

A Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness



**Morgan County
Continuum of Care
Committee
2007-2016**

A Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness

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Developed with support from the Osteopathic Heritage Foundations in cooperation with the Morgan County Commissioners, Community Development Office and The Community Action Program Corporation of Washington-Morgan Counties, Ohio

A Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness

Morgan County, Ohio

1. Introduction

Morgan County has taken the first steps toward eliminating rural homelessness by partnering on a project with the Osteopathic Heritage Foundations and the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH). This project is titled the Rural Homeless Initiative in Southeastern and Central Ohio (RHISCO); it is being funded by the Osteopathic Heritage Foundations and in partnership with the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH), a Continuum of Care Committee has been formed.

Morgan County Continuum of Care Committee

James Baker	Washington-Morgan Community Action
Dawn Rauch	Washington-Morgan Community Action
Shannon Wells	Morgan County Development Office
Rick Shriver	Morgan County Commissioner
Annette Schaad	Morgan County Board of MRDD
Carolyn Jenkins	Washington-Morgan Community Action
Christie Hayhurst	The Salvation Army
Claire Farnsworth	Morgan County Citizen
Corinne White	Habitat for Humanity
Dan Evory	Morgan County United Ministries
David Watts	Morgan County Behavioral Health
Elaine Curry	United Way
Jack McClelland	United Way
John Koch	Morgan County United Ministries
Joyce Drake	Washington-Morgan Community Action
Kelly Hardman	MMHA
Kelly McCoy	North Valley Bank
Lesli Johnson	Ohio University
Linda Sheets	Morgan County Senior Center
Mary Tom	Victims Advocate
Pam Montgomery	OSU Extension
James Ridenhour	Morgan County DJFS
Teresa Antal	Muskingum Metropolitan Housing
Terry McGrew	Morgan County Health Department
Kim Reed	Workforce Development Center

An objective of this plan is to organize the Morgan County Continuum of Care (CofC) Committee, which will develop and implement a 10 year plan to end homelessness and through implementation strive to end homelessness by 2017. The Continuum of Care Plan is aimed at eliminating the root causes of homelessness, not just treating the temporary symptom. Homelessness may stem from such causes as substance abuse, mental illness, disability, unemployment or any variety of other causes. In order to achieve an end to homelessness, the Morgan County C of C must identify the resources we currently have to prevent and address homelessness and determine what gaps in services exist in our county. The Morgan County C of C will then develop and implement activities to close the gaps and end homelessness in our community. Another important task of the Morgan County C of C is making sure that not one person will go unsheltered or be in an inadequate shelter in Morgan County.

The strategy to treat those causes must involve a wide range of partner agencies. Morgan County is still in the beginning stages of assembling its Continuum of Care Committee

Background

Although Morgan County's population is stable, it has not seen substantial growth for decades. Often due to external policies and economic changes, Morgan County lost several hundred mining jobs and several hundred manufacturing jobs. Neighboring counties to the north and south absorbed the economic growth in the commercial, medical and other service based sectors. Therefore, a low median income and high unemployment are key factors contributing to a lack of resources to pay for housing in Morgan County.

During the planning process the Continuum of Care Committee met frequently. The community has good providers that deliver essential but limited services to homeless families and individuals. The leadership in the Morgan County Continuum of Care Committee represents a core group of caring individuals representing those providers.

It is essential for planners, funders and prognosticators to understand the rural practice of stretching resources and personnel to assimilate service models that are mandated by funders and regulators. Every member, including each volunteer on the Morgan County Continuum of Care Committee is a leader that has a full plate.

The purpose of this plan is to outline ways to eliminate homelessness. The implementation of this plan will require creativity. Scarce resources will be a challenge.

During the planning process the Continuum of Care Committee discussed issues in critical thinking sessions. Members of the Committee participated in technical assistance sessions and in on-line resources provided by the National Alliance to End Homelessness. The Committee also measured homelessness through a point in time survey and it prioritized homelessness populations for individuals and families.

Homelessness

Twenty-five years ago there was not widespread homelessness in America. Tonight approximately 750,000 men, women and children will be homeless, despite a two billion dollar a year infrastructure designed to deal with the problem.

While the seeds of homelessness were planted in the 1960s and 1970s with deinstitutionalization of people living with mental illness and loss of affordable housing stock, widespread homelessness did not emerge until the 1980s. 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 for very poor people to afford or find.

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 not meant for habitation, is pervasive in rural areas. The number of people who experience rural homelessness is unknown, but the last national count of homeless people found that 9 percent live in rural areas. In actual raw numbers, this translates into roughly 67,000 people on any given night. (Burt, 1996) 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.

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, campgrounds and other places not intended for habitation. This is largely because most rural areas do not have large emergency shelters.

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. Other predictors of homelessness, such as mental illness and drug abuse, while still present among the rural homeless, are not pervasive. However, people who experience rural homelessness do report higher rates of alcohol abuse and domestic violence than their urban counterparts. Another important factor that contributes to homelessness is healthcare. Healthcare has become increasingly more expensive and in many cases inaccessible to lower and middle income families. The cost of a major illness or disability pushes these families over the edge into homelessness and poverty.

Rural Poverty

Rural poverty has some unique characteristics. Areas concentrated with rural poverty can be identified throughout the South, West and the Midwest of the United States. The scarcity of jobs, goods, and services has caused an outward migration of rural populations to places with more opportunities. As a consequence, the rural communities with high rates of poverty are sparsely populated and their poverty populations are severely impoverished.

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; the poverty rate in non-metropolitan areas is 14 percent, almost 11.6 percent less than in metropolitan areas. It is not surprising that one in five children living in rural areas is below the poverty line. (USDA Economic Research Service, 2004)

The RHISCO Project area

Counting and estimating the number of people who experience homelessness is extremely difficult and costly, and even more so in rural areas. Statewide estimates from the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio report that 179,718 people experience homelessness in Ohio over the course of a year and 27,867 Ohioans are homeless on any given night. At this time, estimates from the seventeen rural counties that comprise the Rural Homeless Initiative in Southeastern and Central Ohio (RHISCO) project are being developed.

Counts of homeless people in Southeastern and Central Ohio are being planned and executed presently. The poverty and unemployment rates in these areas suggest that homelessness is prevalent. According to the U.S. Census Bureau (See Table 1, below), poverty rates in the counties of Southeastern and Central Ohio range from 3.8 percent in Delaware County to as high as 27 percent in Athens County. The poverty rates in Appalachian counties tend to be higher

than other counties. About half are higher than the national poverty rate of 14 percent. Unemployment rates in rural Ohio counties are also high, ranging from 7 percent to 20 percent. In Meigs and Morgan Counties, the unemployment rates reach 20 percent, 15 percentage points higher than the national average of 5 percent. (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2005) People who live in poverty are at higher risk of homelessness. Although relatively few people of the region are homeless, the problem affects the entire community as a persistent and debilitating social issue.

2. Needs statement - Morgan County Data

Morgan County is centered along the Muskingum River Valley in southeastern Ohio. It is one of the 29 Appalachian Ohio counties that make up the foothills of the Appalachians.

Table 1 - Comparable Data for RHISCO County partners.

County	Type	Population	Pop over 65		Pop at or below 100% poverty		Median income	Household not in the Labor Force
		N	N	%	N	%	\$	
Delaware	Rural	125,399	9,833	7.80%	4,118	3.80%	\$67,258	7%
Fayette	Rural	28,176	4,048	14.40%	2,810	10.10%	\$36,735	12%
Knox	Rural	56,037	7,496	13.40%	5,159	10.10%	\$38,877	13%
Licking	Rural	148,731	17,872	12.00%	10,602	7.40%	\$44,124	13%
Madison	Rural	40,365	4,498	11.10%	2,790	7.90%	\$44,212	11%
Pickaway	Rural	53,437	5,842	10.90%	4,402	9.60%	\$42,832	15%
Union	Rural	43,010	4,066	9.50%	1,763	4.60%	\$51,743	10%
Athens	Appalachian	63,266	5,860	9.30%	14,728	27.30%	\$27,322	16%
Fairfield	Appalachian	129,161	14,058	10.90%	7,064	5.90%	\$47,962	12%
Hocking	Appalachian	28,481	3,737	13.10%	3,711	13.50%	\$34,261	18%
Jackson	Appalachian	32,854	4,362	13.30%	5,286	16.50%	\$30,661	17%
Meigs	Appalachian	23,111	3,377	14.60%	4,506	19.80%	\$27,287	20%
Morgan	Appalachian	14,749	2,302	15.60%	2,691	18.40%	\$28,868	20%
Perry	Appalachian	34,408	4,110	11.90%	3,970	11.80%	\$34,383	16%
Ross	Appalachian	74,469	9,048	12.20%	8,120	12.00%	\$37,117	15%
Vinton	Appalachian	13,128	1,597	12.20%	2,529	20.00%	\$29,465	17%
Washington	Appalachian	62,561	9,622	15.40%	7,002	11.40%	\$34,275	17%

Table 2 – Demographics

Subject	Number	Percent
Total population	14,897	100.0
SEX AND AGE		
Male	7,317	49.1
Female	7,580	50.9
Under 5 years	903	6.1
5 to 9 years	1,031	6.9
10 to 14 years	1,124	7.5
15 to 19 years	1,110	7.5
20 to 24 years	765	5.1
25 to 34 years	1,670	11.2
35 to 44 years	2,249	15.1
45 to 54 years	2,095	14.1
55 to 59 years	806	5.4
60 to 64 years	817	5.5
65 to 74 years	1,280	8.6
75 to 84 years	791	5.3
85 years and over	256	1.7

Subject	Number	Percent
Median age (years)	38.9	(X)
HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE		
Total households	5,890	100.0
Family households (families)	4,178	70.9
With own children under 18 years	1,822	30.9
Married-couple family	3,349	56.9
With own children under 18 years	1,317	22.4
Female householder, no husband present	581	9.9
With own children under 18 years	351	6.0
Non family households	1,712	29.1
Householder living alone	1,501	25.5
Householder 65 years and over	705	12.0
Households with individuals under 18 years	1,992	33.8
Households with individuals 65 years and over	1,632	27.7
Average household size	2.50	(X)
Average family size	2.98	(X)
HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Total housing units	7,771	100.0
Occupied housing units	5,890	75.8
Vacant housing units	1,881	24.2
For seasonal, recreational, or occasional use	1,337	17.2
Homeowner vacancy rate (percent)	1.9	(X)
Rental vacancy rate (percent)	9.5	(X)
HOUSING TENURE		
Occupied housing units	5,890	100.0
Owner-occupied housing units	4,609	78.3
Renter-occupied housing units	1,281	21.7
Average household size of owner-occupied unit	2.51	(X)
Average household size of renter-occupied unit	2.45	(X)
INCOME IN 1999		
Households	5,869	100.0
Less than \$10,000	870	14.8
\$10,000 to \$14,999	541	9.2
\$15,000 to \$24,999	1,163	19.8
\$25,000 to \$34,999	873	14.9
\$35,000 to \$49,999	1,026	17.5
\$50,000 to \$74,999	1,026	17.5
\$75,000 to \$99,999	224	3.8
\$100,000 to \$149,999	118	2.0
\$150,000 to \$199,999	13	0.2
\$200,000 or more	15	0.3
Median household income (dollars)	28,868	(X)
With earnings	4,218	71.9
Mean earnings (dollars)	35,671	(X)
With Social Security income	1,924	32.8
Mean Social Security income (dollars)	10,403	(X)
With Supplemental Security Income	400	6.8
Mean Supplemental Security Income (dollars)	5,925	(X)
With public assistance income	251	4.3
Mean public assistance income (dollars)	2,332	(X)
With retirement income	1,314	22.4
Mean retirement income (dollars)	12,363	(X)

Subject	Number	Percent
Families	4,178	100.0
Less than \$10,000	436	10.4
\$10,000 to \$14,999	264	6.3
\$15,000 to \$24,999	745	17.8
\$25,000 to \$34,999	646	15.5
\$35,000 to \$49,999	862	20.6
\$50,000 to \$74,999	876	21.0
\$75,000 to \$99,999	215	5.1
\$100,000 to \$149,999	108	2.6
\$150,000 to \$199,999	13	0.3
\$200,000 or more	13	0.3
Median family income (dollars)	34,973	(X)
Per capita income (dollars)	13,967	(X)
Median earnings (dollars):		
Male full-time, year-round workers	30,411	(X)
Female full-time, year-round workers	21,039	(X)
POVERTY STATUS IN 1999 (below poverty level)		
Families	658	(X)
Percent below poverty level	(X)	15.7
With related children under 18 years	468	(X)
Percent below poverty level	(X)	24.1
With related children under 5 years	241	(X)
Percent below poverty level	(X)	34.2
Families with female householder, no husband present	183	(X)
Percent below poverty level	(X)	35.7
With related children under 18 years	172	(X)
Percent below poverty level	(X)	48.0
With related children under 5 years	97	(X)
Percent below poverty level	(X)	72.4
Individuals	2,691	(X)
Percent below poverty level	(X)	18.4
18 years and over	1,758	(X)
Percent below poverty level	(X)	16.1
65 years and over	261	(X)
Percent below poverty level	(X)	12.4
Related children under 18 years	918	(X)
Percent below poverty level	(X)	25.1
Related children 5 to 17 years	617	(X)
Percent below poverty level	(X)	22.4
Unrelated individuals 15 years and over	617	(X)
Percent below poverty level	(X)	28.8

Additional 2000 U.S. Census Statistics for Morgan County

The 2000 Census offers many statistics for Morgan County. The following are brief narratives of selected characteristics that are contributing factors to homelessness. Also, it must be kept in mind that while census information can help paint a picture of an area, it is not always accurate.

Population: Morgan County has a total population of 14,941.

Income: The median household income is \$28,868.

Poverty: 14,941 residents for whom poverty status is determined:
-937 or 6.4% are below 50% of the poverty level
-1,754 or 12% are from 50% to 99% of the poverty level;
-1,691 or 11.6% of the residents are from 100% to 149% of the poverty level;
-1,933 or 13.2% are 150% to 199% of the poverty level
-8,299 or 56.8 % are 200% of poverty level or more.

Education: Of the 9,934 residents that are over 25 years of age and over,
-1,927 or 19.4% do not have a high school diploma,
-5,016 or 50.5% have a high school diploma,
-1,566 or 15.8% have some college but no degree,
-522 or 5.3% have an associate's degree,
-511 or 5.1% have a bachelor's degree
-392 or 3.9% have a Master's degree or higher.

Race: 94.0% of the residents of Morgan County are white.
-921 or 6.2% of the population is minority.
-477 or 3.2% are African-American,
-81 or 0.5% are Native American,
-23 or 0.2 % are Asian, 0% are pacific islander
-269 or 1.8% are two or more races.
-39 or 0.3% are Hispanic.

Transportation: The median travel time to work is 36.2 minutes.

Employment: There are 6,300 people in the civilian labor force.
Of those, 5,700 are employed and 700 people are unemployed.

Unemployment: The current unemployment rate as December 2006 is 9.2%.

Priority Subpopulations

The Continuum of Care Committee prioritized homeless subpopulation in a critical thinking session. These sub-populations are provided in ranking order as follows:

Youth under 18

Morgan County Department of Job and Family Services, Children Services Division provides services on a daily basis for Youth that are inappropriately housed.

General Characteristics include: living in unsanitary or substandard conditions, lacking a high school education and lack of income to pay for living expenses.

Secondary characteristics include; living with non biological family, living with own children and substance abuse

Housing Needs

Housing needs include decent safe and sanitary housing and assistance with rent payments

Other Needs

Needs include completion of High School Education, Employment and Training, counseling.

Victims of Domestic Violence

The Morgan County Victims Assistance Program provides services for residents that are victims of domestic violence.

General Characteristics include: approximate ages 25 to 35, 50% married, lack of income, unemployed and lack of education.

Housing Needs

Short Term Emergency Shelter followed by decent safe and sanitary housing and assistance with rent payments

Other Needs

Employment, child care, career education and transportation,
Contingent needs: substance abuse and mental health counseling.

Disaster (Catastrophe) Assistance

The Morgan County EMA provide disaster assistance to victims of disaster and the Red Cross provide assistance with catastrophe events such as a Fire

General Characteristics - Potentially every family is at risk

Housing Needs: Temporary Shelter or Permanent housing

Other Needs: Food, Clothing and sometimes cash assistance

3. Prevention

The following homelessness prevention services are currently available in Morgan County

American Red Cross, Muskingum Valley Chapter – Home Disaster Assistance

Community Action – Home Energy Assistance Program, Home Weatherization Assistance Program, Columbia Gas Housewarming, Housing Rehabilitation, Home Repair Programs, Women’s Infants and Children; supplemental nutrition. Low Cost housing for special needs clients

Habitat for Humanity, Morgan County Chapter – Low cost Owner Housing for low income families

Morgan County Behavioral Health Choices – substance abuse interdiction services

Morgan County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities - supportive housing services for MR/DD clients

Morgan County Department of Job and Family Services -PRC Services, One Stop Employment Center

Morgan County Family and Children First Council – A countywide forum for agencies that provide services to families with children, including access to Help Me Grow.

Morgan County Prosecutor’s Office -Victim’s Advocate Program assisted homeless victims of domestic violence with transportation, service referrals and temporary housing

Morgan County Senior Citizen Center –provides services and service referrals aimed at helping Senior Citizens live healthy independent lives.

Morgan County United Ministries – temporary assistance with rent, security deposits, mortgage payments and utilities, food, doctor bills and prescriptions. A thrift shop provides clothing, house wares, personal hygiene products and furniture.

Morgan County Victim’s Assistance Program – temporary assistance for victim of domestic violence with housing and transportation to emergency shelter

Morgan Local Schools, McKinney Vento Program (Community Action) - Services for at risk students and their families

Morgan Metropolitan Housing Authority -Low rent Public Housing, Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers

The Ohio State University, Morgan County Extension

Salvation Army - Emergency Shelter (Zanesville)

Six County, Inc. – Mental Health Counseling Services

Transitions, Inc – Domestic Violence Services (Zanesville)

United Way of the Muskingum Valley

Gaps or unmet Prevention needs in Morgan County

Limited coordination of countywide homeless prevention services.

Lack of adequate resources for homeless families with children.

Limited services for the elderly and handicapped.

Lack of housing with services for homeless substance abuse victims.

Lack of sufficient employment opportunities.

Lack of emergency shelter in Morgan County.

Strategies to fill gaps in Homeless Prevention Activities

Prevention Strategy #1 - During 2007 increase funding for additional services.

Develop homeless prevention program aimed at families with children

The Continuum of Care Committee and Community Action will explore funding for homeless prevention services, including first month's rents, deposits, emergency mortgage payments, foreclosure avoidance, and housing counseling.

Support efforts to assist homeless individuals suffering from substance abuse

The MMHA , Six County, Inc and the Morgan County Behavioral Health Choices in cooperation with the Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Services Board with determine the feasibility of operating a HUD Shelter plus care program in Morgan County.

Prevention Strategy #2 - Engage Community in the Issues surrounding existing Homeless Prevention activities:

Support efforts to assist homeless Victims of Domestic Violence

The Continuum of Care Committee and the Victims Assistance program will discuss ways to improve services for victims of domestic violence

Support programs and housing that helps the elderly live independently

The Continuum of Care Committee and the Morgan County Senior Citizens Center will discuss the needs of the elderly and help determine gaps in services

Support efforts to prevent homelessness among the youth and young adults

The Continuum of Care Committee, Morgan County Children Services Morgan County Schools and Community Action will discuss the housing problems facing youth and determine gaps in services

4. Coordination of services

Organizations currently coordinating homeless services in Morgan County

Points of Entry

Community Action

Habitat for Humanity

Morgan County Job and Family Services

Morgan County United Ministries

Morgan County Sheriff

Morgan County Prosecutor, Victim's Assistance Program

Morgan Local Schools (Community Action)

Morgan Metropolitan Housing Authority

Gaps or unmet needs in coordination of homeless services

Need for more effective Communications and Coordination among providers
Systematic ways to deal with homeless families, 24 hours a day

Strategies to fill these coordination gaps

Coordination Strategy #1: Continue to organize the coordination of homelessness services in Morgan County

- 1. The Continuum of Care Committee will meet on a regular basis.**
- 2. During 2007, the Continuum of Care Committee will:**
 - *develop a Homeless Services Resource Guide for Morgan County*
 - *develop a local homelessness referral system*
- 3. Plan regionally with other RHISCO county participants to improve the effectiveness of services**
- 4. Revisit these Coordination objectives later in 2007 for 2008**
 - *consider a centralized one stop service*
 - *consider creating a county website with a link to continuum of care*
 - *consider HUD's Homeless Management Information System*

5. Outreach

Outreach activities targeted to homeless prevention that are currently taking place in Morgan County

1. **Community Action** through their low income families as part of their program responsibilities.
2. **Morgan Metropolitan Housing Authority** through their low income clients as part of their program responsibilities.
3. **Morgan County United Ministries and other Churches** through their members as part of their ministry.
4. **Jobs, etc;** through their efforts to link employment and work force development opportunities to workers
5. **Morgan County Schools** with Community Action through the school and student families.
6. **Habitat for Humanity** through their direct efforts to help low income families obtain permanent housing.
7. **Morgan County Sheriff** through their contact with citizens during their 24 hour emergency services.
8. **Morgan County Prosecutor's Office** through their direct service with domestic violence victims.
9. **Morgan County MRDD** through their residential housing programs for eligible clients.
10. **Morgan Counseling Center** through their client based services.

Gaps in the outreach activities?

- 1) **Lack of community understanding of how to provide homeless services**
- 2) **Lack of mentored homeless prevention services**
- 3) **Lack of Public awareness and confidence in the need for additional outreach services**

Strategies to eliminate outreach gaps

Outreach Strategy: Increase understanding and public awareness of homeless populations in Morgan County

1. The Continuum of Care Committee will be the focal point for “**planning for homelessness issues**” and will meet on a regular basis
 - Organize the community's homeless prevention resources
 - Promote awareness in the broader public
 - Motivate the community to help develop resources
2. An “**annual point in time survey**” will be conducted in Morgan County
 - Results to be discussed by the Continuum of Care Committee
 - Results to be disseminated to the media, with the express intent of creating a greater awareness of the homeless problems
3. **Revisit the Outreach objectives** later in 2007 for 2008
 - consider new information
 - consider additional educational and public awareness activities

6. Workforce development

Workforce development and training programs available in Morgan County

- Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Community Action - Title V Senior Aide Program
- Habitat for Humanity - Family Support Program
- Morgan County Board of MR/DD - Mary Hammond Workshop
- Morgan County Learning Center
- Morgan County Dept of Job Family Services
 - Jobs, etc; - Morgan County One Stop Center
 - Summer Youth Employment Program (Community Action)
- Morgan Metropolitan Housing Authority - Family Self Sufficiency Program
- Salvation Army – Referral to employment and training services

Gaps or unmet needs in workforce development?

- Lack of economic expansion (7.6% unemployment rate)
- Need for development and a demand for specific training

Strategies to fill the workforce development gaps

Workforce Development Strategy #1

Continue to support the Morgan County Economic Development Office and OSU Extension office

Workforce Development Strategy #2

Help the Morgan County Center for Higher Education define its goals by targeting education of Morgan County residents for economic expansion.

Workforce Development Strategy #3

Continue to support the Morgan County Community Improvement Corporation

7. Building support and liaison strategizing

(building political and community will)

Morgan County coalition liaison organization targets

Local

County Government
Churches
Service Clubs
United Way
Morgan County Department of Job and Family Services
Morgan County Schools
Morgan County Health

State

State Elected Officials
Ohio Department of Development
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
COHHIO
OCCD

National

National Alliance to End Homelessness
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Regional

Mental Health & Recovery Services Board
Neighboring County Coalitions
Other County Governments
Ohio University Voinovich Center (technical assistance, public affairs)
Other Colleges and Universities
RHISCO Project

Potential Funders

Foundations
Fundraisers
Tax Credit Investors

Strategies to engage new partners and stakeholders in the coalition

1. During 2007 the Continuum of Care will plan a “**community forum on homeless issues**” (Key stakeholders meeting with follow up) in Morgan County inviting law enforcement, property owners, banks, churches, township trustees, citizens that are homeless and at risk of homelessness and other agencies.
2. Develop Homeless Awareness presentation for public meetings and service clubs.
3. Invite political leaders to the Continuum of Care meetings.

Data collection - Morgan County Point in Time Survey

How the methodology was developed?

Morgan County's Continuum of Care conducted its first County wide Point in Time survey on January 26, 2007. For this survey the Continuum of Care adopted an expanded definition of homelessness to include subpopulations that were not included in HUD's definition.

HUD's Homeless Definition

A Person is considered homeless only when he/she resides in one of the places described below:

- In places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, abandoned buildings (on the street).
- In an emergency shelter.
- In transitional or supportive housing for homeless persons who originally came from the streets or emergency shelters.
- In any of the above places but is spending a short time (up to 30 consecutive days) in a hospital or other institution.
- Is being evicted within a week from a private dwelling unit and no subsequent residence has been identified and lacks resources and support networks needed to obtain housing.
- Is being discharged within a week from an institution, such as a mental health or substance abuse treatment facility or a jail/prison, in which a person has been a resident for more than 30 consecutive days and no subsequent residence has been identified and the person lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing.

Expanded Local Definition (Inappropriately housed definition)

Independent adults with or without children with barriers, temporarily living with unrelated persons or with family members.

Barriers placing persons AT RISK of Homelessness

- inability to pay housing costs
- foreclosures on mortgages
- living in substandard housing/unsanitary conditions
- living in anti social environment
- living in overcrowded conditions
- lacking transportation or automobile broke down
- disability
- substance abuse/mental health issues
- inability to take care of personal needs
- criminal record
- record of abusing property or not paying rent
- illness/death of a spouse

Point in Time Survey Results

Continuum of Care Homeless population and sub-populations

1. Count each client as sheltered or unsheltered

Morgan County - January 26, 2007

	sheltered emergency	sheltered transitional	unsheltered
Total Homeless Individuals	20	151	32
Total Homeless families w children	6	53	48
Total number of family members	38	57	93

2. Count each client that has a family member that is part of a subpopulation

subpopulations

chronically homeless	1	10	30
severely mentally ill	1	9	2
chronic sub abuse		3	5
veterans		3	1
persons w/ HIV/AIDS	2	1	
victims of domestic violence	2	25	6
youth under 18 years	28	125	
living doubled up	2	129	55
behind/inability to pay housing expense: i.e. rent, utilities, deposits	35	36	35
foreclosures/evictions	2	6	7
living in substandard/unsanitary conditions	3	74	1
living in antisocial environment		3	1
living in overcrowded conditions		49	1
lacking transportation/automobile broke down	2	14	3
disability	3	1	10
substance abuse/mental illness		5	4
inability to take care of personal needs		10	3
criminal record		11	8
record of abusing property or not paying rent	1	2	17
illness/death of spouse	3		

8. Sustainability Planning

Permanent housing

- identify target populations for permanent housing that alleviate homelessness
- identify developers
- identify sites or locations

Sustainability Strategy

1. Annually Review and update goals in the “Morgan County Community Housing Improvement Strategy (CHIS)”

2. Support development of “affordable housing”

Regionalism

Morgan County will continue to work with the RHISCO Project and COHHIO so that we can learn from peer communities.

Advocate for changes in service delivery models.

Redefine, with regional support, the definition of homelessness in rural Ohio.

9. Conclusion

Morgan County has strong local leadership representing core service organizations serving the homeless. Morgan County needs to continue to organize a coordinated effort, strengthen the community’s awareness of the homeless problem and develop resources for homeless services, The Continuum of Care Committee should be the focal point for development of homeless prevention services.