



October 3, 2008

Honorable Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
President of the City Council
100 North Holliday Street, Suite 400
Baltimore, MD 21202

Re: 08-0053 Baltimore City's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness- A Call to Action

Dear Council President Rawlings-Blake and Members of the Council,

In January 2008, the Mayor released Baltimore's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness. The plan has four key components:

Affordable Housing, which includes strategies for expanding "Housing First," restoring a homeless priority for housing resources, and creating supportive housing.

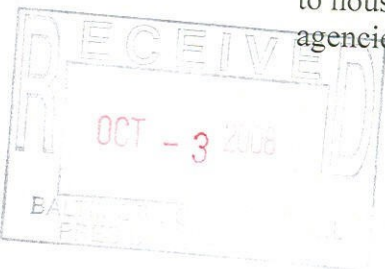
Comprehensive Health Care, which includes strategies to expand the Medicaid program and create continuum of convalescent care for medically fragile homeless individuals.

Income and Employment, which includes strategies to increase employment and internship opportunities for homeless individuals.

Preventive and Emergency Services, which includes strategies to access photo IDs, reduce evictions, and provide year-round shelter.

Baltimore Homeless Services has moved to the Mayor's Office to implement the plan. A new partnership has been established with the United Way for Central Maryland to provide fundraising, public education, and marketing assistance. Since the plan was released, we have accomplished the following:

- More than 100 homeless individuals and families have been placed or are in the process of being placed into permanent housing with ongoing supportive services. The initial clients that were housed through this Housing First model have remained housed and have seen other positive outcomes such as an increase in income and access to health care.
- For the first time ever in Baltimore, a year-round 24-hour shelter will open next week. The shelter, located temporarily at 210 Guilford Avenue, will not only provide sleeping quarters, meals, and showers, it also will deliver an array of services designed to facilitate the transition from homelessness to permanent housing. Services will include physical and behavioral health care, case management, referrals to housing, employment, and income support services. More than twenty City agencies and nonprofit organizations are expected to provide assistance.



Comments

- Next month, we hope to begin construction on a permanent, 24-hour, year-round fully accessible shelter and resource center for 275 homeless individuals. This resource center will also include 25 convalescent care beds which we are working with hospitals to provide nursing and other services.
- A new street outreach initiative called "Hands in Partnership" was created to improve the quality and coordination of outreach services. This diverse coalition of outreach teams meets regularly to review cases and share resources. Hands in Partnership has played a key role in connecting street dwelling clients to permanent housing opportunities.
- Several highly visible encampments were dismantled and their residents relocated to permanent housing or residential substance abuse treatment. Baltimore Homeless Services is currently working with St. Vincent de Paul Church to connect 20 people from the encampment in their park to permanent housing opportunities.
- A new housing rehabilitation program is under development. This partnership with Jubilee Baltimore and the Greenmount West Community will train homeless individuals to renovate abandoned houses.

The continued success of the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness cannot be achieved by government alone. Reducing the number of people experiencing homelessness in Baltimore City will require support from all citizens and stakeholders. Baltimore Homeless Services supports Council Resolution 08-0053. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Sincerely,



Diane Glauber
President, Baltimore Homeless Services

cc: Deputy Mayor Andrew Frank
Angela Gibson