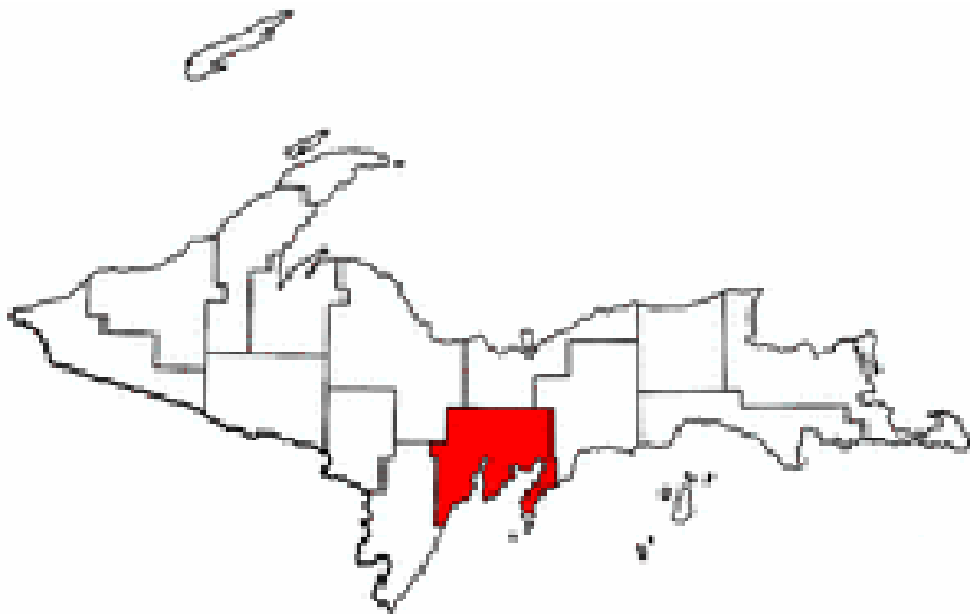


Delta County Michigan



Campaign to End Homelessness in Michigan
10- Year Plan

October 10, 2006

10 Year Plan to End Homelessness in Delta County-

Vision:

There will be a safe, affordable, permanent housing for all people in Delta County

Summary:

The DCCAH -Delta County Coalition Against Homeless-a sub committee of the Delta FCC (Delta County Family Coordinating Council) representing a host of agencies (see supplemental schedule page 2)in the community that have devoted themselves to providing ongoing services to those who are homeless (see supplemental schedule page 1 for details as to our homeless) have been working tirelessly to provide care to the Communities homeless, through MISHDA emergency shelter grants, the Michigan Shelter Grant Program, and local funding. The primary purpose of the existing funding and programs was not preventative but primarily reactionary to the need, providing temporary immediate shelter and rent assistance to those who were homeless or about to be homeless. We have been emphasizing managing the homelessness locally rather than preventing homelessness.

With the commitment from MSHDA and DHS at the beginning of the year to shift the focus from managing homeless to preventing homeless the Delta DCHC and the FCC have entered into an agreement to develop a plan that fits the new state initiative to prevent and hopefully eliminate homelessness in our Community.

We will follow the Housing First Model as spelled out in the Memorandum of Understanding.

Our plan will include:

- a. Safe affordable housing for all residence
- b. Shift our focus to the Housing First methodology, whereby placing the homeless in permanent housing as quickly as possible and providing support services upon placement
- c. Develop a planning process that focuses on the outcome of ending homelessness
- d. Expand our collaborative efforts to ensure a successful, long term outcome for all who are homeless
- e. Introducing some preventative methodology to help eliminate institutional discharges in the area of homelessness.
- f. Focus upon a consistent point of entry for all who seek assistance.

Data Collection was compiled with the help of the following. See supplemental schedule 1 for statistical compilations.

- a. Five years stats from the AAVA (Alliance Against Violence and Abuse)
- b. Number of homeless students (source: school homelessness liaisons)
- c. Five year statistics from the Voices for Youth Program
- d. USDA-RD income limits and number of loans in Delta County
- e. Number of Section 8 recipients and number of people on the waiting list.
- f. Total number of low income/ subsidized housing units in the count
- g. Number of vacant/ available low income/ subsidized housing units in the county
- h. Housing and poverty data from 2000 Census
- i. Emergency housing assistance from the Salvation Army for the past five years.
- j. Emergency housing assistance St. Vincent DePaul for the past five years
- k. Comprehensive list of housing assistance programs and eligibility guidelines
- l. Delta County Community Needs and Asset Survey May 2003

THE PLAN

Intervention aspect of the plan:

It is our desire to create quicker placement into supported housing of people who are currently experiencing homelessness- (see supplemental schedules 3 & 4 for listing of those we have identified as experiencing homelessness in Delta County, where they are living, and a complete listing of why our communities homeless are experiencing their crisis).

Currently those who are homeless use the following resources to provide temporary shelter from 5 days up to 90 days- See supplemental schedule page 2 for detail as to shelter beds available:

The Salvation Army utilizing motels up to 5 days and a men's shelter where they can stay up to 90 days
St. Vincent DePaul (Escanaba and Gladstone) utilizing motels up to 5 days and a two unit room with two beds where clients can stay up to 5 days.

DHS where, once identified as homeless working individuals can get financial assistance for the first months rent.

AAVA where victims of domestic violence can stay up to a month

Voices for Youth (Lutheran Social Services) that provides 4- 2 bedroom units for youth under 21 to be housed until permanent housing can be secured.

Prevention aspect of the plan:

Our preventative plan will include individual case management, **(when funding for a community case manager and rent and utility monies are made available)** wrap around services that will include housing, mental health, alcohol/drug abuse treatment, entitlements and cash supports, health care, family support, food assistance, transportation, life skills, educational development, employment.

Primary causes of homelessness in Delta County include: Family disputes, individuals being released from foster care system, correction facilities, poverty/very low income, substance abuse/addictive behavior, mental illness, domestic violence, lack of affordable housing, jobs that do not pay a living wages. For more details as to who is homeless in Delta County see supplemental schedules. Our preventative plan will be to place these clients into safe housing of their own as quickly as possible and follow up placement with wrap around care and coordination with other social service agencies to provide the maximum amount of care and accountability .

In addition, part of the preventative plan will include seeking out new possible sources of housing opportunities for our community, to help supplement our already exhausted housing market. The DCCAH will be an active participant in assisting potential housing resources to secure MSHDA funding for those projects that will help address the need for housing for the chronic homeless and homeless families with children.

Creating a client friendly system that addresses both the Intervention and Preventive aspect of our 10 year plan, which may include:

- a. Identifiable and accessible resources to those who are homeless
- b. Provide a one stop clearing house for all those who are homeless or facing homelessness
- c. Identify those who are homeless and potentially homeless in Delta County, the services most needed, evaluate the gap between the need and the services that are available, and determine how best to bridge the gap the most effectively, and establish a client friendly system whereby we can address the most pressing issues in our county to end homeless.

Establishing and prioritizing measurable goals to gauge the success of the 10 year plan:

Two populations were identified as those to whom we will focus our 10 year plan upon, since they make up the largest population of the homeless in our County. Our focus will be upon the chronically homeless and those families with children. Once prioritized our desired outcomes and measurable goals were established to help guide us to our mission to end homelessness in the next ten years for these two populations. Our Outcomes and related goals are as follows:

1. OUTCOME: All Delta County families with children will have immediate access to housing and identified support services thus preventing homelessness.

GOAL: Delta County families with children who are homeless will reduce their length of stay in emergency shelter from 50 days to 30 days by year 2009.

GOAL: Delta County families with children who are homeless will reduce their length of stay in emergency shelter from 30 days to 20 days by year 2011.

GOAL: Delta County families with children who are homeless will reduce their length of stay in emergency shelter from 20 days to 10 days by year 2013.

GOAL: Delta County families with children who are homeless will reduce their length of stay in emergency shelter from 10 days to 5 days by year 2015.

2. OUTCOME: All Delta chronically homeless individuals will have immediate access to housing and identified support services thus preventing homelessness.

GOAL: Delta County chronically homeless individuals who are homeless will reduce their length of stay in emergency shelter from 50 days to 30 days by year 2009.

GOAL: Delta County chronically homeless individuals who are homeless will reduce their length of stay in emergency shelter from 30 days to 20 days by year 2011.

GOAL: Delta County chronically homeless individuals who are homeless will reduce their length of stay in emergency shelter from 20 days to 10 days by year 2013.

GOAL: Delta County chronically homeless individuals who are homeless will reduce their length of stay in emergency shelter from 10 days to 5 days by year 2015.

SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE –page 1

Statistical Data

The Delta County Community Needs and Assets Survey compiled on May 2003 indicated the following homeless trends:

“In 2001 a survey was completed indicating 42 individuals were homeless at the time of the survey. In 2002, a survey indicated an average of 65 individuals were homeless. In March of 2003 there were 203 Section 8 MSHDA rental assistance vouchers for low income families allocated to Delta County. All vouchers were being utilized and there was a waiting list of 208 families. Families wait from 2 months to 2 years for locally subsidized housing. Some applicants with a poor credit history or poor landlord relationship at other rental units are not admitted.

The following data was compiled for the 2006 Continuum of Care Planning Update:

Homeless Population-point in time survey

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency/Transitional			
Homeless individuals	3	8	6	17
Homeless families with children	7			7
Persons in homeless families	<u>22</u>			<u>22</u>
Total	25	8	6	39

Subpopulation

Chronically homeless			1	1
Severely mentally ill	2			2
Chronic substance abuse	1			1
Veterans				
Persons with HIV/AIDS				
Victims of domestic Violence	9			9
Youth (Under 18 years of age)	<u>5</u>			<u>5</u>
Total	17		1	18

The following data was compiled on October 6, 2006 for a recent point in time survey

Homeless Population-point in time survey

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency/Transitional			
Homeless individuals		9	19	28
Homeless families with children				
Persons in homeless families				
Total		<u>9</u>	19	28

Subpopulation

Chronically homeless	2		3	5
Severely mentally ill			2	2
Chronic substance abuse	2			2
Veterans	2			2
Persons with HIV/AIDS				
Victims of domestic Violence	3			3
Youth (Under 18 years of age)	<u>1</u>		14	<u>15</u>
Total	10		19	29

SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE –page 2

Shelters Beds in Delta County

St. Vincent DePaul	4 + access to motel –clients can stay up to 5 days
The Salvation Army	5 + access to motel -- clients can stay up to 90 days at shelter and 5 days in motels
Alliance Against Violence & Abuse	15
Voice for Youth	8

Members of the DCCAH

Lutheran Social Services-Voices for Youth	UPCAP Agency
MSU Service Extension	MSHDA Section 8 Housing
The Salvation Army	Alliance Against Violence & Abuse
St. Vincent DePaul	Michigan Works
Pathways	Teaching Family Homes
Delta-Menominee Co. DHS	Community Action Agency
Seventh Day Adventist	American Red Cross
Landlord –Wendy Richards	Vietnam Veterans

SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE –page 3

1. What is homelessness?

- a. An individual living with friends/relations; not in their own home
- b. People living in shelters
- c. Those that choose to be
- d. People with substance abuse, mental illness,
- e. Someone living in the outdoors, in cars or in tents
- f. Someone with significant income change
- h. Someone who lacks family support:
 - recently released from incarceration
 - those released from foster care
 - those with no family connections in area
- i. Transients who move from community to community
- j. Seasonally homeless-local carnival workers
- k. People who are doubled up
- l. Those that have a home without heat, electric, and or food
- m. Those that are at risk
- n. Those that live from place to place each night- couch surfers
- o. People who are on the Criminal Sexual Assault list
- p. People who have felonies
- q. Recently unemployed

2. Who are the homeless in our community?

- a. Teens between 15-22
- b. Domestic Violence
- c. Those that have been recently released from incarceration (jail, prison, Bay Pines)
- d. Low income individuals with limited benefits
- e. Substance abuse
- f. Mentally ill
- g. Single parents
- h. Those on SSI
- i. Veterans

3. Where do the homeless live in our community?

- a. Shelters
- b. House to house
- c. In laws/friends, acquaintances
- d. Woods, community parks, tents
- e. Jail-repeat offenders, partially because of no place to live
- f. Storage sheds
- g. Cars, mobile trailers
- h.. Abandoned buildings

SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE –page 4

4. Why are people homeless in our community?
 - a. Lack of a support system
 - b. Substance abuse
 - c. Domestic/Family violence
 - d. Working poor/under employed
 - e. Unemployed
 - f. Moved here expecting to find work/family support
 - g. Children rebelling, parents not wanting to deal with issues, step parent problems
 - h. Seasonal employment
 - i. Foreclosure or eviction notices
 - j. Mismanagement of resources
 - k. Addictive behavior –gambling, cigarettes,
 - l. Under educated
 - m. Bad credit
 - o. Poor rental record
 - p. Dependent on welfare
 - q. Disabilities (real or imagined)
 - r. Foster children on their own
 - s. Affordable housing-particularly for singles
 - t. Lack of consistent motivation
 - u. Mental health issues
 - v. Unforeseen circumstances
 - w. Divorced