

EMERGENCY

City of Cincinnati

AAD/gpc/cmz

An Ordinance No. 129

-2009

DIRECTING the Cincinnati/Hamilton County Continuum of Care for the Homeless to immediately take steps to implement the Homeless to Homes Plan by providing a comprehensive framework for ensuring that single homeless men and women have access to safe, appropriate shelter facilities that provide them with the services necessary to move out of homelessness per the terms further described in this ordinance.

WHEREAS, since 1996, the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County have partnered around the Continuum of Care for the Homeless ("CoC") efforts to plan and implement a comprehensive, effective service and housing delivery system for the homeless, including street outreach, individual and family emergency shelters, transitional and permanent housing, and services-only programs; and

WHEREAS, the Cincinnati/Hamilton County Continuum of Care for the Homeless is one of the nation's top-scoring CoC programs and maximizes federal resources attracted to Greater Cincinnati, with a reputation for effective planning, implementation, and innovation, with overall outcomes that exceed national expectations; and

WHEREAS, the homeless sections of the Consolidated Plans of both the City and the County match and identify the housing needs and current inventory of facilities as are critical to the success of the CoC and of each jurisdiction's ability to continue to generate and utilize federal Housing and Urban Development resources; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, there were a total of 7,298 unduplicated persons served through street outreach, emergency shelters and/or transitional housing within the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, of which 3,604 were single males and 1,139 were single females without children in their homeless household composition; and

WHEREAS, a total of 422 emergency shelter beds are available nightly for single individuals. Of this total number, 312 emergency shelter beds are reserved for single homeless men at the City Gospel Mission, the Drop Inn Center, the Mt. Airy Shelter, and at the St. Francis/St. Joseph Catholic Worker House; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council recognize the experience of the local shelter providers and commend the existing individual men's and women's shelter facilities for the resources and energy currently expended to provide emergency shelter and services for this population, while recognizing that innovations and service enhancements to meet the needs of the hardest-to-serve may exceed existing capacity; and

WHEREAS, the Cincinnati/Hamilton County Continuum of Care for the Homeless, Inc. initiated a community process to initiate the Homeless to Homes Plan which was submitted to Council in April, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Homeless to Homes Plan provides a comprehensive framework for ensuring that single homeless men and women have access to safe, appropriate shelter facilities that provide them with the services necessary to move out of homelessness, and represents hundreds of hours of work by more than 70 individuals representing City and County government, housing and human services providers, the business community, philanthropists and funders, and leaders in the faith community, working with the common goal of taking a blank slate approach toward designing a model system for Cincinnati's homeless citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Homeless to Homes Plan is only the beginning, as it makes recommendations regarding how our current homeless services system for individuals should develop over the next 3-5 years; and

WHEREAS, the Homeless to Homes Plan recommends the establishment of a Transition Team to prioritize the recommendations within this plan for implementation and develop an implementation schedule, using the same cross-functional representation of interests as the committee that constructed the plan initially, to ensure that the implementation of the recommendations does not cause additional hardships for homeless individuals or result in an increase in street homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the Homeless to Homes Plan calls for additional efforts to be undertaken to further identify best practices and medical services for the homeless, examining the research and looking around the country for agencies and organizations that have service delivery models and programs that achieve notable success; and

WHEREAS, the Homeless to Homes Plan recognizes community concerns over safety related to the location of shelters and recommends that as part of the transition process, minimum standards for shelters must be redeveloped which shelters must then pledge to adhere to for public funding, and that these standards should be developed in a cooperative effort with representatives from existing shelters and surrounding neighborhood representatives, and that minimum standards for "Good Neighbor Agreements" must be developed to which all transitional and permanent supportive housing must adhere to be eligible for public funding; and

WHEREAS, the Homeless to Homes Plan recommends that City Council direct the City of Cincinnati administration to incorporate the Homeless to Homes Plan as the basis for the Homeless/Special Needs section for homeless individuals within the 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan of the City, and, as has been the tradition, as the identical section included within Hamilton County's Consolidated Plan; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That Council directs the Cincinnati/Hamilton County Continuum of Care for the Homeless to immediately take steps to:

1. Establish a transition team to prioritize the recommendations within the Homeless to Homes Plan for implementation and develop an implementation schedule, using the same cross-functional representation of interests as the committee that constructed the plan initially. Implementation must ensure that single homeless men and women will have access to the safe,

appropriate, targeted shelter facilities described in the Homeless to Homes Plan, each providing the comprehensive services and Homeless Case Management Services outlined in the Homeless to Homes Plan.

2. Further identify best practices and medical services for the homeless, examining the research and looking around the country for agencies and organizations that have service delivery models and programs that achieve notable success so as to insure the highest standards of care for the homeless in terms of shelter, case management services, medical services, systems coordination, and mental health and recovery services.
3. Develop minimum standards for shelters, which shelters must then pledge to adhere to for receipt of public funding, and that these standards should be developed in a cooperative effort with representatives from existing shelters and surrounding neighborhood representatives.
4. Develop minimum standards for "Good Neighbor Agreements" to which all transitional and permanent supportive housing must adhere to be eligible for public funding.

Section 2. That Council directs that recommendations for implementation of the Homeless to Homes Plan will include leveraging and alignment of existing and new resources from city, state, and federal sources to support plan objectives, and will further include the suggested allocation of existing and new city, state, and federal resources under the City's control, to support plan objectives, facilities, services and administration. It remains the intent of the Mayor and Cincinnati City Council that the Homeless to Homes Plan guide City of Cincinnati resource allocations for services to single homeless men and women into the future. It remains the intent of the Mayor and Cincinnati City Council that providers of these services will be selected through an objective, competitive process overseen by the City of Cincinnati Department of Community Development in collaboration with the CoC to insure consistency with the Homeless to Homes Plan and HUD guidelines. Service providers will be selected and resources allocated to homeless service providers based on: 1) shelter and services being coordinated with the CoC and the Homeless to Homes plan; 2) sensitivity to the needs of the community; and 3) the HUD outcome goals of homeless individuals accessing housing and increasing income.

Section 3. That the Mayor and City Council also intend that upon approval by Council of the priorities of the Homeless to Homes Plan, the Plan be incorporated into the Consolidated Plans of both the City and the County, effective in 2010, as the continued matching of these plans in both jurisdictions is critical to the ability to continue to generate and utilize federal HUD resources.

Section 4. That the Mayor and City Council hereby empower the Continuum of Care, Inc. to respond to this mandate by creating an implementation process that is inclusive of key stakeholders in the community such as homeless advocates, the business community, emergency shelter, housing, and health care providers, mental health and recovery services, the faith community, formerly homeless individuals, foundations and funders, and local government. As described in the Homeless to Homes Plan, this implementation process is to prioritize the recommendations within the plan for implementation, to develop an implementation schedule, and to recommend to Council implementation of the recommendations in such a way as to not cause additional hardships for homeless individuals or result in an increase in street homelessness.


Section 5. That Council hereby directs the City Manager to provide staff assistance and financial resources of up to \$40,000 in project delivery cost allocation from the Emergency Shelter Improvements of the Community Development Block Grant Recovery Program funds. necessary to assist the Continuum of Care in completing the directives of this ordinance.

Section 6. That Council hereby directs the Continuum of Care to report to City Council within ninety days of the effective date of this ordinance on the aforementioned items, and to provide further appropriate recommendations once the above-mentioned tasks are completed.

Section 7. That this ordinance shall be an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety and general welfare and shall, subject to the terms

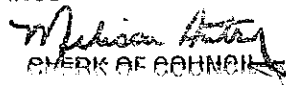
of Article II, Section 6 of the Charter, be effective immediately. The reason for the emergency is to ensure that the recommendations of the Homeless to Homes Plan are implemented at the earliest possible date in order to ensure the provision of services to homeless individuals within Cincinnati and Hamilton County.

Passed: May 21, 2009



Mayor

Attest: Brenda Williams
Acting Clerk

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT ORDINANCE NO 129-2009
WAS PUBLISHED IN THE CITY BULLETIN
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CHARTER ON 6-2-09

CLERK OF COUNCIL