



# COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FOR THE HOMELESS

## CAN Community Council Meeting

March 2008



*building independence,  
creating opportunities*

# Overview

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- Defining the Problem
- Scope & Scale of Problem
- Systemic Issues for Addressing Problem
- Potential Solutions



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# Defining the Problem

## Community Goal

To end homelessness

## Key Insight

Appropriate integration of housing and services

Housing without services & services without housing **do not work** at sustainable, systemic level



<http://www.rgj.com/blogs/crime/2007/02/should-these-be-on-reno-postcard.html>



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# Scope & Scale of the Problem

- Over 133,000 Travis County residents live in poverty
- Over 6200 individuals were homeless in the Austin area in 2006
- Over 1500 AISD students affected by homelessness in 2006
- Families with children make up approximately 40% of the homeless population
- Over 640 homeless veterans in Travis County on any given day



Name: Manuel Hernandez, Taken by: Gar Kazanjian – Associated Press



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# Scope & Scale of the Problem

- Over 4600 housing units needed to serve greater Austin's homeless
- Only 1500 units of homeless housing available
- **Housing Shortage: over 3000 units**



<http://www.petsofhomeless.com/Comments%20From%20Viewers.htm>  
Taken by: Kirsten Bole



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# Systemic Issues for Addressing Problem

- Inadequate level of funding
  - ✓ Capital - \$s to build the housing
  - ✓ Operations - \$s to operate the housing
  - ✓ Services - \$s to provide services to ensure good outcomes
- Fragmented & uncoordinated funding system
- Need for a stronger advocate for homelessness community
- Lack of community understanding of costs of homelessness
- Incomplete grasp of specific homelessness needs
- Need for a stronger Continuum of Care (CoC)



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# Potential Solutions

- Solution 1: Prioritize our community resources (\$\$\$)
  - Greater financial investment in supportive services from City, County and private sources
  - Challenge  
Where do the \$s come from?



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# Potential Solutions

- Solution 2: Coordinate funding sources via a “Funders’ Council” mechanism
  - Bring myriad of public and private funders together
  - Braid (not pool) various funding sources
  - Develop consensus on nature of problem & most effective solutions – and fund them
  - Challenge  
Coordinating so many groups is no small feat  
  
Structural inflexibility of funding sources



# Potential Solutions

- Solution 3: Strengthen homeless coalition (ECHO)
  - Provide a stronger advocate voice for homelessness
  - Transition ECHO into a stand-alone organization
  - Vehicle for developing better understanding of:
    - 1) needs of specific homeless populations
    - 2) costs of not adequately addressing homelessness
  - Challenge  
Lack of clear consensus on need for stronger ECHO  
  
Concerns about poaching funding



# Potential Solutions

- Solution 4: Improve CoC process & application
  - Walter to discuss in greater detail



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# Potential Solutions

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Questions?

