

Marion County Continuum Of Care Ten Year Plan To End Homelessness



Prepared by

Affordable Housing Task Force

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AFFORDABLE HOUSING TASK FORCE
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MARION COUNTY TEN-YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS

The Marion County Continuum of Care/Affordable Housing Task Force is a broad based coalition of both community and faith based organizations working to assess the nature and extent of housing concerns in Marion County. The Continuum of Care Committee adopted the following Vision Statement for the focus of their work:

The Marion Continuum of Care/Affordable Housing Task Force is committed to assisting individuals and families who become homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless to regain housing stability and quality of life. Toward this end, over the next 10 years, the Continuum of Care committee will implement and expand a comprehensive Continuum of Care plan to prevent and end homelessness in Marion County.

Since 2004, the Task Force has been developing a structured response to the issue of housing crisis and concerns including the completion of a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats), obtaining a count of homeless persons and creating an inventory of services to persons who are homeless or in housing crisis.

Through a series of committee and community stakeholder meetings, the following four main themes have been identified to end homelessness in Marion County; each with measurable objectives, action steps, responsible organizations and timelines:

Closing the Front Door to Homelessness

Increase/maintain services available to prevent homelessness for individuals and families.
Increase service coordination and public awareness of available housing resources.

Opening the Back Door Out of Homelessness

Increase the number of safe, decent, affordable permanent housing units available to homeless families and individuals with or without disabilities.

Building the Infrastructure

- Increase local, state, and federal legislative support for affordable housing in Marion
- Increase community awareness on the issue of homelessness
- Increase access to transportation assistance
- Increase access to employment that pays a living wage

Managing for Results

Improve data collection methods and analysis to increase understanding of homelessness and housing crisis and bring to the planning table those responsible for mainstream as well as homeless-targeted resources.

HOMELESSNESS

Twenty-five years ago there was not widespread homelessness in America. A groundbreaking count of homelessness released on February 28, 2007, found that 704,000 people nationwide sought shelter at least once in a three-month period. Families with children accounted for 1/3 of those seeking emergency shelter or transitional housing between February and the most recent period studied. Deinstitutionalization of people living with mental illness, loss of affordable housing stock, and widespread homelessness did not emerge until the 1980's. Several factors have affected its growth over the last two decades. Housing has become scarcer for those with little money. Earnings from employment and from benefits have not kept pace with the cost of housing for low income people. Services that every family needs for support and stability have become harder to attain or find for very poor people.

In addition to these systemic causes, social changes have exacerbated the personal problems of many poor Americans, leading them to be more vulnerable to homelessness. These social trends have included new kinds of illegal drugs and more single parent and teen-headed households with low earning power and thinning support networks. These causes of homelessness must be addressed. People who are homeless must be helped. The current system does this reasonably well for many of those who become homeless. But the homeless assistance system can neither prevent people from becoming homeless nor change the overall availability of housing, income and services that will truly end homelessness.

Many people think of homelessness as strictly an urban phenomenon because homeless people are greater in number and are more visible in urban areas, but homelessness, including people who live in housing structures not meant for habitation is pervasive in rural areas. The number of people who experience rural homelessness is unknown. Evidence suggests that if the number of people who experience homelessness in rural areas was viewed and counted more accurately, the number would be far greater than expected.

RURAL HOMELESSNESS

Advocates and researchers often refer to people who experience rural homelessness as the "hidden homeless." Many people who experience housing instability in rural areas go unnoticed and uncounted because rural homelessness takes shape differently than urban homelessness. Most rural homeless people live in doubled up situations with friends or family or in motels, in cars, parks and other places not intended for habitation.

While those doubled up households do not meet HUD's definition of homelessness, people living temporarily with friends and family are essentially homeless and they experience similar problems with housing instability. Many researchers and advocates argue for expanding this view of homelessness to capture the unique situations rural homeless people face. If the view of homelessness included households who double up, the numbers of people who experience homelessness in rural areas would increase exponentially.

The same structural factors that contribute to urban homelessness, such as a lack of affordable housing and inadequate income to pay for housing, cause rural homelessness. Nationwide persons with severe, persistent psychiatric disorders and/or dependency problems are at a greater risk of homelessness. In Marion County, there are more support networks in place to assist those homeless individuals with mental disorders than those who struggle with substance abuse issues.

High rates of poverty and unemployment in rural areas also drive homelessness. Rural homelessness is most dramatic in areas that experience high rates of unemployment because of declining industries, for example farming, timber, mining or fishing (Aron and Fitchen, 1996). The lack of available jobs and steady incomes means that poverty rates are higher in rural areas. It is not surprising that one in five children living in rural areas are below the poverty line (USDA Economic Research Service, 2004).

MARION COUNTY

Demographic, Income and Housing

Marion County is located in north central Ohio and is bounded by the following counties: Wyandot and Crawford to the north, Hardin to the west, Union and Delaware to the south, and Morrow to the east. The county covers 258,559.8 acres, of which 223,174.5 (86.3%) are agricultural or open areas, and 3,200.8 (1.2%) are urban areas. The remaining areas are wooded (10.3%), non-forested woodlands (0.94%), shrub/scrub (0.8%), open water (0.25%), and barren (0.16%). The three natural waterways that are present in the county are the Little Scioto, Scioto, and Whetstone Rivers.

Marion County is comprised of one city, Marion, which accounts for approximately 53% of the county population. The remaining population resides in one of the county's 13 townships: Big Island, Claridon, Grand Prairie, Green Camp, Montgomery, Marion, Pleasant, Prospect, Richland, Salt Rock, Scott, Tully, and Waldo (Marion Community Needs 2006 Report of Results).

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2005 American Community Survey, Marion County's population of 66,217 ranks Marion 54th in population out of 88 counties in Ohio.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2000 population estimates, there are 24,578 households residing in Marion County: 92.1% Caucasian 5.7% African American, 0.2% Native American, 0.5% Asian, 1.1% Hispanic or Latino and 0.4% Other.

Of the 24,578 households, 27% have children under the age of 19 living with them, 54% are married couples living together, 11.4% have a female householder with no husband present, 24.1% of all households are made up of individuals and 10.9% have someone living alone who is 65 years of age or older.

In Marion County the population is spread out with 24.4% under the age of 18, 8.4% from 18 to 24, 30.04% from 25 to 44, 23.4% from 45 to 64 and 13.4% who are 65 years of age or older. The median age is 37.2 years.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census of the 24,578 Marion County households, 68.1% are homeowners and 25.3% live in rental housing. The median gross rent for renter households is \$500. In 2006, a Marion County Profile states that it requires an hourly rate of \$10.92 based on a 40 hour work week to afford a two bedroom apartment that rents for \$568 a month. As a result, 41% of renters cannot afford housing.

NEEDS STATEMENT

Marion County has an increased number of families and individuals who are experiencing homelessness due to the increased gap between household income and affordable housing.

The housing challenges faced by many households in Marion County mirrors a national trend in housing instability for low-income families and individuals.

A growing body of research suggests that the growing number of homeless households can be attributed to the following factors: From the National Alliance to End Homelessness: 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, Washington, D.C.

Poverty: According to the 2000 census in Marion County the median income is \$38,709 and 9.7% of the population lives at or below the federal poverty level. Single individuals living below the poverty level have income less than \$12,994 per year and a family of four living below the poverty level has an income of less than \$18,550 per year. In the past five years, two manufacturing plants have closed and a major telecommunications company downsized resulting in a decrease in the economy of Marion County. Other contributing factors include: cultural cycle of drug use and lack of value of education (14.7% no high school diploma), increasing single parent household, (44% are below poverty level), lack of income (14.5% of married households gave neither husband or wife employed), divorce rates (65%), teen pregnancy rates (7% or 70 per one thousand teens in 2003), bankruptcies, children raised by grandparents, unwed mothers, and lack of supervision for children creating emotional needs that are not met. In January 2007, the

various meal sites in Marion County reported 5,871 prepared meals served. This further demonstrates the poverty conditions and needs that exist.

Widening Gap Between Living Wage and Housing Affordability: According to the Marion County Profile in the Public Children Services Association of Ohio 2007-2008 factbook, 8th Edition, it takes an hourly wage of \$10.92 in a 40-hour workweek to afford the Fair Market Rent of \$568 a month for a two-bedroom apartment. As a result, 41% of renters cannot afford housing. The Affordable Housing Task Force has identified 740 subsidized units and 909 non-subsidized units for low income residents in Marion County. The median rent is \$500 per month and median mortgage is \$799 per month. Barriers to work include: lack of daycare for alternative shifts, lack of transportation (in 2000, 9% of households did not own vehicles), lack of high school diploma (in 2000, 19.7% of persons over 25 years old did not have a high school diploma)

Shortage of Affordable Housing: The Marion Metropolitan Housing Voucher Program provides housing subsidy to nearly 557 households. There are over 900 currently on the 3-5 year waiting list. Jobs in Marion at the entry level do not keep pace with the rising costs of apartments and utilities. Marion City has a number of vacant or abandoned houses that need to be demolished or repaired. Ohio is leading the nation in foreclosures. Local bankers are reporting foreclosures in Marion County to be at an all time high. In 2006, Marion had 495 foreclosures. This makes Marion County the 8th highest in the state. HUD views spending over 30% of household income for housing to be an excessive cost burden. In the 2000 census, 15-17% of homeowners and 35-53% of renters in Marion County experienced this cost burden. Marion County is among the top 18 counties whose renter households have the highest cost burden in the state.

Also, according to the Marion County 2000 Census, 52.6% of the owner occupied households and 56.2% of the renter occupied households were built before 1959. With this number of houses being built more than 50 years ago, persons are not able to support the significant number of repairs. There were 57 owner occupied and 45 renter occupied housing units lacking complete plumbing facilities. There were 51 owner occupied and 70 renter occupied housing units lacking complete kitchen facilities.

Considering the contributing factors described above, it is not surprising that a number of Marion County households are experiencing homelessness. Recognizing the need for increased affordable housing, the Marion Affordable Housing Task Force and United Way of Marion County have identified affordable housing as a critical area to be addressed.

In Marion County, we have identified 168 beds available in multiple shelters such as Marion Shelter (homeless shelter), Turning Point (domestic violence shelter), Foundations Recovery Center (chemical dependency halfway house), MACC West (severe and persistent mental illness supervised apartments /respite), BE Ministries (men's shelter) and RHAM (Residential Home Association of Marion for MR/DD population).

Results of the 2007 Point-In-Time Report for Homeless and At-Risk persons show that there are numerous households in Marion County struggling with homelessness and housing crisis:

Emergency Shelter

-6 men 1 woman

MACC West

-8 men 7 women

Foundations Recovery Center

-7 men 6 women

Turning Point

-7 women

-3 families

The Continuum of Care Committee realizes that these results may be misleading as they do not reflect the number of persons that are in temporary living situations with family members or the high number of persons at risk of homelessness due to foreclosure, illness, or limited number of work hours.

The Community Housing Program started January 1, 2006. Since that time and through March 15, 2007, the program has had eligible housing requests from 329 families. The program has only been able to respond to the requests of 59 families or 18% of the requests due to funding limitations. Of the 59 families that were provided assistance, 91.5% have been able to maintain housing as a result of this one time assistance. The reasons people needed to request one-time help are as follows:

Temporary housing with family/friends	13%
Result of an illness/injury	35%
Seasonal worker	6.5%
Divorce	14.5%
Not enough hours at work/got behind	21%
Leaving shelter	10%

All of the above information and statistics show the significant housing needs that currently exist in Marion County. The next section outlines the various gaps and barriers that impact homelessness in Marion County and from which the strategies for ending homelessness were based.

PREVENTION SERVICES IN MARION COUNTY

CURRENT SERVICES

- Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds through Marion Shelter, Salvation Army and Community Action
- ODOD (Ohio Department of Development) Homeless Prevention Program funds administered by Marion Area Counseling Center, Inc.
- Tenant Based Rental Assistance administered by Marion Metropolitan Housing
- HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People with Aids) funds administered by HIV Community Services
- Prevention, Retention, Contingency Funds (PRC) and Family Preservation funds administered by Marion County Job and Family Services
- HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program) administered by Community Action Organization
- Columbia Gas HeatShare Program funds administered by The Salvation Army
- Housing Assistance Program Funds (HAP) administered by Crawford-Marion ADAMH (Alcohol Drug Addiction and Mental Health) Board and Del-Mor Dwellings
- Emergency assistance for veterans administered by Veterans Services
- Community Housing Improvement Program funds administered by Marion County Regional Planning
- Emergency assistance of local churches administered through Love, INC.
- Emergency Food Assistance provided by multiple community organizations and local churches
- Emergency Material Assistance provided by multiple community organizations and local churches
- Home Repair funds administered by USDA and Community Action and CHIP (Comprehensive Housing Improvement Program) administered through Regional Planning
- Eviction Process assistance provided by Legal Aid Society
- Information and referral Services administered by Contact Care-Line and United Way FIRST Line
- Circle of Services administered by Family & Child First Council
- Free legal clinic administered by Marion County Legal Aid
- Home Repair funds through BOOST and CHORE Program at Marion County Department of Job and Family Services (MCDJFS)
- Emergency HEAP administered by Community Action
- Project REACH (Responsible Energy Assistance for Customers who need help) funds administered by Salvation Army
- Active Habitat for Humanity
- PIPP (Percentage of Income Payments Plan) Program information at Community Action and Salvation Army
- Vouchers for dental care through Carroll C. Conklin Dental Clinic
- Free medical services through Center Street Clinic
- Prescription Assistance Program administered by Community Action

- Various temporary residential services for specific populations including Turning Point, Marion Shelter, MACC-West, Foundations Recovery Center, BE Ministries, RHAM and Community Living Experiences.

GAPS AND UNMET NEEDS

- Adequate stock of affordable and/or subsidized housing for the general population,
- Transitional housing for youth (18-21)
- Seniors and persons with disabilities
- Additional financial resources to assist with eviction/foreclosure prevention
- Quality public transportation and gasoline assistance to households with vehicles
- Case management services, life skills courses, household management courses
- Increased awareness of available resources by general public
- Barriers to work that include lack of day care for alternative shifts, lack of transportation, and lack of financial education
- Lack of personal responsibility with money management as demonstrated by overuse of cash advances, credit cards and rent to own
- Persons falling prey to predatory lending
- Persons coming out of prison

PREVENTION SERVICES GAP STRATEGIES

- Affordable Housing – CoC (Continuum of Care) agencies will continue to advocate for the development of affordable housing in various county planning processes and will seek out funding when possible
- Additional Resources – CoC agencies will improve documentation of homelessness and housing crisis and use this information to seek out additional funding when possible
- Public Transportation – CoC agencies will advocate for increased quality in public transportation and gasoline assistance
- Case Management – CoC agencies will advocate for these services when applying for funding for homeless and prevention services
- Increased awareness of available resources – CoC agencies will meet quarterly to coordinate services among service providers and will discuss ways to provide outreach information to those in need of services
- CoC agencies will develop long-term educational programs/trainings on various financial issues
- CoC agencies will advocate for credit counseling services in Marion County
- CoC agencies will advocate for job search skills training
- CoC agencies will advocate for day care on alternative shifts
- CoC agencies will advocate for re-entry services and search for funding

SERVICE COORDINATION IN MARION COUNTY

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Marion County agencies currently coordinate services in a fairly informal way through community meetings and planning processes
- Marion Shelter is generally the first point of contact for homeless persons and makes referrals to multiple agencies after initial contact as needed
- Contact Care-Line and United Way FIRST Line are available for information and referral of community resources
- Strong collaboration among organizations without turf issues for the good of clients
- Community resource providers are giving broad scope of care for the homeless
- Marion County Family and First Circle of Service provides case management for homeless families
- Organizations have strong professionals with much experience who seek to bring in “best practice” services
- Organizations have genuine passion, caring, and dedication for our community and persons in our community

GAPS AND UNMET NEEDS

- Education of services for special populations
- Restrictive funding criteria for homeless assistance

SERVICE COORDINATION GAP STRATEGIES

- Develop a flow chart of homeless services for special populations
- Advocate for flexibility between funders and agencies
- Incorporate faith based organization services and planning processes into current service system

OUTREACH SERVICES IN MARION COUNTY

CURRENT SERVICES

- Agencies currently outreach to their own target population
- Contact Care-Line and United Way FIRST Line advertises information line in all areas of County
- Church groups often provide food and ministry to persons
- The Marion Shelter and Turning Point provides prevention outreach services
- Food pantries, meal sites, Mobile Meals often provides outreach services
- Summer feeds program by the schools could be another outreach vehicle
- Service coordination happens so that duplication of services being provided by other agencies does not occur

GAPS AND UNMET NEEDS

- Vast area to cover
- Lack of resources to conduct outreach activities
- Difficulty meeting needs of persons currently –bringing additional persons for service would be overwhelming
- Lack of homeless student liaison designee in each school district

OUTREACH SERVICES GAP STRATEGIES

- Seek out additional funding, which includes outreach activities
- Provide dissemination and awareness of services/community resources through summer feeds program
- Advocate for the designation of a homeless student liaison within each school district and make other school personnel aware of such designation for efficient response

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES IN MARION COUNTY

CURRENT SERVICES

- MCDJFS One Stop Career Center/ Marion Connections
- ABLE/GED (Adult Basic Literacy Education/General Education Diploma)
- MRDD training center (Mental Retardation/Developmentally Disabled)
- Temporary Employment Agencies
- Tri-Rivers Career Center
- Goodwill Industries

- PEER (Program Encouraging Employment and Recovery) Program of MACC (Marion Area Counseling Center)
- Experienced Works Program at MCDJFS
- George Alber Enterprise Center at OSUM (The Ohio State University)
- Center for Workforce Development at MTC (Marion Technical College)

GAPS AND UNMET NEEDS

- Better wages to afford housing
- Entry jobs with opportunity to advance in a career path
- Lack of technical jobs
- Persons not able to pass drug screenings on job interviews

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES GAP STRATEGIES

- Advocate for increased living wage in all planning processes
- Advocate for Marion Can Do and Envisioning Group to attract high-tech type companies to the Marion Area
- Coordinate and advocate for an appropriate level of prevention, intervention and treatment services in the Marion Community

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND LIAISON STRATEGIES

CURRENT EFFORTS

- Government officials, United Way and other community stakeholders are invited to Affordable Housing Task Force and Continuum of Care meetings on a regular basis
- Task Force members routinely participate in local planning process and update the community on housing/housing crisis issues
- Individual agencies work with local, state and federal officials on specific projects

COMMUNITY SUPPORT GAP STRATEGIES

- Become involved in RHISCO (Rural Homeless Initiative for Southeastern and Central Ohio) Project to improve community coordination with State and Federal agencies
- Improve participation of City and County government officials/political structures in Task Force and Continuum of Care planning
- Improve media coverage of housing needs, homelessness, task force efforts, and housing resources

DATA COLLECTION

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- In response to requirements of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), a point-in-time count of sheltered and unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness was conducted the last week of January 2007
- In response to these requirements, the Marion Affordable Housing Task Force approved a Count Plan and obtained the results. The plan developed by the CoC Committee was established by an examination of best practices in other communities and methodologies identified by HUD in their October 2004 publication
- In order to have the most accurate point-in-time count of sheltered and unsheltered persons in Marion County the following methodologies were identified:

Population	Location	County Type	Source/ Methodology
Sheltered Homeless and persons at-risk of homelessness	Shelters, transitional & permanent housing programs, and community service providers	Administrative records and enumeration	Survey of community based programs serving homeless or persons at-risk of homelessness
Unsheltered Homeless	Known locations (street areas, encampments, truck stops, etc	Enumeration	Survey completed by Marion County Sheriff's Office, City of Marion Police Department and Ohio State Highway Patrol

- The Marion Shelter and Community Housing Assistance Program participates in the collection of data in the HMIS (Homeless Management Information System)
- Collection of at-risk data indicators from other agencies

DATA COLLECTION IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES

- CoC Committee will seek to involve members of the faith community in efforts to count and engage unsheltered homeless persons
- CoC Committee will improve homeless count by adding survey component to gather information on persons homeless situations, and will conduct homeless count training for community organizations

SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING

FUNDING STRATEGIES

- CoC Committee will continue to review and endorse applications from agencies seeking Homeless Assistance Funding through the Ohio Department of Development. Currently, MACC receives Homeless Prevention Funding. Marion Shelter receives Ohio Housing Trust funding, and Turning Point receives multiple grants
- CoC Committee will continue to review and endorse applications from agencies for funding through the HUD Balance of State process administered by the Ohio Department of Development

PERMANENT HOUSING

STRATEGIES

Although the CoC Committee has conducted a Point-in-Time Count the last two years, the number of homeless persons in the community continues to be a much debated subject. The committee will develop goals to assist in accurately documenting the number of homeless persons, which will also include an estimation of persons “doubled up” or living with others, to identify priority homeless populations.

The Committee will continue to focus on advocacy and education to the community regarding the need for development of housing that is affordable to persons at all levels of income.

CoC will continue to support other local efforts that impacts housing stability and quality of life, (ie: the Envisioning efforts)

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Goal: Close the Front Door to Homelessness	Action Steps	Responsible Person/ Organization	Target Dates
Increase/Maintain services available to prevent homelessness for individuals and families	1. Maintain current funding for homeless prevention activities through local and/or state funding processes	MACC Marion Shelter Turning Point	January 2008
	2. Identify one strategy to increase funding for homeless prevention activities	CoC Committee	January 2008
	3. Identify one new strategy to address non-financial barriers to maintaining housing; ie Life Skills, employment retention, day care, credit counseling, foreclosure counseling, money management etc.	CoC Committee	January 2008
Maintain service coordination and awareness of available resources	1. Hold at least 4 service provider meetings per year to discuss service coordination and available resources	CoC/ Affordable Housing Task Force	January 2008
	2. Identify 5 additional partners to join the CoC/AHTF	Coc Committee	January 2008
	3. Develop Homeless System Flow Chart & Service Fact Sheet	MACC, Marion Shelter, and Turning Point, MRDD	January 2008

Goal: Open the Back Door out of Homelessness

Action Steps

Responsible Person/ Organization

Target Date

Increase the number of safe, decent, affordable permanent housing units available to homeless families and individuals with or without disability

1. Explore partnerships to identify potential opportunities for additional affordable housing units

CoCare Committee

January 2009

2. Meet with county and city officials to establish housing initiatives to improve housing conditions

CoC Committee

January 2008

3. Join forces with envisioning housing committee to work collaboratively on improving housing conditions

CoC Committee

January 2008

4. Meet with State officials to discuss housing opportunities to bring into Marion County

CoC Committee

January 2008

Goal: Build Community Infrastructure	Action Steps	Responsible Person/ Organization	Target Date
Increase local, state, and federal legislative support for affordable housing	1. Identify one strategy to advocate for the development of affordable housing in community planning processes	CoC Committee	January 2008
	2. Identify one strategy to conduct a coordinated effort to inform legislators about need for affordable housing in Marion County	CoC Committee	January 2008
Increase community awareness on the issue of homelessness	1. Identify one strategy to increase awareness of homelessness and poverty; ie community forum, educational campaigns, etc.	CoC Committee	January 2008
Increase access to transportation assistance	1. Identify one strategy to advocate for increased quality & accessible transportation and gasoline assistance in community planning processes	CoC Committee	January 2008
Increase access to employment that pays a living wage.	1. Identify one strategy to advocate for employment that pay fair housing wage in community planning processes	CoC Committee	January 2008

Goal: Manage for Results	Action Steps	Responsible Person/ Organization	Target Date
Improve data collection methods and analysis to increase understanding of homelessness and housing crisis	1. Conduct Review and update of emergency lodging plan	CoC Committee	October 2007 (annually)
	2. Conduct Point-in time Count survey training for community	Continuum of Care Committee	November 2007 (annually)
	3. Conduct Point-in time Count of homeless persons and categorize the results	CoC Committee	January 2008 (annually)
	4. Conduct Review and update of Inventory of services for County	CoC Committee	March 2008 (annually)
	5. Conduct Review and update of Ten Year Plan to end homelessness	CoC Committee	March 2008 (annually)
	6. Issue Report to community on homelessness	CoC Committee	April 2008 (annually)

CONCLUSION

Marion County has a strong contingency of local providers who are working collaboratively to address homelessness and housing crisis in our community. Local providers and community officials are dedicated to increasing the amount of resources to the most vulnerable in our county. The Marion County Affordable Housing Task Force which is now the CoC Committee has begun working on strategies to identify homeless and at-risk persons, and has engaged in a planning processes to meet their needs. Goals and objectives outlined in the County's Ten year Plan to End Homelessness will assist the CoC Committee to identify new resources to meet gaps in service delivery to assist persons in ending their homelessness or housing crisis.