

Income

Austin, TX (pages 37-40)

Issue #5: Increase Homeless Persons' Incomes
 Help chronically homeless persons access SSI/SSDI benefits they are eligible for or help them obtain employment at a living wage.

Goal: Increase the number of chronically homeless persons receiving benefits for which they are eligible.

Action Plan: Years 1-2

	Responsible Entity
<p>A. Clear bottleneck of SSI/SSDI cases at Administrative Law Judge Hearing level</p> <p>1. Increase legal staff support to handle and resolve cases at this level</p>	Texas Rural Legal Aid, MHMR
<p>B. Expand the number of representative payees who can accept and manage SSI/SSDI payments for chronically homeless persons</p> <p>1. Track the number and needs of clients requiring representative payees</p> <p>2. Investigate funding for caseworker to serve as representative payee at ARCH</p>	Texas Rural Legal Aid, MHMR Chronic Homeless Working Group
<p>C. Develop a collaborative of agencies that submit SSI/SSDI applications on behalf of chronically homeless persons. The collaborative would convene to:</p> <p>1. Share information and techniques for developing successful applications</p> <p>2. Conduct cross training with case managers and volunteers on application process to facilitate faster approval</p> <p>3. Increase collaboration between providers and Austin Travis County MHMR Consumer Benefits office, Texas Rural Legal Aid</p>	Texas Rural Legal Aid, MHMR
<p>D. "Fast track" application process for cases with higher likelihood of success (i.e. people eligible for VA benefits, persons whose disability is on the "listing")</p> <p>1. Provide training on eligibility screening and application process to:</p> <p>a. Community Court social workers</p> <p>b. Jail personnel</p> <p>c. AmeriCorps volunteers working with homeless agencies</p> <p>d. Case managers</p>	ARCH, Texas Rural Legal Aid, MHMR
<p>E. Track SSI/SSDI applications submitted, length of review process and results</p> <p>1. Identify types of cases being denied</p> <p>2. Collect evidence of need for substance abuse treatment in order to help persons become eligible for benefits</p>	ARCH, Texas Rural Legal Aid, MHMR

Action Plan: Years 3-5

	Responsible Entity
A. Pursue ability to claim "presumptive eligibility" for persons with certain diagnoses	
1. Work with Social Security Administration representatives to allow "presumptive eligibility" -- making payments to persons prior to approval, based on certain diagnoses	Chronic Homeless Working Group, <i>Ending Chronic Homelessness Subcommittee</i>
B. Provide substance abuse treatment on demand to help people become eligible for benefits	
1. Provide adequate funding for substance abuse treatment so that people are able to obtain it soon after they decide to accept it	City, County
2. Work with Downtown Austin Community Court to make substance abuse treatment slots available to chronic homeless individuals, regardless of whether they have a history of criminal offenses, contingent upon available funds	
3. Use data on SSI/SSDI application denials to prove the need for more substance abuse treatment	
C. Increase the number of persons accessing benefits for which they are eligible	
1. Provide training on helping chronically homeless persons access mainstream benefits, including SSI/SSDI benefits for persons with disabilities not on the "listing"	ARCH, Legal Aid, MHMR
a. Provide regular cross training to case workers	ARCH, Texas Rural Legal Aid, MHMR
b. Train AmeriCorps volunteers to conduct benefits enrollment at ARCH	
c. Provide training to jails and prisons to help people access benefits upon -- or soon after -- release	
d. Provide training to WorkSource staff, employment training providers	
2. Train volunteers to complete SSI/SSDI applications so that the resources of Legal Aid, MHMR and other entities can be directed to the more complex aspects of the application process, such as the hearing and appeal process	
3. Identify and train community volunteers/members of faith community to serve as representative payees	ARCH, Texas Rural Legal Aid, MHMR
D. Improve success of SSI/SSDI applications	
1. Obtain information from application review staff on how to improve applications	Texas Rural Legal Aid, MHMR
2. Request Social Security Administration to designate 1-2 persons to process and track homeless applications	<i>Ending Chronic Homelessness Subcommittee</i>

Action Plan: Years 6-10

	Responsible Entity
A. Re-evaluate plan and make adjustments as necessary	Chronic Homeless Working Group, <i>Ending Chronic Homelessness Subcommittee</i>
B. Continue collaborative of agencies that submit SSI/SSDI applications	ARCH, Texas Rural Legal Aid, MHMR
C. Continue to provide training to caseworkers on accessing mainstream benefits	
D. Continue to track SSI/SSDI applications submitted, the amount of time they take to be reviewed and results	Chronic Homeless Working Group

Goal: Increase the number of chronically homeless persons earning a living wage

Action Plan: Years 1-2

	Responsible Entity
A. Develop a consortium of homeless service providers and employment agencies to develop job training and placement programs for chronically homeless persons	
1. Create employment subcommittee of Task Force	Homeless Task Force
2. Develop supported employment program modeled after Dept. of Labor grant application submitted	Employment Subcommittee
a. Pursue funding from WorkSource and other entities to support job training and placement	
b. Pursue funding for housing and services for individuals engaged in job training and placement so they can focus on obtaining employment	
B. Increase access to "Mainstream" employment programs	
1. Provide outreach and information on employment services at day resource center	Workforce, ARCH City, County
2. Develop plan to designate funding or slots for homeless persons in local workforce contracts	Workforce, Employment Subcommittee
3. Collaborate with Workforce Board to identify and address employment needs of homeless persons	

Action Plan: Years 3-5

	Responsible Entity
<p>A. Utilize community volunteers to help chronically homeless persons access benefits and employment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement a "System of Care" approach to helping chronic homeless individuals address barriers to becoming self-sufficient 2. Use community volunteers to mentor and support chronically homeless persons making the transition from homelessness 	<p>To be determined</p> <p>Employment Subcommittee</p>
<p>B. Work with area businesses to create employment opportunities for chronically homeless persons</p>	<p>Employment Subcommittee</p>
<p>C. Develop partnerships with Austin Community College and other post-secondary education institutions to expand access to job training and placement</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify programs that can be used to fund services to homeless persons, e.g. funding allocated for GED education to prison population 2. Expand opportunities for homeless persons' enrollment in job training programs, such as hospitality and food service programs 	<p>Employment Subcommittee</p>

Action Plan: Years 6-10

	Responsible Entity
<p>A. Re-evaluate plan and make adjustments as necessary</p>	<p>Employment Subcommittee</p>
<p>B. Continue consortium of homeless service providers and employment agencies to develop job training and placement programs</p>	<p>Employment Subcommittee</p>
<p>C. Continue partnerships with post secondary institutions</p>	<p>Employment Subcommittee</p>

Income

Alexandria, VA (page 20)

- Educate local health care entities and others about successful medical respite facilities for homeless.

Responsible Parties: HSCC, Health Care Task Force, Va. Coalition for the Homeless
Target Date: Jan. 2006

- Create a medical respite facility.

Responsible Parties: TBD
Target Date: January 2008

- Submit application to HHS/HRSA for Health Care for the Homeless grant.

Responsible Parties: Community Health Center, Health Care Task Force, Health Dept., INOVA Alexandria Hospital
Target Date: April 2005

GOAL 14: INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY OF TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AND JOBS TO THE CHRONICALLY HOMELESS AND OTHER HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS

Action Steps

- Identify employers willing to hire chronic homeless and other homeless individuals who are able to work.

Responsible Parties: Task Force On Prisoner Re-Entry, CSB, DRS, WORC
Target Date: 2005 (2 employers)
2006 – 2010 (2 new employers per year)
Primary: JobLink One-Stop Center for Workforce Investment

- Identify how chronically homeless who are able to work and other homeless persons can access existing training programs, and identify training programs needed by these populations that are not currently being provided.

Responsible Parties: Task Force On Prisoner Re-Entry, CSB, DRS, WORC
Target Date: 2005 (2 programs)
2006 – 2010 (2 new programs per year)
Primary: JobLink One-Stop Center for Workforce Investment

- Coordinate with JobLink One-Stop Center to access training/educational opportunities that may be available to chronic and other homeless persons through the Workforce Investment Act (Virginia Commonwealth Plan, Priority Four, Strategy 4.3 – 4.5) and to improve access to, and accelerated completion of, GED training by homeless persons.

Responsible Parties: Task Force On Prisoner Re-Entry, CSB, DRS, DHS, WORC
Target Date: Oct. 2005
Primary: JobLink One-Stop Center for Workforce Investment