



DRAFT City of Boulder Homelessness Strategy Framework

Homelessness Strategy Purpose

The purpose of the City of Boulder Homelessness Strategy is to:

- 1) Clarify city goals in addressing homelessness;
- 2) Maximize efficiency and effectiveness of city resources in reducing homelessness;
- 3) Engage community partners more broadly in solutions; and
- 4) Provide a strategic road map for city action on homelessness.

Homelessness Strategy Guiding Principles

The Homeless Strategy guiding principles and goals are informed by national best practices in addressing homelessness, local community needs, and other local and regional policy documents.

- *Consider homelessness in a regional context*
People experiencing homelessness are highly mobile, seeking services, employment, housing and other needs. Policies, resources and strategies in one city, county or metro area impact homelessness among neighboring jurisdictions. Planning and resources should be leveraged regionally.
- *Respect the strength and dignity of diverse individuals*
A wide variety of people experience homelessness for many different reasons. Solutions should consider diverse homeless individuals and families and their needs.
- *Support the advancement of self sufficiency and independence*
Individuals and families should have support to achieve the maximum degree of self sufficiency and independence possible.
- *Effectively use resources within a coordinated and collaborative system*
National best practices demonstrate that coordinated, collaborative systems yield better outcomes for people and cost-effective solutions for communities.

Homelessness Strategy Goals

- *Prevent Homelessness*
Provide support to prevent individuals and families from the traumatic and costly slide into homelessness.
- *Provide temporary shelter and supportive services as needed*

Maintain a safety net of emergency shelter, food and other needed services with a pathway to long-term solutions such as permanent housing.

- *Provide long-term housing and support solutions*

Provide housing options and support; including permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals and families and rapid re-housing for people with fewer support needs.

- *Improve systems to support efficient and effective services and outcomes*

Implement best practices in homelessness that result in a system that is coordinated, integrated, easy to navigate and provides performance information that supports analysis of outcomes and opportunities for improvement.

- *Expand public education and communication*

Provide accessible information about homelessness and people experiencing homelessness and how the community can be involved in solutions.

Homeless Action Plan

The Homeless Action Plan (HAP) provides implementation strategies and action items to achieve the goals of the Homelessness Strategy.

Strategy 1 – Strengthen Regional Partnerships

- 1.a. Work with other funders, local and regional partners and service providers to identify barriers and resources needed to implement system improvements
- 1.b. Actively support the proposed goals of the Metro Mayors Caucus, Homeless Committee
- 1.c. Engage Consortium of Cities for countywide dialogues and solutions
- 1.d. Actively engage in regional homelessness reduction efforts

Strategy 2 – Develop Innovative Solutions to Increase Housing Options

- 2.a. Develop community dashboard on goals
- 2.b. Identify any new opportunities in the Consolidated Plan to prioritize homeless housing
- 2.c. Strengthen landlord relationships for housing retention and incentives
- 2.d. Address barriers to maximizing federal housing resources
- 2.e. Support community initiatives to develop housing for the homeless
- 2.f. Address land use barriers to developing and acquiring housing

Strategy 3 – Improve Local Service Integration

- 3.a. Require system improvements (coordinated assessment, intake, case management, data) as condition of city funding
- 3.b. Develop prioritization system, including vulnerability assessment, for services
- 3.c. Conduct a more thorough evaluation of emergency sheltering system and update target goals for sheltering, including feasibility of expanded day services center and summer study of homelessness.
- 3.d. Strengthen Municipal Court Referrals to Bridge House and other services
- 3.e. Support Boulder Police Department EDGE Partnership with Mental Health Partners

Strategy 4 – Improve Community Education

- 4.a. Work with community stakeholders to improve communications and information about homeless populations, initiatives and results achieved.

Strategy 5 – Prevent Homelessness

- 5.a. Continue support and coordination of city and regional programs that help people out of poverty, including affordable housing programs and supportive/temporary assistance programs.