEN YEAR PLAN  
2006 – 2016



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TRUMBULL COUNTY HOUSING COLLABORATIVE

TRUMBULL COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION  
CITY OF WARREN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Front Page Photos:

<p>Christy House Emergency Shelter 919 Main Ave SW Warren, Ohio 44481</p>	<p>Emmanuel Community Care Center 2 N State St SE Girard, Ohio 44420</p>
	<p>A House of Blessing 1370 Tod Ave NW Warren, Ohio 44485</p>

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and the Trumbull County Planning Commission

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### INTRODUCTION

Mike lived for two years in his parent's family home after their deaths. At first this was no problem but soon his small inheritance ran out and Mike could no longer afford the utilities. Mike continued to stay in the house, first he had no heat, then no lights, and when he no longer paid the water it too was disconnected. He used the neighbor's garden hose for cooking water and to bathe. Too proud to ask for help, Mike continued to "live" in the house until a family member intervened. Mike was referred to the housing authority and with close case management was able to secure housing. For the past three years Mike has had a safe, decent affordable place to call home.

Mary fled domestic violence and received services through the local shelter for immediate needs. While she was obtaining a protection order she despaired about the future. She had no marketable skills for the workplace and only had an 11<sup>th</sup> grade education. Her toddler son had many physical problems, including asthma. Her first grade daughter was having academic and behavior problems. Unfortunately, both programs for transitional housing<sup>1</sup> for women with children had no immediate openings.

John is a 45-year old white male who has been homeless for the past six months. He got involved with illegal drugs a few years ago and spent time in jail for possession and for selling illegal substances. He also was arrested for theft and spent time in prison due to ongoing criminal activity. John is severely mentally ill and has suffered from depression since he was 22 but did not get treatment until two years ago. He has not had any income other than \$115 per month, food stamps and a medical card. He has not been able to maintain a job and has an application pending for social security. He has stayed at the Christy House and the Warren Family Mission, has been sober for four months and is receiving mental health treatment and substance abuse treatment. He was referred to the Shelter Plus Care Voucher Program<sup>2</sup>, has received a voucher and has obtained housing in Warren.

Sam is a chronically homeless<sup>3</sup> man who has worked day labor and rents when money is available. If he has no money he sleeps in his car or camps out at Mosquito Lake. He has a substance abuse history and had a difficult time engaging in treatment unless he was housed. Sam would access housing assistance services at Catholic Charities 4 to 6 times per week when in a crisis. He had outstanding utility bills to be paid and needed a reference from a previous landlord in order to access subsidized housing. The homeless outreach staff worked with TMHA to give them updates as to Sam's current living situation so TMHA could contact him. The homeless outreach staff coordinated placement for Sam in a subsidized unit and paid his security deposit. Since being housed, Sam has also requested assistance with a mental health disorder.

Many organizations in Trumbull County are working through the Housing Collaborative to respond to these situations. Many times the community's resources are stretched to the limit. Resources

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<sup>1</sup> Transitional Housing – housing and services provided to homeless persons for up to 24 months.

<sup>2</sup> Shelter Plus Care Voucher Program – a HUD funded supportive housing program that provides rental subsidy and supportive services to disabled homeless individuals and families.

<sup>3</sup> Chronically Homeless – unaccompanied individual (no children), with a disabling condition, who is homeless for a year or longer, or has four episodes of homelessness in three years.

are often inadequate. Through continued planning, collaboration, and resource development a seamless delivery of services to homeless or at risk persons and families in Trumbull County will be achieved.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*“Within the next ten years, all persons and families experiencing the possibility of homelessness in Trumbull County will have a permanent, safe, decent and affordable place to call home.”*

*- Trumbull County Housing Collaborative’s Vision Statement*

## History of the City of Warren and Trumbull County

Trumbull County was founded on July 10, 1800, serving as the 7<sup>th</sup> county in the northwest territory. The county seat is located in Warren, Ohio. Trumbull County consists of urban and rural communities situated in the northeast corner of Ohio. It is situated along the Youngstown, Cleveland and Akron corridors.

The City of Warren was founded in 1799. Over the years the City has created a diverse industrial and commercial base that currently includes steel manufacturing, the production of automotive and appliance wiring systems, incandescent lamps, industrial pipe, aluminum products and the assembly of automobiles and parts. Warren has easy access to several state routes, the Ohio Turnpike, three major airports, and an excellent rail system.

According to the 2000 US Census, the population for the City of Warren is 46,830. The City has over 235 acres of public parks, which include the newly constructed Riverwalk, Amphitheater and Women’s Park. Many opportunities for sports, cultural and recreational activities, theatrical productions, museum visits, and educational events exist in Trumbull County and the City of Warren.

The Community Development Department of the City of Warren manages funds from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and other state and federal sources. Federal funds from Community Development Block Grant<sup>4</sup> (CDBG) and the Home Investment Partnerships<sup>5</sup> (HOME) programs provide the majority of Community Development funding. Citizen participation is part of the process for determining how funds will be spent. A five-year Consolidated Plan is developed, reviewed, and updated annually by the Community Development Department.

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<sup>4</sup> Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – funds provided by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to enable eligible communities to revitalize neighborhoods, expand affordable housing and economic opportunities, and/or improve community facilities and services, principally to benefit low- to moderate-income residents.

<sup>5</sup> Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) – funds provided by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to enable eligible communities to provide decent, safe and affordable housing; and to alleviating the problems of severe rent burdens, homelessness and deteriorating housing for low- to moderate-income housing residents.

CDBG funds, in the amount of \$1.493 million for 2005, are used to benefit low to moderate income individuals and families, as well as street and infrastructure improvements, code enforcement, housing, and related community services. Economic development and job creation are the top priorities for the City of Warren.

HOME funds must be used for low and moderate-income housing activities. The program requires the development of the Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS), which directs the allocation of funds and provides a way for public participation, review and implementation of the projects. HOME funds may be used for purchase, construction, and/or rehabilitation of affordable housing for rent or ownership opportunities. The HOME funds may also be used for direct rental assistance to low-income persons.

A consortium of governments was created by the City of Warren and the Trumbull County Commissioners in order to achieve regular program status as a participating jurisdiction. This consortium receives a direct annual HOME allocation from HUD with the City of Warren receiving 60 percent of the first \$1 million in annual funding and 50 percent of any allocation in excess of \$1 million. The 2005 allocation for the City of Warren is \$498,642. The 2005 allocation for Trumbull County is \$332,428.

The major employers in Trumbull County are:

County and Municipal Government	Kmart Distribution
Delphi Packard Electric Systems	Thomas Steel
Forum Health	Warren City Board of Education
General Motors	WCI Steel
Giant Eagle	West Company
Humility of Mary Health Partners	Youngstown Air Reserve Station

Trumbull County is currently experiencing a difficult economic period marked by significant job losses, rising unemployment, revenue loss by both the public and private sectors and an increased financial burden on county government.

Trumbull County's population has declined from 225,116 in 2000 to an estimated 220,486 in 2004. The State of Ohio, Office of Strategic Research, projects that by 2010 the County will have lost another 5,000 residents and by 2030 the population is expected to plummet to 200,000 residents. Since 1990, almost 13,000 Caucasian persons have migrated out of Trumbull County, with almost half of these persons aged 20 to 29. A majority of the residents leaving the County are aged 18 to 64 and involve the earning population. Trumbull County is left with an ever-increasing dependency ratio<sup>6</sup> with a higher percentage of retirees coupled with the youth population equaling increased Medicare/Medicaid payments and schools facing economic hardships due to failing tax levies and a declining tax base. In fact, the Youngstown-Warren Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) has more seniors per capita than any other area in the State of Ohio.

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<sup>6</sup> Dependency Ratio – A measure of the portion of a population which is composed of dependents (people too young or too old to work). The dependency ratio is equal to the number of individuals aged below 15 or above 64 divided by the number of individuals aged 15 to 64, expressed as a percentage. A rising dependency ratio is a concern for an area facing an aging population because it becomes difficult for pension and social security systems to provide for a significantly older, non-working population.

DEMOGRAPHICS  
County Comparison

	COUNTY						
	TRUMBULL	CLERMONT	LAKE	LORAIN	MAHONING	PORTAGE	WARREN
Population	225,116	177,977	227,511	284,664	257,555	152,061	158,383
Caucasian	90%	97%	95%	86%	81%	94%	95%
African-American	8%	1%	2%	9%	16%	3%	3%
2 or more races	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Other	1%	1%	2%	3%	2%	2%	1%
Median age of population	39	35	39	37	40	34	35
Family Households	61,975	49,164	62,786	76,589	69,230	37,413	43,518
Married w/children in the home	31%	41%	35%	34%	29%	37%	43%
Married w/no children at home	46%	42%	46%	44%	44%	47%	43%
Male householder, no wife present, w/children at home	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%	2%
Female householder, no husband present, w/children at home	10%	8%	7%	10%	11%	9%	6%
Married w/only husband working in household	17%	19%	16%	16%	15%	18%	19%
Married w/husband and wife working in the household	36%	47%	45%	41%	34%	47%	50%
Median household income	\$38,298	\$49,386	\$48,763	\$45,042	\$35,248	\$44,347	\$57,952
Housing units	95,117	69,226	93,487	111,368	111,762	60,096	58,692
Occupied housing units	94%	95%	96%	95%	92%	94%	95%
Owner-occupied housing units	74%	75%	78%	74%	73%	71%	79%
Renter-occupied housing units	26%	25%	22%	26%	27%	29%	21%
Median value of a home	\$85,500	\$122,900	\$127,900	\$115,100	\$79,700	\$123,000	\$142,200
Median cash rent for a 2-bedroom unit	\$461/mo	\$552/mo	\$623/mo	\$518/mo	\$446/mo	\$544/mo	\$613/mo
Median owner's cost	\$800/mo	\$1,125/mo	\$1,078/mo	\$1,010/mo	\$828/mo	\$1,024/mo	\$1,192/mo

Source: 2000 US Census

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### DEMOGRAPHICS

#### City Comparison

	CITY										
	WARREN	CLEVELAND HEIGHTS	CUYAHOGA FALLS	FAIRFIELD	FINDLAY	LIMA	MANSFIELD	MENTOR	MIDDLETOWN	NEWARK	STRONGSVILLE
Population	46,832	49,958	49,374	42,097	38,967	40,081	49,346	50,278	51,605	46,279	43,858
Caucasian	72%	53%	96%	90%	94%	69%	77%	97%	87%	94%	94%
African-American	25%	42%	2%	6%	1%	26%	20%	1%	11%	3%	1%
2 or more races	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%
Other	1%	3%	1%	3%	4%	3%	1%	1%	1%	1%	4%
Median age of population	36	35	37	35	35	33	36	39	36	36	39
Family Households	12,135	12,304	13,399	11,379	10,159	9,682	12,121	14,223	14,055	12,237	12,428
Married w/children in the home	26%	32%	33%	37%	34%	24%	27%	40%	29%	32%	41%
Married w/no children at home	37%	40%	47%	45%	45%	35%	42%	45%	41%	40%	47%
Male householder, no wife present, w/children at home	4%	2%	2%	2%	3%	6%	3%	2%	4%	3%	1%
Female householder, no husband present, w/children at home	20%	13%	9%	9%	10%	22%	17%	6%	14%	14%	5%
Married w/only husband working in household	20%	20%	19%	20%	21%	21%	21%	19%	21%	20%	23%
Married w/husband and wife working in the household	42%	57%	53%	58%	54%	45%	49%	59%	48%	52%	56%
Median household income	\$30,147	\$46,731	\$42,263	\$50,316	\$40,883	\$27,067	\$30,176	\$57,230	\$36,215	\$34,791	\$68,660
Housing units	21,279	21,798	22,727	17,789	17,152	17,631	22,267	19,301	23,144	20,625	16,863
Occupied housing units	91%	96%	95%	95%	93%	87%	91%	97%	93%	94%	96%
Owner-occupied housing units	58%	62%	66%	65%	65%	57%	58%	87%	60%	58%	83%
Renter-occupied housing units	42%	38%	34%	35%	35%	43%	42%	13%	40%	42%	17%
Median value of a home	\$63,400	\$110,100	\$106,000	\$120,800	\$96,000	\$54,700	\$71,700	\$144,100	\$89,700	\$84,900	\$170,300
Median cash rent for a 2-bedroom unit	\$443/mo	\$580/mo	\$527/mo	\$593/mo	\$416/mo	\$344/mo	\$347/mo	\$614/mo	\$414/mo	\$394/mo	\$573/mo
Median owner's cost	\$657/mo	\$1,130/mo	\$932/mo	\$1,071/mo	\$881/mo	\$624/mo	\$741/mo	\$1,160/mo	\$865/mo	\$801/mo	\$1,384/mo

Source: 2000 US Census

Continuum of Care<sup>7</sup> Development

The Trumbull County Housing Collaborative<sup>8</sup> (TCHC) was established to coordinate and develop services and housing for homeless and low-income persons. The Trumbull County Housing Collaborative consists of representatives from more than 50 public, private and non-profit agencies with a common goal to provide a continuum of care for these individuals and families.

Since 1998, the TCHC and its committees have regularly met to discuss the needs of homeless persons and families, including those who are chronically homeless, to coordinate existing services and facilities, and to address gaps in the system. The first project proposed for funding by the Collaborative was Beatitude House, a transitional housing facility for women and children which opened in 2002. Funds for that project were obtained from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Warren – Trumbull HOME Consortium, and the Beatitude House. In 2000, Beatitude House also began a supportive education program.

The second TCHC project was sponsored by Trumbull LifeLines, the alcohol, drug and mental health board for Trumbull County. The project provides eight one-bedroom units for homeless persons with severe and persistent mental illness. The project will be fully occupied in May 2006.

The Collaborative also supported a proposal by Trumbull LifeLines and the Trumbull Metropolitan Housing Authority (TMHA) for the Shelter Plus Care Voucher Program. Consumers utilize 25 Shelter Plus Care vouchers to provide housing and rental subsidy for homeless persons with mental illness.

The Collaborative has supported Housing Trust Fund applications from Emmanuel Community Care Center in Girard and Trumbull LifeLines. Funding will be used for homelessness prevention, including utility and security deposit assistance and rent subsidies.

Grants to Date

Three HUD grants have been secured by various organizations in Trumbull County that specifically serve homeless persons and families. Several organizations including Catholic Charities, Emmanuel Community Care Center, the Christy House, and Beatitude House have received State grants from the Ohio Housing Trust Fund. Several applications are currently pending approval.

Grantee	Project	Grant	Date Awarded	Persons Served
Beatitude House	A House of Blessing	\$424,000	May 1, 2005	50
Warren Trumbull Urban League	Christy House Emergency Shelter	\$62,600	December 13, 2005	155
Emmanuel Community Care Center (ECCC)	Transitional Housing	\$47,000	December 13, 2005	36
ECCC & Catholic Charities	Homelessness Prevention Direct Assistance	\$56,400	December 13, 2005	400
ECCC & Catholic Charities	Homelessness Prevention Case Management	\$14,000	December 13, 2005	400
Trumbull LifeLines	Joey's Landing	\$589,926	April 29, 2004	8
Trumbull LifeLines	Shelter Plus Care	\$636,000	June 1, 2004	25

<sup>7</sup> Continuum of Care – a service delivery model where homeless families and individuals move from step to step along the continuum until they reach permanent housing.

<sup>8</sup> Housing Collaborative – an unincorporated group of homeless service providers, local government, and other community members who meet monthly to coordinate services for homeless people.

### DEFINING THE NEED

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that each community across the country develop a plan to end homelessness, specifically chronic homelessness. In 2003, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness published the *10-Year Planning Process to End Chronic Homelessness in your Community: A Step-by Step Guide*.

In 2004, the Ohio Interagency Council on Homelessness was established. The Ohio Interagency Council on Homelessness is comprised of state agency directors and appointed state and local organizations. The Policy Team on Homelessness and Housing Issues is comprised of state agency representatives and select council appointees. The following subcommittees are part of the Ohio Interagency Council on Homelessness: Chronically Homeless Work Group, Homeless Families Work Group, Ohio Access Housing Work Group, and the Systems Transition Work Group. Ten-year plans have been completed in Columbus and are started in Akron, Cleveland, and Dayton.

#### Evidence of Need

Housing and supportive service providers in Trumbull County have been experiencing an increase in the numbers of homeless persons and families served. The point-in-time studies<sup>9</sup>, conducted by the Trumbull County Housing Collaborative, provide additional information regarding the needs of homeless persons and opportunities to prevent homelessness. These studies confirm that there is a homeless population in the City of Warren and Trumbull County that is in need of assistance.

National statistics indicate that homeless persons and families cost communities thousands of dollars each year.

- 700,000 – 800,000 people are homeless on any given night;
- 2.5 – 3.5 million people will experience homelessness in a year;
- During a year 50 percent of the homeless are single adults, while 50 percent are families;
- Most families become homeless because of a housing crisis and are quickly re-housed if their financial situation is assisted;
- Families state they need assistance finding safe, decent, affordable housing and financial help to pay for housing – only 20 percent report they receive help with finding housing;
- Of those experiencing homelessness, 80 percent of single adults enter the homeless system one time and exit within 30 days and do not return;
- Nine percent of single adults enter homelessness five times and stay two months each time and use 18 percent of the system's resource;
- The remaining 11 percent enter homelessness two times per year and stay 280 days each time – virtually living in the system and using 50 percent of the system's resources;
- Homeless persons spend an average of four days longer in the hospital – costing \$2,414 per visit;
- Homeless persons are often in jail for petty crimes and can cost taxpayers thousands of dollars for frequent overnight stays;
- Shelters are normally used as short term crisis beds but, are more often turned into long term options which cost \$8,000 more per year than a regular Housing Choice Voucher (average cost of a shelter bed is \$26 per day or \$9,256 per year);
- The greatest lost, and the most difficult cost to quantify, is the loss of future productivity and health due to time spent in jail, hospital, shelter, crisis unit and on the street.

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<sup>9</sup> Point-in-Time Studies – are a one day count of all homeless people in a defined area.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition publishes an annual report, most recently titled *Out of Reach 2004*, that indicates the housing wage in Trumbull County is \$10.06 per hour. This is the amount a full time (40 hours per week) worker must earn in order to afford a two-bedroom unit at the area's Fair Market Rent. A person earning minimum wage (\$5.15 per hour) must work 78 hours per week to afford a two-bedroom unit at the area's Fair Market Rent. A minimum wage earner can afford monthly rent of no more than \$268. Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipient (receiving \$579 per month) can afford monthly rent of no more than \$174 per month, while the Fair Market Rent for a one-bedroom unit is \$434 per month. An extremely low-income household, earning \$14,880 (30% of the Area Median Income of \$49,600) can afford monthly rent of no more that \$372, while the Fair Market Rent for a two bedroom unit is \$523.

### Point-In-Time Data

The Continuum of Care Point-in-Time committee and the Advisory committee spent time gathering data on the needs of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Trumbull County and the City of Warren. Two Point-in-Time studies were completed. One of the studies was conducted on January 25, 2005 and the other was completed on August 23, 2005. Additional information was gathered during the thirty-day period of February 21 through March 20, 2005. The following is a summary of the collected data:

#### January 25, 2005 Evaluation of Data

- ✚ Indicating they were homeless on January 25, 2005 were 170 persons
- ✚ Each homeless person, on January 25, 2005, was asked to complete a detailed survey regarding their situation:
- ✚ Of the 62 persons completing the detailed survey:
  - 33 were female, while 29 were male
  - average age of the respondent was 37 years of age
  - majority were staying in emergency shelters<sup>10</sup> or in transitional housing
  - had lived in the City of Warren or Trumbull County prior to becoming homeless
  - most persons were homeless for 90 days or less and had not been homeless previously
  - 39 were Caucasian
  - 14 were African American
  - 17 were employed
  - 23 were receiving food stamps
  - 19 were receiving Medicaid
  - 11 had no income
  - those with income, received less than \$10,000 the previous year
  - 36 were single individuals
  - 20 reported being a single parent with children
  - respondents reported the following as reasons for leaving permanent housing (in order of most responses to least):
    - alcohol/substance abuse

<sup>10</sup> Emergency Shelter – a site that provides food, shelter and varying degrees of assistance to persons for up to 30 days.

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- unable to pay rent/mortgage
- eviction/foreclosure
- domestic violence
- unemployment
- family rejection
- services respondents received:
  - temporary shelter
  - food & clothing
  - counseling
  - transportation
  - educational assistance
  - medical & financial assistance
  - job training
- respondents were unable to receive or locate access to permanent housing assistance
- 23 indicated a medical problem or disability
- most reported mental illness was depression
- 15 people completed some high school
- 15 were high school graduates
- 17 had some college

### January 25, 2005 Point-in-Time

Part 1: Homeless Population	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
1. Homeless Single Individuals	65	35	3	103
2. Homeless Families with Children	8	17	1	26
2a. Persons in Homeless Families with Children	21	43	3	67
Total	86	78	6	170

Part 2: Homeless Subpopulations	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
1. Chronically Homeless	15		15
2. Seriously Mentally Ill	40		
3. Chronic Substance Abuse	278		
4. Veterans	8		
5. Persons with HIV/AIDS	0		
6. Victims of Domestic Violence	19		
7. Youth	38		
8. Dual Diagnosis (SA/MH)	8		
9. At risk of homelessness	49		

February 21 – March 20, 2005 Evaluation of Data

- ✚ Indicating they were homeless between February 21 and March 20, 2005 were 148 persons
- ✚ Of the 81 persons completing the detailed survey:
  - 33 were female, while 48 were male
  - average age of the respondent was 39 years of age
  - The responses to the individual questions yielded the same responses as detailed above
  - One major difference was that more respondents stated they had been homeless at least one previous time

February 21 – March 20, 2005 Point-in-Time

2. Homeless Families with Children	22			22
2a. Persons in Homeless Families with Children	35			35
<b>Total (1+2a)</b>	148			148

Part 2: Homeless Subpopulations	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total	# of Persons assisted	# of Persons not assisted
1. Chronically Homeless	44	2		3	1
2. Seriously Mentally Ill	18	1		1	
3. Chronic Substance Abuse	40				
4. Veterans	16				
5. Persons with HIV/AIDS					
6. Victims of Domestic Violence	15				
7. Youth	11	2		2	1
8. Dual Diagnosis (SA/MH)	19				

Part: 3 At Risk of Homelessness					
Condition contributing to possibly becoming homeless	Single Individuals	Family	# of Persons in the family	# of Persons assisted	# of Persons not assisted
1. Unemployment	26	15	21	43	3
2. Moved to seek work		4	13	13	2
3. Change in household makeup	6	3	7	14	1
4. Severe mental illness		4	3	3	
5. Domestic violence	6	13	22	28	
6. Utility disconnect	12	51	190	192	10
7. Unable to pay rent/mortgage	29	17	38	67	
8. Divorce	1	2	7	8	
9. Income not adequate	29	24	32	61	
10. Eviction/foreclosure	8	6	13	21	
11. Family member illness	2	4		2	
12. Alcohol/substance abuse	8	11	22	30	
13. Dual diagnosis (SA/MH)	1			1	
14. No public assistance	18	3	9	27	
15. Criminal offense		2	7	7	

August 23, 2005 Evaluation of Data

- ✚ Indicating they were homeless on August 23, 2005 were 225 persons
- ✚ Of the 97 completing the detailed survey:
  - 48 were female, while 39 were male
  - 69 were single individuals
  - 28 were the head of household for the family
  - average age of the respondent was 36 years of age
  - respondents reported the following as reasons for leaving permanent housing (in order of most responses to least):
    - eviction/foreclosure/asked to leave
    - unemployment
    - alcohol/substance abuse
    - mental illness
    - unable to pay rent/mortgage
    - no public assistance
    - dual diagnosis of mental illness and substance abuse

August 23, 2005 Point-in-Time

Part 1: Homeless Population	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
1. Homeless Single Individuals	47	60	39	146
2. Homeless Families with Children	5	17	3	25
2a. Persons in Homeless Families with Children	19	52	8	79
Total	66	112	47	225

Part 2: Homeless Subpopulations	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
1. Chronically Homeless	32	22	54
2. Seriously Mentally Ill	63	7	70
3. Chronic Substance Abuse	23	12	35
4. Veterans		1	1
5. Persons with HIV/AIDS			0
6. Victims of Domestic Violence	30	2	32
7. Youth	31		31
8. Dual Diagnosis (SA/MH)	16	3	19

CURRENT RESOURCES AND CHALLENGES

Over the course of a year, the Advisory Committee met to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of services provided in and around the City of Warren and Trumbull County.

Strengths

- Area public and parochial school systems are strong in academics, as well as athleticism
- Programs are in place to serve the homeless & low-income of the area
- A strong public housing system
- Good cooperation between agencies
- Emergency repair fund in place to assist low-income families
- Quality substance abuse treatment system
- Emergency shelter and transitional housing systems in place
- Several mental health programs
- Community resources are willing to provide financial & technical assistance
- Excellent Contact Crisis Hotline system
- Utility assistance programs are in place
- A supply of affordable housing
- Strong local government support for funding housing facilities
- Funds are available for rent & security deposit assistance
- Educational outreach for NIMBY (not in my backyard) issues
- The availability of a federally qualified health care center
- St. Elizabeth Health Center has an outstanding Mobile Health Clinic
- Numerous City & County Health Departments offer free immunization clinics for children
- Two outstanding health care facilities with numerous sites throughout the county
- Level Three Trauma Center at St. Joseph Health Center in Warren and a Level One Trauma Center at St. Elizabeth Health Center in nearby Mahoning County<sup>11</sup>
- Convenience of the local highway system
- Kent State University Trumbull Campus and Youngstown State University conveniently nearby
- Strong collaboration and leadership among local government and agencies

Weaknesses

- Lack of local, state and federal funding availability
- Most local funds are not available for match
- Absence of a long term shelter with less restrictive programs
- Need for additional collaboration and cooperation with agencies outside the current system
- Central coordination of social services & assistance to low-income and near homeless persons
- Central coordination of case management & homeless services
- Lack of programs for children who witness violence
- Absence of structured programs for persons with substance abuse issues
- HIPAA<sup>12</sup> requirements tie the hands of agencies and coordination of services
- Need for a working balance between HIPAA and confidentiality adherence
- Limited access to medications for the homeless and low-income population
- Lack of funding for prescriptions not otherwise covered by established plans
- Limited transportation options
- Need for a supply of affordable housing with low threshold lease options
- Necessity for more case management of general housing issues
- Find alternate solutions to curtail inappropriate use of emergency rooms due to lack of health insurance coverage
- Absence of a 24 hour free health care system
- Declining Department of Veteran’s Affairs system
- Medicaid cuts
- Need for better coordinated health care linked to emergency & transitional housing projects
- Federal priorities in funding are not consistent with local needs

<sup>11</sup> Forum Health – Trumbull Memorial Hospital is in the last stages of receiving a Level Three Trauma Center certification

<sup>12</sup> HIPAA – Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act of 1996, Title II – Privacy Rule enacted on April 12, 2001

### Resources and Challenges

Numerous homeless service organizations participated in an inquiry of the resources they offer and the challenges they face in serving the homeless and near homeless populations. While a majority of the area's agencies are represented, this section is not to be construed as the only resources offered and challenges faced by this community. This section is an evolving product as new resources are identified and challenges are answered.

### Beatitude House

This program offers transitional housing for women with children who have made full time educational pursuits their goal. The program also offers daytime education, as well as career preparation for disadvantaged women. The career preparation includes a GED module, basic skills education, career counseling, case management, computer literacy and job preparation. In the Fall of 2005, the program will offer permanent supportive housing for homeless women (with or without children) who have a disability or whose child has a disability.

Beatitude House has consistently received more applications for transitional housing for women with children than can be accommodated. Since opening there has never been a vacancy for more than the time it takes to prepare the apartment. The educational program is also experiencing the challenge of more applicants than the space can accommodate. With only one classroom, GED, job prep, and computer literacy must take place in tight quarters. Additionally, Permanent Supportive Housing for families is needed in Trumbull County.

### Catholic Charities Regional Agency

Catholic Charities Regional Agency provides the Case Management Outreach and Advocacy for our Community's Homeless program (COACH)<sup>13</sup>, as well as the Projects in Assistance with Transition from Homelessness (PATH)<sup>14</sup> program. These programs provide homeless outreach, start up and prevention funds to homeless persons in the County.

The C.O.A.C.H. Program is a case management program that targets the hard to reach client who is not involved with other programs or services. The services include linkage and referral, advocacy, and assistance to help clients access housing, job placement, resource eligibility, counseling, medications and other resources as needed.

Funding is needed to provide utility assistance, food vouchers, motel vouchers, gasoline vouchers, identification, birth certificates, security deposits, bus passes, eye glasses and exams, medications

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<sup>13</sup> Case Management Outreach and Advocacy for our Community's Homeless (COACH) – The COACH program is a case management program that targets the hard to reach client who is not involved with other programs or services. The services include linkage and referral, advocacy, and assistance to help clients access housing, job placement, resource eligibility, counseling, medications and other resources as needed.

<sup>14</sup> Projects in Assistance with Transition from Homelessness (PATH) – provides outreach and engagement to homeless persons with mental illness. It is operated by Catholic Charities Regional Agency with funds from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and local match funds. The goal of the project is to engage homeless persons with mental illness and enroll them in mental health services and provide them with safe, decent and affordable housing.

and a drop in center. The cost of obtaining a birth certificate and identification card is \$25.50 per person. Approximately \$20 per person is spent on providing bus passes for homeless persons. Prescriptions can range from \$10.00 to \$900.00. Security deposits average \$400 per household, utility assistance \$200 per household, food vouchers \$175 per household, \$125 for motel vouchers, \$25 for gasoline and \$105 per person for an eye exam.

### Citizen Circle<sup>15</sup>

The Trumbull County Citizen Circle is a partnership between the Adult Parole Authority, the Ohio Department of Corrections, local social service agencies and concerned community citizens. The Circles, throughout the State of Ohio, are designed to provide assistance to ex-offenders released from prison and coming home to the community. Citizen Circles provide increased access to community resources for the participant and provide partnerships that promote positive social interaction and accountability to help offenders become productive citizens. Citizens interested in participating in this process gain a better understanding of the correctional process and issues offenders face upon reentry to the community, while actively working to help reduce local recidivism rates.

The greatest obstacles the Trumbull County Citizen Circle has faced thus far are gaining consistent numbers of ex-offenders to join the process, developing a seamless referral process and promoting this new resource to the community. The Adult Parole Authority has selected regional coordinators to help facilitate this as a successful project, and is training Parole and Probation Officers on Citizens Circles and the benefits to the clients they serve, while the Ohio Department of Corrections is introducing this resource network in its pre-release program for offenders before they leave the Ohio prison system. Recently an open house was held in Warren to introduce the Circle to the community and more promotional activities are being planned.

### Community Solutions

The data confirms that substance abuse is a primary contributing factor toward homelessness in Trumbull County. The challenge is to effectively and efficiently address the myriad of needs associated with the appropriate intervention, treatment and relapse prevention strategies for these individuals and their families. Chemical dependency impairs peoples' ability to function and is prevalent across multiple systems; criminal justice, socio-economic, primary healthcare, etc. The severity, level of impairment and recovery potential is determined by a multitude of factors. Multidimensional assessment to determine appropriate levels of care is a part of each provider's admission protocol. The 6 dimensions are: Acute Intoxication/Withdrawal, Biomedical Conditions and/or Complications, Emotional/Behavioral Conditions and Complications, Treatment Acceptance/Resistance, Relapse Potential and Recovery Environment. Placement theoretically occurs along a continuum of service: those with less impairment are placed in the least restrictive and less intensive levels of care and those assessed as seriously impaired at increasingly higher levels of care, i.e., more intensive and more restrictive level.

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<sup>15</sup> Citizen Circle – The Trumbull County Citizen Circle is a partnership between the Adult Parole Authority, the Ohio Department of Corrections, local social service agencies and concerned community citizens. The Circle is designed to provide assistance to ex-offenders released from prison and coming home to the community

Trumbull County has major gaps in the service continuum. Many people with a substance-related disorder access other systems as a direct result of their chemical dependency and resultant lifestyle (i.e., courts/jails, state and local hospitals and other service providers). These placements are frequent and use up valuable resources. Frequently, referrals are made from these systems to the community behavioral health system. In most cases the referral is to a “Non-Intensive Outpatient Treatment” (Level I-A) setting because there are no other intermediate levels of care for “step-down or step-up” purposes. In short, people are being referred to levels of care that are not conducive to meeting the level of need thus poor outcomes. People are relapsing before they can access care and recycling through other systems; perpetuating the problems, increasing frustrations and reinforcing stigmas.

The Blueprint to End Homelessness has an opportunity to impact this major shortcoming in Trumbull County. The re-establishment of facilities and programming at intermediate levels of the continuum are paramount to legitimizing efforts to successfully address the needs of people and families struggling to recover from chemical dependencies. In light of current economics this can only be accomplished through the multi-systemic approach that is inherent in the design of this “blueprint”. It will involve multiple partners to collaborate at levels beyond the sharing of “intellectual assets” but sharing organizational assets, as well. It is toward this end that we continue to support and applaud these efforts.

### Emmanuel Community Care Center

The Emmanuel Community Care Center (ECCC), a Humility of Mary Housing program, provides eight units of transitional housing for homeless, single parent families in need of supportive services and intensive case management, while receiving subsidized housing. Families can remain in housing for up to two years and work on goals that will lead to greater self-sufficiency and economic independence.

The ECCC, in collaboration with Catholic Charities, offers an emergency financial assistance program designed to help prevent homelessness. Funds from this program are for income eligible families in need of financial assistance for security deposits, eviction assistance, utility disconnection notices or short-term rental assistance.

The ECCC/HMHI has a need for an additional part time staff member/consultant services to facilitate group sessions to develop interpersonal and conflict management skills. The need for a part time child activity coordinator has also been identified. Capital needs for ECCC include outside brick renovation of the center, located at 2 North State Street, Girard.

ECCC is interested in developing permanent supportive housing units for single parents with children. Some persons currently living in transitional housing programs need supportive services for more than 24 months. Permanent supportive housing would be a more appropriate option for these people.

## Health Care

Trumbull County is fortunate to have a level three trauma center at St. Joseph Health Center in Warren, with Trumbull Memorial Hospital in the last stages of its level three trauma certification. St. Elizabeth Health Center, a short drive to Mahoning County, is a level one trauma center and offers the Mobile Medical Clinic. The Mobile Clinic serves Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana counties. Several city health departments, along with the Trumbull County Health Department offer free immunization clinics for children. The area also has two federally qualified health clinics serving Trumbull and Mahoning Counties. Along, with a number of smaller health clinics in the area, medical services are well represented in the immediate area.

Unfortunately, with all of the available medical services, it is still difficult for the homeless and near homeless to receive their needed services. While financial assistance programs are available in some instances, lack of funds continues to be a roadblock for the homeless seeking services. Many agencies apply and receive grant funds to assist with the cost of co-pays, prescriptions and medical services; but the funds are never enough to meet the need. Another roadblock is the confusing and intimidating medical assistance system. Many individuals need a case manager to help them get through the often confusing and intimidating process.

## Someplace Safe

Someplace Safe is Trumbull County's domestic violence agency. The agency provides shelter and supportive services to victims and their minor children who find themselves in abusive situations. The majority of the clients that access the shelter are homeless due to domestic violence. Someplace Safe is a crisis/emergency agency. Clients are able to stay in the shelter for 30 to 45 days while they are assisted with case management services. Someplace Safe, Inc provides shelter, legal advocacy, and support groups for clients and their minor children as well as prevention programming in order to assist them to access a life free of violence.

The clients of Someplace Safe, Inc. consistently struggle with the transportation issue in Trumbull County. Since there is no continuous public transportation available the clients are in need of "gasoline cards" to assist them in getting to work and/or accessing appointments for services. There is also a need for additional one on one outreach programming after clients leave Someplace Safe, Inc. in order to assist them in continuing their access to services and support in order to continue living a life free of violence.

## Trumbull County Department of Job & Family Services (TCDJFS)

TCDJFS has services for the homeless in the form of one month's rent and security deposit. The homeless person must have a child or be pregnant and lack a fixed and regular nighttime residence. Since January of 2005, 215 households were assisted utilizing \$162,324. In September 2005 Medicaid recipients had the opportunity to enroll in a managed care program. Trumbull County offers three different providers – Caresource, Gateway and Unison. These managed care providers can also assist recipients with transportation needs. There are 24,352 eligible recipients of the managed care programs. If customers have not signed up for a provider one will be assigned to them.

### Trumbull LifeLines (ADAMHS<sup>16</sup> Board)

LifeLines has a contract with Warren-Trumbull Urban League for accommodations at the Christy House for persons with mental illness and/or substance abuse/dependency. The contract for FY05 was \$38,600, with the FY06 allocation at \$60,000.

LifeLines partners with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and the Mahoning County Mental Health Board in a two-county homeless outreach program – PATH/COACH (projects for assistance in transition from homelessness/case management, outreach and advocacy for our community's homeless).

LifeLines sets aside a pool of flexible funds, managed by Valley Counseling Services, that can be used to purchase emergency medications, make utility deposits, pay monthly rents and/or motel rooms for persons with mental illness who are in financial need. The FY2005 Supplemental Housing Assistance allocation is \$80,000, with the FY06 allocation at \$80,000.

LifeLines has received two HUD grants that are specifically for homeless persons with mental illness. The first grant will provide eight one-bedroom units with supportive services and is due to be completed in May 2006. The other grant provides Shelter Plus Care vouchers.

Trumbull LifeLines has found that a sleep-off/engagement center for persons under the influence of alcohol or other drugs would be a great asset to the entire community.

### Trumbull Metropolitan Housing Authority (TMHA)

TMHA has various resources to house the homeless. TMHA owns and manages the largest quantity of federally subsidized housing within Trumbull County. Rents are based on a tenant's income, giving an allowance (deduction from rent) when the tenant pays their own utilities. However, TMHA does not offer emergency housing due to the HUD mandated screening for eligibility. Applicants must pass this screening process to be offered a unit at TMHA. Various staff members are dedicated to housing applicants. The Interviewer interviews the applicant, while the Resident Selection Coordinator verifies the applicant's eligibility and offers a unit. Upper management personnel ensure that all procedures are followed.

TMHA has identified that it cannot speed up the process of screening. Screening depends on third party agencies that must complete the verification forms. Since application waiting lists are low, TMHA can only offer applicants a public housing unit when there is an applicant on the list. It is evident that applicants either apply for the Warren area and do not pass screening (i.e., owing past utility bills) or are not interested in living in the Warren area. When applicants are interested in the Warren area, private rentals are at a level that is affordable to residents without TMHA assistance.

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<sup>16</sup> ADAMHS – alcohol, drug and mental health services.

### Warren Trumbull Urban League, Inc.

The Warren-Trumbull Urban League operates the Christy House Emergency Shelter for men, women and families with children. The shelter accommodates 21-26 clients and provides meals to those residents. Funds are provided by the Ohio Department Of Development (ODOD), the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA), CDBG and LifeLines for a total of \$163,214 for FY05.

The major challenges for these clients are the lack of transportation options, the need for more caseworkers, the need for less stringent acceptance requirements at TMHA, better financial assistance and housing for single men and women.

### Governmental Issues

The Trumbull County Planning Commission and the City of Warren Community Development Department provide technical assistance to members of the Housing Collaborative for applications to local, state and federal programs. The Planning Commission plays an essential role in securing competitive and formula state grant funds for the Collaborative, while the city assists with grants through the it's annual federal CDBG allocation.

The Planning Commission and Community Development work together to administer the annual HOME allocation awarded to the Warren-Trumbull HOME Consortium. The Consortium has been fortunate to work with the Collaborative members to bring much needed transitional and permanent supportive housing.

It is a coordinated effort between the service providers and the local government offices to continually identify the homeless population within the county, while finding new resources that will aid in the prevention and intervention of homelessness.

The Collaborative has been a valuable partnership for the service providers and local government offices. Too often the government offices are unaware of the services provided by the many agencies within the county, while the agencies are unaware of the funding possibilities these offices may provide.

A major obstacle for the local governments will be to sustain the amount of funding available to the service agencies. Ultimately, all funding must be approved by Congress each year. Many factors have played a part in the amount of funding this county has received over the years and no doubt will continue into the future. From a change of Presidential and Congressional funding priorities, to natural disaster, to a change in county population and tax base, the Planning Commission and Community Development must work more diligently at identifying alternative sources of funding.

2005 Facility-Based Emergency Shelter Inventory

Facility-Based Household Beds	Family Units	Family Beds	Individual Beds	Total
Someplace Safe	12	20		20
Warren Family Mission			10	10
Warren Trumbull Urban League			21	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>51</b>

2005 Facility-Based Transitional Housing Inventory

Facility-Based Household Beds	Family Units	Family Beds	Individual Beds	Total
Beatitude House's House of Blessing	7	20		20
Emmanuel Community Care Center	8	20		20
Trumbull LifeLines Crossroads			12	12
Warren Family Mission			22	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>74</b>

2005 Facility-Based Permanent Supportive Housing Inventory

Facility-Based Household Beds	Family Units	Family Beds	Individual Beds	Total
<b>Current</b>				
Trumbull LifeLines' Campbell Apartments			18	18
Trumbull LifeLines' Voucher Program			25	25
<b>Under Development</b>				
Trumbull LifeLines' Joey's Landing			8	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>51</b>

2005 Gap Analysis

Facility-Based Household Beds	Current Inventory	Under Development	Unmet Need/Gap
<b>Individuals</b>			
Emergency Shelter	31		8
Transitional Housing	34		20
Permanent Supportive Housing	43	8	174
<b>Total</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>202</b>
<b>Family Units</b>			
Emergency Shelter	20		10
Transitional Housing	40		12
Permanent Supportive Housing			75
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>97</b>

PREVENTION AND DISCHARGE PLANNING

Goal

*The Trumbull County Housing Collaborative will utilize its interagency/public sector coordination to implement the coordination of homelessness prevention activities.*

Action Steps

- ✚ Develop and implement a Homeless Services Coordinator Position.
- ✚ Use mainstream and other resources to fund prevention activities.
- ✚ Implement a discharge planning model with follow up by the Citizen Circle and other established programs.
- ✚ Access funding for staff and homelessness prevention activities.

Outcomes

- ✚ Improved coordination of homelessness prevention activities and funding, as evidenced by a reduction in the number of persons requesting assistance more than one time per year.
- ✚ Increased number of funding streams for homelessness prevention activities by at least one in each of the next three years.
- ✚ Persons representing the Homeless Prevention and Access to Mainstream Resources (HPMR) committee of the Trumbull County Housing Collaborative will meet with the Trumbull County Sheriff's department to work toward appropriate discharge planning for persons leaving the jail with no home to go to.
- ✚ Funding for homelessness prevention staff and activities will increase by ten percent in each of the next three years.

## DATA GATHERING

### Goal

*The Trumbull County Housing Collaborative will continue to collect meaningful data through the Point-in-Time studies, surveys and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)<sup>15</sup> systems in order to educate the community and meet the needs of homeless persons and families.*

### Action Steps

- ✚ Implement the HMIS data collection system by all required agencies in the County.
- ✚ Implement the HMIS data collection system by organizations that are not required to implement, but serve homeless persons and families.
- ✚ Partner with Trumbull County hospitals and the mobile clinic to collect data from homeless persons being served in the emergency rooms and medical facilities (services provided, costs, etc.)
- ✚ Develop a quarterly report that includes information from all organizations using the HMIS system in Trumbull County and coordinate with Point-in-Time data to determine trends and patterns.
- ✚ Examine a centralized system or location for data gathering and data entry.

### Outcomes

- ✚ Increased identification of homeless persons and families, services received, funding allocated for each household's assistance.
- ✚ Increased ability to reduce duplication of persons served.
- ✚ Accurate, quantifiable data as to the cost of mental health, substance abuse and healthcare costs delivered in emergency rooms.
- ✚ Consistent reporting that identifies needs and characteristics of generally homeless and chronically homeless persons.
- ✚ Consistent data entry and reporting of HMIS information.

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<sup>15</sup> HMIS – Homeless Management Information System – a computerized data collection application designed to capture client-level information over time on the characteristics and service needs of people experiencing homelessness, while also protecting client confidentiality. It is designed to aggregate client-level data to generate an unduplicated count of clients served within a community's system of homeless services.

### SERVICES – OUTREACH, ASSERTIVE COMMUNITY TREATMENT (ACT)<sup>16</sup>, CASE MANAGEMENT, TRANSPORTATION AND HEALTHCARE

#### Goal

*The Trumbull County Housing Collaborative will provide an array/continuum of effective services that will eliminate homelessness for persons in the area.*

#### Action Steps

- ✦ The PATH outreach program will continue to provide aggressive outreach and access additional funding to increase the availability of outreach services.
- ✦ A committee of the Trumbull County Housing Collaborative will be formed to research the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) model and determine its viability and implementation in Trumbull County and the City of Warren.
- ✦ The Homeless Services Coordinator will work directly with case managers in the community to provide education, advocacy and coordination for homeless persons and families.
- ✦ An additional Homeless Case Manager will be hired to provide case management to those persons not already linked with an organization and collaborate with existing organizations to provide housing and services to homeless persons and families.
- ✦ A committee of the Trumbull County Housing Collaborative will be established to develop a plan of action regarding healthcare issues that are affecting homeless persons and families.
- ✦ Increased availability of low cost, accessible, public transportation to all areas of the County.

#### Outcomes

- ✦ Increased staffing specifically for homeless outreach
- ✦ Develop plan of action for ACT teams.
- ✦ Biannual meetings between Homeless Services Coordinator & community providers.
- ✦ Increased number of persons receiving case management who are not already affiliated with an organization.
- ✦ Develop a plan of action for healthcare.
- ✦ Increased transportation routes, vehicles and access.

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<sup>16</sup> Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) model – is a team effort, which includes people with a range of specialties, who together provide services for clients in a wrap-around approach. The services are coordinated to meet all of a customer’s needs in order to remain housed and not return to homelessness.

INTERVENTION

Goal

*The Trumbull County Housing Collaborative will provide coordinated, efficient and effective access to safe, decent, affordable permanent housing and supportive services.*

Action Steps

- ✚ Work with the Trumbull Metropolitan Housing Authority to determine the possibility and plan for accessing vacant public housing units.
- ✚ Establish a committee to research the Housing First Model<sup>17</sup>/ACT team and complete a plan of action for implementation.
- ✚ Obtain additional housing placement funds for all homeless persons and families.
- ✚ Provide housing and supports for persons who are ineligible and/or unwilling to access housing and supportive services.

Outcomes

- ✚ Increased number of units that are immediately accessible to homeless person and families.
- ✚ Develop a plan of action for the Housing First Model.
- ✚ Increased funding for security deposits, utility hook ups, furnishings and first month's rent.
- ✚ Increased options for persons who are unwilling to engage in services or ineligible for certain types of housing.

<sup>17</sup> Housing First Model – a housing model that provides permanent housing for participants along with wrap-around services, often through an ACT team. Persons are more immediately placed into housing and do not usually access shelters and transitional housing programs.

SELF-SUFFICIENCY – EDUCATION, TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT AND JOB PLACEMENT

Goal

*The Trumbull County Housing Collaborative will assist homeless persons and families to immediately access training and skills to increase their income and self-sufficiency.*

Action Steps

- ✦ The Homeless Services Coordinator will make appropriate and timely referrals to indicated services (Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, employment organizations, Trumbull County One Stop, Beatitude House, etc.) for each person.
- ✦ The Homeless Case Manager will work with persons and families to ensure they are engaged in independence building activities, are referred for ongoing case management services, applying for social security and other appropriate benefits (Veteran’s Administration, etc.).

Outcomes

- ✦ Increased number of homeless persons referred for vocational activities.
- ✦ Increase number of homeless persons who obtain income within 60 days of being referred for assistance and maintain employment for a minimum of 90 days from date of employment.

COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS

Goal

*The Trumbull County Housing Collaborative will develop and track accurate numbers of the cost of services being over utilized by homeless persons and families and measure those costs against the cost of providing housing and support services. Services to be tracked are to include:*

- Number & cost of services utilized in the Veteran’s system;*
- Number of days of incarceration;*
- Number of emergency room visits and costs associated with those visits;*
- Number of hospital admissions, both medical and psychiatric;*
- Number of emergency beds used; and*
- Number of transitional housing beds used.*

Action Steps

- ✚ Partner with the Veteran’s system, healthcare and shelter providers, transitional and emergency bed providers to develop a reporting tool to be used on a monthly basis.
- ✚ Partner with the Trumbull County Jail to develop a reporting tool to be used on a monthly basis.
- ✚ Establish baseline data for the first four quarters of data collection.
- ✚ Compare baseline and ongoing data collection on a quarterly basis.

Outcomes

- ✚ Decrease the number of emergency room services accessed by homeless persons and families by ten percent each of the next three years.
- ✚ Decrease the length of stay for homeless persons accessing the jail by twenty percent each of the next three years.
- ✚ Decrease the length of stay for persons accessing emergency shelters and crisis residential units (Riverbend).
- ✚ Decrease the length of stay for persons staying in transitional housing programs who successfully complete the program.

ANTICIPATED COSTS

Staffing:

Homeless Services Coordinator	\$ 44,800	
Homeless Case Manager	38,400	
HMIS Coordinator/Administrative Assistant	32,000	
ACT Team	300,000	
Administrative Overhead (25%)	<u>103,800</u>	
		\$ 519,000

Services:

Prevention Activity Funds	\$ 315,000	
Housing Placement Funds	150,000	
Transportation Voucher	2,000	
Healthcare Vouchers	1,000	
Medication Vouchers	3,000	
Identification	<u>5,000</u>	
		\$ 476,000

Capital:

HMIS System	\$ <u>32,500</u>	\$ <u>32,500</u>
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GRAND TOTAL: \$ 1,027,500

Sources of funds include, but not limited to:

- Community Development Block Grant
- Ohio Department of Development
- US Department of Housing & Urban Development
- US Department of Veterans Affairs
- Transportation grants
- Medicaid
- SAMHSA – Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration
- Foundation grants
- Agency participation
- Business Resources
- Community Resources

## BUDGET NARRATIVE

### The Homeless Services Coordinator

This position would provide coordination of services in the county with regard to information and referral, the provision of a “one stop” system for homeless persons, access to all of the voucher funding and coordination of other sources of funding located at other agencies, supervision of the Homeless Case Manager, coordinate conferences on very difficult cases bringing together agencies to assist the person/family.

### The Homeless Case Manager

This person will work directly with homeless persons and families and assist them with accessing mainstream resources, benefits, housing, employment, transportation, medical benefits, funding, mental health services, substance abuse services, Veteran’s services.

### The Homeless Management Information System Coordinator (HMIS)

This individual would work with all agencies in Trumbull County who work with homeless persons to design a data collection form for the HMIS system, complete input of the data, run reports, and provide some direct care to homeless persons and families.

### The Assertive Community Treatment Team (ACT)

An ACT Team is a best practice associated with the Housing First model. The ACT Team includes a psychiatrist, nurse, peer support specialist, case manager, therapist, employment specialist and substance abuse professional. Different methods of funding this team are being developed in the State of Ohio. This type of team has most often been used with persons with mental illness but can be modified for other groups or can be modified in its use such as an intensive team that may be comprised of fewer staff and serve a more broad homeless population.

### Prevention Activity Funds

These funds are funds used to prevent homelessness such as rent payments to avoid eviction, mortgage payments to avoid foreclosure and utility payments to avoid utility shut offs.

### Housing Placement Funds

These are funds used to assist someone moving into a new housing unit such as security deposit, first month’s rent, utility hook up monies, furnishings and start up food.

### Transportation, healthcare and medication vouchers

Vouchers would be used to assist homeless persons with transportation for appointments, employment, healthcare appointments and medication when no other benefits or insurance is available to assist persons and families in need. These monies could also assist with obtaining identification, social security cards and birth certificates.

### The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

This computer software is a database provided by Service Point – Bowman Systems and used by the Ohio Department of Development to provide specific information about persons accessing programs that are funded by HUD and the Ohio Department of Development. The HMIS System can assist with annual reports and can be used for other reporting activities dependent upon the agency’s needs. All organizations receiving HUD and/or ODOD funding must participate in the HMIS system.

BLUEPRINT TO END HOMELESSNESS  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Dr. Iram Ahmed**

Medical Director  
St. Elizabeth Health Center Mobile  
Outreach Service

**Deborah Barna**

Property Manager  
Trumbull Metropolitan Housing  
Authority

**Nickola Ceglia, LISW, ACSW**

Executive Director  
Trumbull LifeLines

**Tina Copeland**

Manager  
Bureau of Vocational  
Rehabilitation

**Donald W. Emerson, Jr., JD**

Executive Director  
Trumbull Metropolitan Housing  
Authority

**Frank Flaminio**

One Stop Supervisor  
Trumbull County Department of  
Job and Family Services

**Julie M. Green**

Planner II  
Trumbull County Planning  
Commission

**Margie Hughes**

Site Administration Director  
Warren West Health Center

**Judith Infante, RN**

Director of Nursing  
Trumbull County Health  
Department

**Michael D. Keys**

Director  
City of Warren, Community  
Development Department

**Alan J. Knapp**

Director  
Trumbull County Planning  
Commission

**Kenneth Lloyd, MEd, LSW,  
CCDCIII-E**

President/CEO  
Community Solutions Association

**Brenda Merkich**

Housing Director  
Warren Trumbull Urban League

**Robin Moon**

Family Support Coordinator  
Trumbull County Children Services

**Janet M. Musolf**

Program Coordinator  
City of Warren, Community  
Development Department

**Sr. Jean Orsuto**

Executive Director  
Emmanuel Community Care  
Center

**George Otto**

Social Worker  
Mahoning Co. Homeless Coalition  
& the Youngstown Department of  
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