

TEN-YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS

Vision

Monroe County is committed to the elimination of homelessness so that every person in our community has a home that is safe, affordable, and accessible and a continuum of supportive services is available to build self-sufficiency and ensure that the housing is sustained.

Monroe County, Michigan

October 16, 2006

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Goal 2: Develop the capacity to implement the Housing First philosophy and affordable housing initiatives to help individuals and families move toward as much self-sufficiency as possible in maintaining their home.	
Goal 3: Ensure that the social service and public health, medical health, and behavioral health care needs are addressed.	
Goal 4: Ensure that the individuals and families have the educational and employment support needed to secure a job that provides a high enough wage to sustain their family.	
Goal 5: Ensure that law enforcement, the criminal justice system, and other institutions are active partners in addressing the needs of homeless individuals within our community.	
Goal 6: Ensure that barriers to serving individuals and families, when identified, are addressed at the local, State, and Federal levels, as appropriate.	
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Community Overview and Process

The County of Monroe is located in the southeastern-most corner of Michigan and is the gateway to the Great Lakes State – bordering on Lake Erie and Toledo, Ohio. Monroe County’s 562 square miles offer a pleasant mix of urban and rural surroundings and include over 1,058 active farms. According to the 2005 American Community Survey, the latest census figures for the County reflect the following:

	1990 Census	2000 Census	2005 Survey
Total population	133,600	145,945	152,392
Percentage of population who are White	96.5%	95.8%	95%
Median age	32.2	33.2	37.9 years
Total number of household	46,508	53,772	58,564
Average household size	2.84 persons	2.69 persons	2.6 persons
Percent of people at poverty level	8.6%	7.0%	8.3%

Monroe County is home to the La-Z-Boy Chair Company, Tenneco Automotive, Cabela’s, Monroe County Community College, and several automobile factories. There are nine school districts within the County, as well as the Intermediate School District. And there is a vast array of human service providers whose missions support individuals and families.

The Monroe County Network on Homelessness was established in 1985 in response to a community need and has continued to actively engage the community in addressing the housing and homelessness issues within our community. In 1996, the Monroe County Network became an official workgroup of the Monroe County Human Services Collaborative Network (Community Collaborative) for the purposes of ensuring broad-based support and awareness regarding the needs of the homeless in our community.

When the State put out the call to communities to develop ten year plans to end homelessness, the Monroe County Network on Homelessness invited the other partners to the table to create the Memorandum of Understanding that was submitted to the State at the end of April, 2006 – including the Monroe County Human Services Collaborative Network (Community Collaborative), the Department of Human Services, Monroe Community Mental Health Authority, United Way of Monroe County, and the Monroe County Opportunity Program (Community Action Agency). Since that time, Habitat for Humanity and the Monroe County Health Department have joined the partners in moving this initiative forward.

A Community Stakeholder to Address Homelessness meeting was held on July 27, 2006 to:

- inform the community about this endeavor
- elicit feedback, and
- invite their participation.

Representative Kathy Angerer provided the keynote address, and the Chairperson of the Monroe County Commissioners, Jerry Oley, stressed the importance of this work. (A list of the attendees at the Stakeholder meeting is attached.)

From that larger group, a Ten-Year Plan Advisory Committee was established to develop the Community Plan and to serve as the on-going oversight body for ensuring that that plan is implemented and evaluated.

Within the Advisory Committee, five sub-committees were formed to address each of the specific goal areas outlined in the plan:

- Awareness and Community Outreach / Advocacy
- Housing
- Social Services and Health
- Employment and Education
- Engagement of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

Monroe County's Ten Year Plan was endorsed by the County Board of Commissioners on October 10, 2006. Consumer input on the Plan was received through focus groups held at three area emergency and transitional shelters.

Ten Year Plan Advisory Committee

Terrence Beurer – Co-Chair
Department of Human Services
Jane Terwilliger – Co-Chair
Monroe Community Mental Health Authority
Joe Grifka
Fairview / Network on Homeless / HSCN
Stephanie Kasprzak
Monroe County Opportunity Program (MCOP)
Michael Hoydic
United Way of Monroe County
Rusty Davis
United Way – First Call for Help
Rebecca Head
Monroe County Health Department
Debbie Wykes
Habitat for Humanity
Connie Carroll
United Way of Monroe County
Randy Richardville
City of Monroe – Port Authority
Matt Wallace
City of Monroe Planning Department
Mark K. Witte
Grace Lutheran Church
Bonnie Finzel-Doster
Thrift Shop / Monroe Housing Commission
Michael Keck
United Auto Workers
Linda Emerson
Monroe County Opportunity Program (MCOP)
Sharon Roggelin
Mercy Memorial Hospital System
Tom Moore
Monroe Police Department / Monroe County
Community Corrections Advisory Board
Doug Kuras
Michigan Works!
Ryan Simmons
County of Monroe – Planning Department
Michael T. Thomas
The Salvation Army
Doug Redding
Community Collaborative / Monroe ISD
Jan Weingart
Monroe Community Mental Health Authority
Sandie Pierce
Continuum of Care / Community Collaborative
Sally Pritchett
Habitat for Humanity
Sue Lewis
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Joanna Uhl
Dundee Township Supervisor
Connie Harvell
Monroe County Health Department
Dick Peplinski
St. Michael's St. Vincent DePaul
Lucy DeSilvis
County of Monroe / Community Corrections
Charlie Mahoney
United Way of Monroe / Four-M Associates

Monroe County's History with Housing and Homelessness

Monroe County has a long history of providing for individuals and families who need shelter and support services. The Monroe County Infirmary – Fairview – dates back to 1855 when the “county poor farm” provided individuals with shelter and an opportunity to work the land to provide for those who lived at Fairview. Since then, Fairview has evolved into a 36-bed transitional housing facility for adults who have low incomes, have a disability, and who are in need of assistance.

Since 1939, the Department of Human Services (formerly Department of Social Services and Family Independence Agency) has provided financial assistance to individuals and families who are very low income – including family support, food stamps, childcare assistance, rental and utility assistance, medical insurance, transportation, home help, and assistance with other emergencies.

The Monroe County Opportunity Program – the local community action agency – was created in 1965 in response to President Johnson’s “war on poverty.” The agency has provided the emergency food program since that time and has added programs throughout the years that support individuals and families in becoming self-sufficient – including rental and utility assistance to prevent evictions, homeownership training, and shelter plus care support for individuals or families who have a disability.

The Monroe County Network on Homelessness was created in 1985 following a community forum to discuss the issue of high unemployment and resulting need for housing and other supports. The Network has continued since that time and became an official workgroup of the Monroe County Human Services Collaborative Network (Community Collaborative) in 1996 and developed the initial Continuum of Care Plan to address homelessness in 1997.

In 1987, Family Counseling and Shelter Services opened the SafeHouse for victims of domestic violence. In 1997, the SafeHouse began receiving essential services funding through MSHDA to provide life skills training, counseling, and assistance with transitioning into the community.

In 1991 and 1992, multi-denominational churches stepped forward to provide rotating shelters that provided temporary relief during the cold winter months. While the rotating shelters kept people out of the cold, it was difficult to provide the oversight, and the Philadelphia Homeless Shelter was subsequently established to provide a consistent location and needed services and supports.

Michigan Works! Monroe County Employment and Training Department has provided assistance with job development and employment through the evolution of the CETA, JTPA, and Work Force Investment training programs, as well as the current Work First / Welfare Report Program. Public education has provided assistance with GED preparation and offers assistance to homeless children through funding from the McKinney-Vento Act (reauthorized by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, (Pub. L. 07-110).

Assistance with low-cost or no-cost health care needs has been provided by the Monroe County Health Department, Mercy Memorial Hospital, and Family Medical Centers. The Monroe County Health Plan, a non-profit Michigan Corporation formed in December of 2005 through the efforts of the United Way of Monroe County, Mercy Memorial Hospital System, Family Medical Center of Michigan, Monroe County Board of Commissioners, the Monroe County Health Department, Department of Human Services, and Monroe County Chamber of Commerce, provides access to healthcare for those eligible for the State's Adult Benefit Waiver program.

For individual adults who have a serious mental illness, Monroe Community Mental Health Authority has provided rental assistance, household goods, and food vouchers through the Program to Assist The Homeless (PATH) funding. From 1993 to 2003, the Monroe Community Mental Health Authority received a permanent housing grant to provide subsidized housing for 12 adults with a serious mental illness.

Local public Housing Commissions throughout the County have developed and operated subsidized housing for individuals and families to rent apartments at 30% of their income. Additionally, Housing Choice (Section 8) vouchers have been made available to qualifying individuals and families.

Homeownership opportunities became available for eligible low-income families when Habitat for Humanity was established in Monroe County in 1995. Habitat for Humanity has worked with over 30 families and thousands of volunteers in building new 3 or 4 bedroom homes that are purchased at no cost with zero percent interest mortgages that are serviced by Habitat.

The Salvation Army Family Manor opened in 2003 to provide emergency housing for families and single women (typically for up to 90-day stays). The shelter also provides assistance with applying for available services, life skill development, and transitioning into the community. In 2005, The Salvation Army conducted a needs assessment that identified an increased need for transitional shelter, subsidized housing for families and senior citizens, and a health clinic on the east side of the City of Monroe. Subsequently, a site plan for the "Campus of Hope" has been developed and a feasibility study is underway to determine the capital and operational needs in order to implement the plan.

Women Empowering Women opened Paula's House in 2004 to provide a transitional facility for women who are homeless and who had previously spent time incarcerated. To date, Paula's House has provided assistance to 27 women, six of whom successfully completed the program and found housing and jobs in the community. Paula's House was awarded a transitional housing grant through HUD in 2005 that will assist with the overall operation of the facility.

Current Reality

Homelessness in Monroe County is often invisible – one doesn’t typically see “street people.” Many are sheltered at The Salvation Army Family Manor, Fairview, the Philadelphia House, Paula’s House, or the SafeHouse. Others are bunking temporarily with family and friends – often moving several times before finding permanent housing. Some live in cars, back yards, or tents at the State Park. This latter segment – the true street people – are ones who present challenges to local law enforcement and who add cost to the public service budget through repeated trespassing and other disturbance-type calls. The creation and maintenance of services throughout the years have helped to alleviate the immediate issue of not having a roof over one’s head for individuals and families, but has not addressed the long-term solution of preventing homelessness.

<u>Shelter Name</u>	<u>Number of Family Units</u>	<u>Number of Family Members</u>	<u>Number of Beds for Individuals</u>	<u>Total</u>
Salvation Army – Family Manor	12	35	5	40
Family Counseling – SafeHouse	6	10	5	15
Philadelphia House I and II	0	0	30	30
MCOP – Hometown Inn	9	18	2	20
Fairview Transitional	0	0	36	36
Women Empowering Women – Paula’s	0	0	5	5
Totals	27	63	83	146

The 2005 point in time study identified 87 individuals and 30 families (75 people) who were homeless in Monroe County – a total of 162 people who were either living in a place that is not considered a place meant for human habitation or who were living in a shelter. Additionally, during the 2005-2006 school year, 170 children were identified within the public school system who were considered homeless. Of these children, two were in pre-school, 87 were in elementary school, 33 were in middle school, and 48 were in high school.

The leading reason for homelessness within the county – and the nation – is a lack of affordable housing. According to the 2000 Census, there are 8,658 households in Monroe County (16%) spending more than 30% of their income on housing.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) considers housing to be affordable as long as the cost of housing, including rent or mortgage and tax payments, plus basic utilities, minus telephone, does not exceed 30% of the household income.

Lack of affordable housing was the top issue identified in the United Way of Monroe County’s needs assessments in both 1991 and 2001. Additionally, affordable housing was the top need identified in The Salvation Army’s need study conducted in 2005. According to the housing study conducted by the County of Monroe in 2001, there is a housing shortage for very low income (under \$10,000) of 1,536 units, for \$35,000 to \$49,999 income of 5,998 units, and for households with incomes of \$50,000 to \$74,999 there’s a housing shortage of 8,772 units. The City of Monroe’s housing needs survey conducted in 2004 identified a need for additional affordable housing units – especially rental units and home ownership units in the \$130,000 to \$150,000 price range. The survey also identified 2,145 (25.1%) of the 8,544 rental and owner units in the City of Monroe with reported housing problems. Nationally, a shortage of affordable and available housing stock of 5.2 million units was identified in a 2005 American Housing Survey conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Homelessness and poverty are inextricably linked. People who have low incomes are frequently unable to pay for housing, in addition to the cost of food, child care, health care, transportation, and education. According to the 2000 Census, 11.3% of the U.S. population (31.1 million people) live in poverty. In Michigan, the number of persons below poverty was 10.5% (or 1,058,398 people), and the number of people living at poverty in Monroe County is 10,547 – or 7.0%. While the County’s median household income is \$51,743 – compared with the State’s median income of \$44,667, the per capita personal income is \$29,914 versus \$31,178 statewide (U.S. Department of Commerce).

<p><i>The 2006 Federal Poverty Guidelines</i></p> <p><i>\$9,800 for an individual</i></p> <p><i>\$13,200 for a family of two</i></p> <p><i>\$16,600 for a family of three,</i></p> <p><i>\$20,000 for a family of four</i></p>
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Economically, Monroe County has often suffered from many of the same economic problems facing the State of Michigan and entire Midwest region of the United States. A main factor in the economy of Monroe County is the direct proximity to, and reliance upon, the automobile industry and automotive related industries. Also, Monroe County is located thirty minutes away from Detroit Metro Airport which has seen significant lay-offs and closures related to the airline industry. When these industries suffer, the entire region suffers. According to the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, the unemployment rate for the State of Michigan for the month of August 2006 stood at 6.7%, almost two full percentage points above the nation’s rate. For Monroe County, the August unemployment rate was 6.8% – or 5,300 Monroe County residents –and ranked 45th out of the 83 Michigan counties. The increased unemployment rate in Monroe County is reflected by increased numbers of job seekers registering at Michigan Works! MCETD, as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Job Seekers</u>
July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003	19,122
July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004	22,080
July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005	19,869
July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006	17,441

The big question is always how many additional people that are not working and not receiving unemployment insurance are not reflected in these numbers. Some people eventually just give up after being unsuccessful in finding employment over a lengthy period of time. The other question that is difficult to answer is how many people may be working but at a relatively low wage. Thus the term “working poor”. These are the members of our community that we need to be concerned about who have a difficult time in being able to afford housing. An interesting fact about homelessness is that over one in four people in homeless situations are employed. (National Coalition for the Homeless, 1997)

A relationship also exists between educational achievement and economic development in a community. An area with a higher percentage of high school graduates and especially college graduates will be more likely to attract businesses offering higher salaries. The higher salary would thus make it easier for residents to afford quality housing. 83.1% of Monroe County residents 25 years of age or older are at least a high school graduate – versus 83.4% statewide. 45.8% of county residents have some college – versus 52.1% statewide, and 14.3% have a bachelor’s degree or more – versus 21.8% statewide. (Figures provided by the U.S. Bureau of Census). Additionally, while some assistance is made available for GED preparation, there currently is no resource to provide assistance with the cost of taking the GED tests – \$200 for five different test areas.

<u>Highest Level of Education Attained by Adults 25 and Over</u>	<u>1990 Census</u>	<u>2000 Census</u>
Less than high school	26%	17%
High School	37%	37%
Some college – no degree	20%	24%
Associate Degree	7%	7%
Bachelor Degree	7%	10%
Graduate or Professional Degree	4%	5%

Current fair market rent in Monroe County is \$723 for a two-bedroom apartment (\$8,676 per year) and \$944 for a three bedroom (\$11,328 per year). A person who works 40 hours per week earning the current minimum wage (\$6.95 per hour) earns \$14,456 per year. At these rates, a family of four (earning \$28,912 with two people working full time at minimum wage) would spend 39% of their income to rent a three-bedroom apartment. When a family gets just two months behind in rental or mortgage payments, they are often unable to get out of the situation and end up homeless.

Substance abuse and mental illness are two additional factors that impact on housing stability and homelessness. Currently in Monroe County, an individual needs to remain sober and free of illegal substances in order to be sheltered at the Philadelphia House, Paula's House, The Salvation Army, or Fairview. Research, however, has shown that moving to a Housing First model facilitates recovery because the stress of homelessness has been addressed and the individual is in a stable environment. The Housing First philosophy will be embraced as we implement the plan. Individuals' and families' needs will be assessed, and a plan with the individual and family will be developed that provides for the immediate housing need, whether emergency shelter or permanent housing, and ensures that the individual or family only remains in a shelter setting for the shortest time possible.

Local data regarding the number of people who enter the Monroe County jail who are homeless has not been historically collected. Nationally, the figure is estimated that 12% of those who are incarcerated are also homeless. The cost to society also does not have a firm dollar figure; however, local law enforcement report that they regularly get called to calm some sort of disturbance being caused by one of the "regular" street people – or they get calls to transport someone who is homeless to a shelter or local motel. At a time when budgets are reducing and officers are being cut, eliminating homelessness would free up law enforcement for other duties.

Since the 1980s, a variety of research studies have documented the relationship between homelessness and physical health problems, mental illness, and substance use disorders. Following is a summary of findings contained in "Special Populations of Homeless Americans" by Robert Rosenheck, M.D., Ellen Bassuk, M.D., and Amy Salomon, Ph.D.:

- 20-25 percent of single adults who are homeless had lifetime histories of serious mental illness; about half had histories of alcohol abuse or dependence; and about one-third had histories of drug abuse or dependence (Susser, Struening, & Conover, 1989; Breakey et al., 1989; Koegel, Burnam & Farr, 1989).
- Data clearly showed that people who are severely mentally ill were at much higher risk for homelessness than others and that they endured homelessness for greater periods of time. The mentally ill among people who are homeless are often the most demoralized and hopeless, and least convinced that they can improve their situation. Supportive case management within a sustained healing relationship is an especially important component of services for this segment of the population.
- Among the homeless, alcohol addiction was often found in younger members of minority groups (Koegel & Burnam, 1987) and among people who also have a mental illness. About half of those with serious mental illness also had substance abuse disorders—the so-called dually diagnosed (Drake, Osher & Wallach, 1991).
- In addition to the high rates of alcohol, drug, and mental disorders, people who are homeless also suffer from serious medical infirmities and experience mortality rates as much as twice as great as those of poor, domiciled people with mental illness (Kasprow and Rosenheck, 1998).

- The rate of HIV infection is especially high among homeless people.
- A large study of New York City shelter users found that use of drugs, alcohol, and the presence of psychiatric disorders are all associated with poorer physical health, even distinct from specific illnesses such as HIV, and that the physical health status of homeless men is well below that of community samples (Streuning & Padgett, 1990).
- Survey data strongly suggests that people with physical and mental infirmities are far more likely to become homeless than others. On the other hand, the exposure to the elements, poor nutrition, and lack of basic comforts experienced by people who are homeless worsens their already compromised health status.

A five-year study conducted by the Center for Mental Health Policy and Services Research, University of Pennsylvania, measures the full extent of mentally ill individuals' dependency on an array of emergency and safety net services. This study compares service utilization and associated costs before and after individuals were placed in service enriched housing. Findings are summarized below:

- The price of homelessness is very high—\$40,449 per homeless person per year, primarily in expenditures for psychiatric hospital care, inpatient hospital care, and emergency shelter care.
- Once placed in service enriched housing, the cost for services decrease by an average of \$12,145 per individual to an average of \$28,304.
- The average annual cost to Health and Hospital corporations per homeless individual was reduced from \$6,229 to \$4,458 – an average savings of \$1,771 per year.
- The average annual cost for mental health/substance abuse services per homeless individual was reduced from \$12,520 to \$4,260 – an average savings of \$8,260 per year,

In Monroe County, costs for psychiatric hospitalization for individuals who have Medicaid or who are uninsured have risen steadily over the last three years by \$1.2 million to a predicted 2005-2006 cost of \$2.1 million. In its 2004-2005 annual report, Mercy Memorial Hospital System reported \$5.6 million in bad debt and charity costs. Although the percentage of these costs that can be directly contributed to homelessness is unknown, it can be assumed that the individuals who received these services are certainly the most vulnerable to becoming homeless.

Additionally, as the State of Michigan moves people with mental illness or developmental disabilities out of prisons and state facilities, individuals with very high needs and few resources are returning to the community. Currently, Monroe CMHA is having great difficulty in finding living arrangements for seven individuals that the State hospital system has indicated are ready for discharge.

Through the development of the annual Continuum of Care, goals and objectives have been established by the Monroe County Network on Homelessness to enhance community collaboration and avoid duplication of services, to increase awareness about the needs of homeless individuals and families in our community, to work toward the creation of additional permanent supportive housing, to ensure that people being

discharged from institutions (correctional facilities, foster care, hospitals, etc) re-enter the community with a support plan, and to increase community awareness regarding homelessness within our community. Additional efforts are needed so that a comprehensive strategy can be implemented to address all of the housing and employment needs for our community.

Resources

Monroe County has an array of services available to assist individuals and families who are in need. The assistance, however, is limited in scope and duration, and often is not preventive in nature, but rather provides temporary relief. Additionally, many families who are low-income, but above the poverty line, are not eligible for assistance, and service often does not include the on-going case management that individuals and families typically need after they have found housing. These gaps will be identified and addressed as we move forward with plan implementation to ensure that a continuum of services is available as we develop a Housing First service delivery system.

Emergency shelter is provided to individuals and families on a short-term basis through The Salvation Army Family Manor, the Philadelphia House, and the SafeHouse operated by Family Counseling and Shelter Services. Additionally, beginning in December of 2006, The Salvation Army will open a warming center during day-time hours for individuals and families who are seeking refuge from the cold. Transitional housing for adults is provided by Fairview and Paula's House. However, there currently is no transitional housing available in Monroe County for families. Additional support services / long-term case management are also needed in order for the majority of people who are homeless to attain stability.

Through the Department of Human Services, \$912,685 of State Emergency Relief funds were expended in Monroe County for qualifying families in Fiscal Year 2005. From October 1, 2005 through July 31, 2006, the State Emergency Relief expenditure totaled \$554,639. Additionally, financial assistance totaling nearly \$200,000 for rent and utilities is provided through MSDHA, FEMA/Homeland Security Department, and THAW. The funds that are received, however, are expended within months of receipt and do not begin to meet the needs of low-income individuals and families who are at risk of eviction or mortgage foreclosure nor do the funds provide for long-term case management for the individuals and families that helps to ensure housing stability.

Throughout Monroe County, there are four housing commissions – City of Monroe, Bedford Township, City of Luna Pier, and Village of Dundee – that oversee subsidized housing for families, seniors, and persons with disabilities. Additionally, there are 16 housing complexes, which consider themselves to be affordable. In total, there are 2,216 units available, and all of the complexes currently have waiting lists.

Housing Commission Facilities	Address	Number of Units
Bedford Housing Commission Ivor Lindsey – Senior Preference	8745 Lewis Avenue Temperance 48182	97
Dundee Housing Commission Senior Preference	501 Rawson Street Dundee, MI 48131	75
Luna Pier Housing – Lotus Manor Seniors / Disabled	10885 Ellen Street Luna Pier, MI 49158	102
Monroe Housing Commission Greenwood Family	90 Greenwood Ave. Monroe, MI 48162	115
Monroe Housing – River Park Plaza Senior / Handicap	20 Roessler Street Monroe, MI 48162	148
Monroe Housing Commission Individual Houses	Scattered Sites within the City of Monroe	30

Housing Complexes	Address	Number of Units
Canfield Crossing Family	409 Canfield Milan, MI 48160	32
Carleton Apartments Family	331 Kent Street Carleton, MI 48117	24
Carleton Co-Op Elderly Only	188 Center Street Carleton, MI 48117	47
Charring Square Family	6123 Greenwyke Monroe, MI 48161	200
Creekside Village Senior Preference	1310 South Monroe St. Monroe, MI 48161	77
Frenchtown Place Elderly Only	1201 N. Macomb Street Monroe, MI 48162	151
Greenwyke Commons 1 Family	6112 Greenwyke Monroe, MI 48161	116
Highland Terrace Apts. Family	625 Rawson Street Dundee, MI 48131	24
Mable Kehres Towers Senior Preference	15275 South Dixie Hwy. Monroe, MI 48161	200
Marian Place	408 East Front Street Monroe, MI 48161	52
Milan Village Apt. Elderly Only	27 Hurd Street Milan, MI 48160	36
Norman Towers Senior Preference	810 West Elm Ave. Monroe, MI 48162	108
Park West Club Apt. Family	1621 Park West Drive Monroe, MI 48162	160
Petersburg Apartments Family	101 West Madison St. Petersburg, 49270	24
Village Green Monroe Family	1600-A Park Court Monroe, MI 48162	190
Woodcraft Square Senior / Family	800 West Seventh St. Monroe, MI 48161	208

As of January 2006, there were 464 active Housing Choice (Section 8) vouchers in Monroe County, and an additional 65 new vouchers were expected at that time. During the open enrollment period that was held in February 2006, over 600 applications were received for these new vouchers. While the number of available vouchers has increased from 300 in 1998, the number still does not meet the need.

A Housing Choice voucher provides eligible individuals and families with the ability to secure rental housing at 30% of their household income in a variety of settings, as long as the housing unit meets the Housing Quality Standards established by HUD and MSDHA.

The Monroe County Opportunity Program provides assistance to 13 individuals or families who have a qualifying disability through the HUD Supportive Housing initiative. Assistance includes rental subsidies and support with home care.

The PATH grant administered by the Monroe Community Mental Health Authority provides assistance with rental payments and other household costs. During Fiscal-Year 2004, 24 individual adults were provided assistance to prevent evictions and another 19 were provided assistance in securing housing. The figures for Fiscal-Year 2005 included assistance for 34 individuals in preventing eviction and 24 in securing housing, and to date in Fiscal-Year 2006, 32 individuals were provided assistance to prevent evictions and 36 were assisted with securing housing.

Habitat for Humanity works with up to six families per year with the goal of home ownership. Selected applicants complete home ownership classes, provide sweat equity in the building of their home, and must be able to qualify for and afford a mortgage.

Assistance for Monroe County residents in finding employment is available through the Monroe County Employment & Training / Michigan Works! Job seekers can receive help, at no cost, in such areas as:

- Resume development
- Interviewing skills
- Labor market information and job leads
- Personal skills assistance
- Classroom or vocational training
- Ex-offender assistance in finding employment.
- Michigan Talent Bank, the State's Internet based labor exchange system
- Individuals who have a disability can receive job search assistance through the Michigan Rehabilitation Services in Monroe.

Current Adult Education services available through the public school system include High School Completion, English as a Second Language, and GED Preparation. Classes are offered free to adult Michigan residents who are under 20 years of age on September 1st of each school year. GED preparation for adults is an unmet need.

- High School Completion is provided by the Airport, Bedford, Mason and Monroe Public School systems and provides the adult student with the opportunity to earn his/her high school diploma.
- English as a Second Language (ESL) is offered to the foreign-born adult who needs to learn to speak and read in English. This program is useful to the adult who wishes to become a U.S. citizen. ESL classes are offered locally at the First Baptist Church Adult Education Center and out-of-county at Owens Community College, Toledo, Ohio.
- GED Preparation allows students to prepare for the five GED examinations: writing skills, science, social studies, literature, and mathematics. While GED Preparation is provided at no cost to the student, assistance is needed in paying the actual cost of the examinations.

Under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Children and Youths Program, State Educational Agencies must ensure that homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free public education, including a public preschool education, as is provided to other children and youth, and schools may not separate homeless students from the mainstream school environment on the basis of their homelessness.

The definition of "homeless" under the McKinney-Vento Act is broad, and includes the provision of supports to children who live in a home that has a lack of heat or running water, to students whose families live with relatives, to students who have run away and are living with friends, and to students who are living in shelters.

In Monroe County, the McKinney-Vento grant, of approximately \$17,000 annually, provides the following services to all nine public school districts located in the County.

- Transportation to school of origin
- Tutoring at two shelters located in the City of Monroe
- Tutoring at non-Title I schools
- Durable good supports, such as clothing and school supplies
- Free lunches regardless of income eligibility

Transportation services are provided through Lake Erie Transit Authority six days per week until 6:00 p.m. – in the City of Monroe, and Bedford, Frenchtown, and Monroe Townships. Essential transportation assistance is provided county wide for people who are disabled or who are 60 years of age or older. Access to transportation has been identified as a barrier for individual and families who live outside of the core areas and who need transportation in the evenings and on Sundays.

Other resources available to support individuals and families who are low income include food assistance through MCOP and the local Food Closets, health services through the Monroe County Health Department, Mercy Memorial Hospital, the Family Medical Centers, and Monroe County Health Plan, and food stamps, childcare, and other services through the Department of Human Services.

Vision for Monroe County

Monroe County is committed to the elimination of homelessness so that every person in our community has a home that is safe, affordable, and accessible and a continuum of supportive services is available to build self-sufficiency and ensure that the housing is sustained.

Values

- *Self-sufficiency among all individuals and families is encouraged.*
- *A continuum of support services is available to help individuals and families maintain and sustain their housing.*
 - *Services are seamless.*
 - *The Housing First model is embraced.*
 - *Ending homelessness is the right thing to do.*

Strategies – Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Increase community awareness regarding the number of individuals and families who are homeless in Monroe County and regarding the circumstances that have caused their homeless situation.

Objectives:

1. Ensure that local stakeholders are knowledgeable about the Community Plan and seek formal endorsement from key officials.
2. Ensure that the Ten Year Plan is highlighted during homeless awareness week activities.
3. Work collectively with media outlets to ensure ongoing awareness related to the issue of homelessness.
4. Inform the community about the economic realities of homelessness and the financial impact on the community.

Goal 2: Develop the capacity to implement the Housing First philosophy and affordable housing initiatives to help individuals and families move toward as much self-sufficiency as possible in maintaining their home.

Objectives:

1. Understand and foster communication among providers through the creation of a county-wide Housing Coalition.
2. Develop a “stepping stone” type service delivery system (flow chart) so that a seamless system is developed and homeless situations are prevented.

3. Identify and remove policy barriers that impede housing.
4. Implement the Housing First continuum of services.
5. Identify needs regarding the available housing stock in Monroe County and increase the number of affordable housing units.

Goal 3: Ensure that the social service and public health, medical health, and behavioral health care needs are addressed.

Objectives:

1. Develop a seamless service delivery system with “no wrong door” that is welcoming to all in need of assistance.
2. Ensure that the necessary supportive services are available to address social, medical, and behavioral health care needs (including substance use disorders).
3. Develop capacities for active outreach and early engagement so that individuals and families at risk of or experiencing homelessness are aware of available supports and services and how to access them.
4. Involve consumers and advocates in decision-making concerning the implementation of the plan and in evaluating its effectiveness.

Goal 4: Ensure that the individuals and families have the educational and employment support needed to secure a job that provides a high enough wage to sustain their family.

Objectives:

1. Identify and secure resources to assist individuals with paying for the cost of GED examinations, tutoring, and training.
2. Enhance community-wide efforts in identifying homeless youth to ensure they have access to public education.
3. Ensure that job placement and training assistance is enhanced to support individuals who need assistance in securing employment.

Goal 5: Ensure that law enforcement, the criminal justice system, and other institutions are active partners in addressing the needs of homeless individuals within our community.

Objectives:

1. Ensure that individuals moving back into the community from the criminal justice system and other institutions are provided with the supports needed to ensure a smooth transition and identify barriers that individuals face in re-entering the community.

2. Develop and implement a community protocol for discharge planning for persons being released from the criminal justice system, mental health facilities, and for youth aging out of foster care.
3. Coordinate with the Monroe County Community Corrections Advisory Board in identifying and addressing needs that law enforcement may have in order to better serve individuals and families who are in need of housing and supports.
4. Enhance the data collection system within the criminal justice system so that data regarding the number of persons who are homeless is captured and made available.

Goal 6: Ensure that barriers to serving individuals and families, when identified, are addressed at the local, State, and Federal levels, as appropriate.

Objectives:

1. Develop a communication system for keeping up-to-date regarding policies and regulations.
2. Identify and address policy barriers that hinder our ability to impact homelessness
3. Advocate for needed policy changes in a collaborative, systematic manner.

Action Plan Development

For each of the goal areas outlined above, action plans that outline the implementation steps, responsible parties, and timeline for completion will be developed annually. (A copy of the initial action plan is attached.) Additionally, the Ten Year Advisory Body will address the need for on-going staff support and identify and secure funding for an on-going staff position.

Performance Measurement and Evaluation

In order to determine if we are accomplishing the goals and objectives set out in the Community Plan, performance measurements will be established for each of the objectives and data will be collected and analyzed at least annually.

Progress Reports

Reports on the progress will be provided by each of the Sub-Committees to the Advisory Board on a quarterly basis and at least annually to local elected officials and to the Monroe County Human Services Collaborative Network. Reports to the State will be provided as required, but at least annually.



ATTENDANCE
Community Kick-Off Meeting
STRATEGIC PLAN TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS IN MONROE COUNTY
Thursday, July 27, 2006

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency / Affiliation</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency / Affiliation</u>
April Corie	ABC / County Guardian	Paula Whitman	Monroe CMHA
Randy Richardville	City of Monroe Port Authority	Marilyn Malters	Monroe CMHA
Kris Theisen	Community Foundation of Monroe	Jan Weingart	Monroe CMHA
Josh Myers	Congressman John Dingell's Office	Stephanie Morich	Monroe CMHA
Charles Londo	County of Monroe	Russell Pavlick	Monroe CMHA
Jacqueline McGhee	County of Monroe	Andy Lewandowski	Monroe CMHA
Julie Staples	CSCI	Jane Terwilliger	Monroe CMHA
Terrence Beurer	Department of Human Services	Sue Wetzel	Monroe Community College
Molly Luempert-Coy	DTE Energy	Randy Daniels	Monroe Community College
Joanna Uhl	Dundee Township	David Nixon	Monroe Community College
Joe Grifka	Fairview / HSCN / MCNH	Jerry Oley	Monroe County Commissioner
Hedi Kaufman	Frenchtown Township	Floreine Mentel	Monroe County Commissioner
Marlene Miller	Good Shepherd Lutheran	Willaim Paul Nichols	Monroe County Prosecutor
Joyce M. Wynn	Good Shepherd Lutheran	Hwa Stacy	Monroe Family YMCA
Ann Rothman	Good Shepherd Lutheran	Connie Harvell	Monroe Health Department
Sandy Butts	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	Bonnie Finzel-Doster	Monroe Housing / Thrift Shop
Sue Lewis	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	Doug Redding	Monroe ISD
Mark Witte	Grace Lutheran Church	Barry Martin	Monroe Public Schools
Sally Pritchett	Habitat for Humanity	Sandy Rooyackers	Norman Towers
Jill Grodi	Human Potential Center	Farruuh Mochui	Norman Towers
Diane Tackett	MCOP	Gale Govaere	Senator Carl Levin's Office
Janet Crego	MCOP	Representative Kathy Angerer	State of Michigan
Stephanie Kasprzak	MCOP	Michael Thomas	The Salvation Army
Jim Jacobs	Mercy Memorial Hospital	Mike Keck	United Auto Workers
Doug Kuras	Michigan Works!	Charlie Mahoney	United Way of Monroe County
Patrick Williams	Monroe Bank & Trust	Connie Carroll	United Way of Monroe County
Aaron Simonton	Monroe Center	Mike Hoydic	United Way of Monroe County
Sandie Pierce	Network on Homelessness / C of C		

Monroe County Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness

Goal Timeline

Goal	Year One (Baseline)	Years Two to Three (Implementation)	Year Four (Evidence of Change)	Years Five – Ten On-Going Work
1	Increase community awareness regarding the number of individuals and families who are homeless in Monroe County and regarding the circumstances that have caused their homeless situation.			
	• Stakeholder / Community Support		→	
	• Involve businesses / others		→	
	• Integrate with Homeless Week			
	• Develop data tracking system			
2	Develop the capacity to implement the Housing First philosophy and affordable housing initiatives to help individuals and families move toward as much self-sufficiency as possible in maintaining their home.			
	• Develop capacity / best practices		→	
	• Implement Housing First continuum		→	
	• Develop / implement programs			
3	Ensure that the social service and public health, medical health, and behavioral health care needs are addressed.			
	• Identify resources / capacity / gaps		→	
	• Research best practices			
	• Develop / implement programs			
4	Ensure that the individuals and families have the educational and employment support needed to secure a job that provides a high enough wage to sustain their family.			
	• Increased assistance for jobs			
	• Identify educational / skill needs		→	
	• Secure funding for added support			
5	Ensure that law enforcement, the criminal justice system, and other institutions are active partners in addressing the needs of homeless individuals within our community.			
	• Front door supports are in place		→	
	• Research / implement best practices			
	• Discharge planning is effective			
6	Ensure that barriers to serving individuals and families, when identified, are addressed at the local, State, and Federal levels, as appropriate.			
	• Identify current procedures		→	
	• Identify barriers to change		→	
	• Advocate for change			

**Monroe County Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness
Action Plan**

10/16/06

Goal 1: Increase community awareness regarding the number of individuals and families who are homeless in Monroe County and regarding the circumstances that have caused their homeless situation.				
Objective #1: Ensure that local stakeholders are knowledgeable about the Community Plan and seek formal endorsement from key officials.				
Actions	Why	Who	When	Outcome
• Present the Ten Year Plan to the County Board of Commissioners	To seek endorsement and inform of issues	Jane Terwilliger / Planning Team	October 10, 2006	Resolution / Endorsement
• Provide an annual update to the County Board of Commissioners	To keep Commissioners up to date about progress.	Planning Committee	Annually	Increased awareness of progress
• Present the Ten Year Plan to the County seat – with county municipalities invited.	To seek endorsement and inform of issues	Planning Committee	By December 31, 2006	Resolution / Endorsement
• Develop a strategy to engage the business community in addressing the issues.	Businesses offer services and are impacted financially	Awareness Sub-Committee	By March 31, 2007	Awareness is increased/
• Expand the list of stakeholders who are informed of and involved in the Ten Year Plan.	As others are identified, it is important that they're informed	Planning Committee	On-going upon identification	Broader base of awareness
Objective #2: Ensure that the Ten Year Plan is highlighted during homeless awareness week activities.				
Actions	Why	Who	When	Outcome
• Coordinate public relations activities with HAW	To ensure the Ten Year Plan is included in the activities	Stephanie Kasprzak	September of each year	Awareness of the Ten Year Plan
• Provide information about accomplishments of the Ten Year Plan to the HAW Committee.	HAW needs to know what has been done in order to communicate the information	Stephanie Kasprzak	September of each year	Accomplishments are included in communications
• Appoint a Ten Year Planning Committee liaison to work with the HAW Committee.	A liaison will provide the link that is needed between groups	Planning Committee	August of each year	Shared information is available.
Objective #3: Work collectively with media outlets to ensure ongoing awareness related to the issue of homelessness				
Actions	Why	Who	When	Outcome
• Conduct an annual press conference with local media to update on Ten Year Plan	To ensure that media are informed of activities	Stephanie Kasprzak	Spring 2007, and annually	Minimum of annual press coverage
• Provide minutes of the Ten Year Planning Committee meetings to the media	To ensure that media are informed of activities	Sandie Pierce	Following each meeting	Meetings are included in paper.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform (personalize) the community about real-life stories to move from sympathy toward empathy regarding homelessness. 	The “face” of homelessness helps to make the issue real.	Awareness Committee	At least annually, or as success stories occur.	Greater understanding of homelessness
Objective #4: Inform the community about the economic realities of homelessness and the financial impact on the community.				
Actions	Why	Who	When	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a system to capture the costs associated with homeless that are incurred by law enforcement, hospitals, schools, and agencies. 	Many people do not see how they are impacted by the issue of homelessness, but can relate to the financial impact.	Awareness Committee	By March 31, 2007	The costs of homelessness are localized.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the point-in-time survey to incorporate additional areas. 	The more accurate the number of homeless who are identified, the better able we are to address and issues and elicit support from stakeholders.	Monroe County Network on Homelessness	By January 2007	The number of homeless in our community is more accurate.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capture the data in an annual report to the community. 	Stakeholders and community members are kept informed of the current reality of homelessness.	Awareness Committee	Annually	Increased community awareness.

Goal 2: Develop the capacity to implement the Housing First philosophy and affordable housing initiatives to help individuals and families move toward as much self-sufficiency as possible in maintaining their home.				
Objective # 1: Understand and foster communication among providers through the creation of a Housing Coalition.				
Actions	Why	Who	When	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify group members / stakeholders to participate in the coalition. 	All stakeholders are needed in order to effectively coordinate housing and services.	Housing Sub-Committee	By October 31, 2006	Stakeholder meeting is held.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrange a quarterly meeting schedule. 	On-going communication is essential to group goals.	Housing Sub-Committee	By October 31, 2006	Meeting schedule is developed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss / Create goals for the group. 	Consensus on goals will help to establish direction.	Housing Sub-Committee	December 31, 2006	Goals are identified and agreed upon.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and submit collaborative grant applications. 	Collaborative efforts tend to be more effective.	Housing Coalition / grant partners	June 30, 2007	Collaborative grant is submitted.
Objective # 2: Develop a “stepping stone” type service delivery system (flow chart) so that a seamless system is developed and homeless situations are prevented.				

Actions	Why	Who	When	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define services available in the community. 	Knowledge of needed supports will help match needs with available services.	Housing Coalition	December 31, 2006	Services are identified and communicated.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect data to assist in identifying gaps in service. 	Knowledge of the gaps in service is needed in order to develop these services.	Housing Coalition	By March 31, 2007	A list of service gaps is developed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a chart that shows service flow and gaps. 	A flow chart will help to ensure appropriate referral and use of available services.	Housing Coalition	By June 30, 2007	Chart is developed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribute widely among service providers and / or clients. 	Knowledge of needed supports will help match needs with available services.	Housing Coalition	By June 30, 2007	Services are identified and communicated.
Objective # 3: Identify and remove policy barriers that impede housing.				
Actions	Why	Who	When	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage each local township to add affordable housing initiatives to their master plan, which is updated every five years. 	Development of affordable housing needs to be county-wide and available.	Housing Coalition	By September 30, 2007	Master plans include affordable housing development.
Objective # 4: Implement the Housing First continuum of services				
Actions	Why	Who	When	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CoC / Housing Coalition reviews Housing First models from around the country. 	Housing First is an identified best practices that results in solutions for individuals and families who are homeless	Housing Coalition	By December 31, 2006	Best practice models are identified and shared with service providers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek local training from MSHDA on Housing First model. 	Others who are experience with the model have insights that will benefit our community.	Stephanie Kasprzak	By March 31, 2007	Training program is held and providers are knowledgeable about Housing First.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include on the quarterly meeting agenda for discussion how to best implement Housing First in Monroe County. 	On-going dialogue is needed to ensure that Housing First practices are implemented.	Housing Coalition	Quarterly	Housing First practices are developed and implemented.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make grant applications to secure funds for implementation of Housing First services. 	Specialized services providers may be needed in the creation of a continuum of services.	Identified Providers	By June 30, 2007	Grant application is submitted and program is developed
Objective #5: Identify needs regarding the available housing stock in Monroe County and increase the number of affordable housing units.				
Actions	Why	Who	When	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gain access and review updated census information on housing status in Monroe County. 	Current reality is needed so that housing needs can be further defined.	Monroe County Planning Dept. – Ryan Simmons	By December 31, 2007 and On-Going	Data is tabulated by years and trends identified.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present data to housing coalition to assist in identifying gaps and potential projects. 	Housing Coalition members need to be aware of the current reality.	Ryan Simmons	By March 31, 2007	Housing Coalition members are knowledgeable about community statistics.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use data to develop proposals and secure funding to initiate housing projects in Monroe County. 	Effective grant proposals need to include solid rationale as to the unmet needs.	Housing Coalition and grant partners	By June 30, 2007 and On-Going	Grant applications are submitted for new housing projects.

Goal 3: Ensure that the social service and public health, medical health, and behavioral health care needs are addressed.				
Objective # 1: . Develop a seamless service delivery system with “no wrong door” that is welcoming to all in need of assistance				
Actions	Why	Who	When	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the service providers who provide services to individuals and families who are homeless. 	It will be important for all of the players to be at the table when the system is developed.	Health Sub-Committee	By December 31, 2006	A comprehensive list of service providers is developed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convene a meeting with the service providers to review the current service delivery system and identify improvement and collaboration areas. 	All of the service providers need to have input into any changes in the service delivery system in order for individual constraints to be addressed.	Health Sub-Committee	By March 31, 2007	A Memorandum of Understanding is developed that lists roles and responsibilities of all agencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify, design, and implement a seamless service delivery system. 	Coordinated service delivery is more cost effective, efficient, and consumer friendly.	Health Sub-Committee	By June 30, 2007	Consumers received more efficient services
Objective # 2: Ensure that the necessary supportive services are available to address social, medical, and behavioral health care needs (including substance use disorders)				

Actions	Why	Who	When	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the supportive services that are needed for each of these areas. 	Knowledge of needed supports will help match needs with available services.	Health Sub-Committee	By March 31, 2007	A comprehensive list of support services is developed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify gaps in the service delivery system. 	Knowledge of the gaps in service is needed in order to develop these services.	Health Sub-Committee	By March 31, 2007	A list of service gaps is developed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a plan to ensure that needed services are available. 	A comprehensive array of supports will help to ensure housing stability.	Health Sub-Committee	By June 30, 2007	A plan for creating new services that are identified is implemented.
Objective #3: Develop capacities for active outreach and early engagement so that individuals and families at risk of or experiencing homelessness are aware of available supports and services and how to access them.				
Actions	Why	Who	When	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the agencies who provide outreach to individuals and families at risk of or who are experiencing homelessness. 	Knowledge of the current capacity is needed in order to assess it's ability to serve the need.	Health Sub-Committee	By December 31, 2006	A comprehensive list of service providers is developed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the gaps in the outreach services available to individuals and families who are homeless. 	Knowledge of the gaps in service is needed in order to develop these services.	Health Sub-Committee	By March 31, 2007	A list of service gaps is developed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a plan to ensure that needed services are available. 	A comprehensive array of supports will help to ensure housing stability.	Health Sub-Committee	By June 30, 2007	A plan for creating new services that are identified is implemented.
Objective #4: Involve consumers and advocates in decision-making concerning the implementation of the plan and in evaluating its effectiveness.				
Actions	Why	Who	When	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain input regarding the Ten Year Plan from among homeless individuals. 	Individuals and families who are homeless have first-hand experience and knowledge as to their service needs.	Joe Grifka Major Mike Thomas Mel Nieswender	By October 10, 2006	Consumer input is available and included in the Ten Year Plan.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consumers are recruited to serve on the Ten Year Planning Committee. 	Having consumers attended the quarterly meetings will help to ensure that their needs are captured and considered.	Health Sub-Committee	By March 31, 2007	On-going consumer input is received.

Goal 4: Ensure that the individuals and families have the educational and employment support needed to secure a job that provides a high enough wage to sustain their family.

Objective #1: Identify and secure resources to assist individuals with paying for the cost of GED examinations, tutoring, and training.

Actions	Why	Who	When	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist individuals to attend GED classes through the Lucas County Educational Services 	The service is available free of charge and is needed by individuals in Monroe County.	Service providers and educators working with the appropriate population	On-going – As individuals are identified	GED attainment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase referral rate into the Youth Opportunity Program (YOP). 	The Youth Opportunity Program is currently not running at full capacity and, the program will pay for GED for the participants.	Service providers and educators working with young adults ages 16 – 21	On-going – As identified	Increased number of students receiving GED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify other funding streams that will pay for the service 	Enhanced revenue targeting payment of services is needed.	Homeless Network and service providers	Throughout course of fiscal year	Increased number of students who attain their GED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify other funding streams that would enhance current GED programs, or allow for creation of new services 	GED services are limited within the County, additional resources are needed.	Current service providers and Homeless Network	Throughout course of fiscal year	Increased GED slots

Objective # 2: Enhance community-wide efforts in identifying homeless youth to ensure they have access to public education.

Actions	Why	Who	When	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote awareness Monroe County McKinney Vento Homelessness plan 	To Increase awareness of available services	Public school districts, Homeless Committee, HSCN	On-going – throughout course of fiscal year	Increased number of homeless students identified & increase in services delivered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a public awareness campaign regarding eligibility of services available through the McKinney Vento funding. 	To increase identification of eligible students	Public school districts	At beginning of each school year	Increase in number of school personnel knowledgeable of current service availability

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify other funding streams that can assist with students who are homeless 	More fiscal and other supports are needed	Homeless Committee, Public School Districts	Throughout the course of fiscal year	Enhanced fiscal resources
Objective # 3: Ensure that job placement and training assistance is enhanced to support individuals who need assistance in securing employment.				
Actions	Why	Who	When	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote awareness services available through of Michigan Works! 	To increase awareness of available programs and services.	To all service providers involved with the homeless.	On-going – as needed for all agency staff	Increased number of appropriate referrals.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence of MI Works! staff on all appropriate committees 	Representation will assure good communication	MI Works! staff members	Continuous – as opportunities arise.	Communication, Awareness, Involvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Job search assistance for those in need 	To obtain employment	Through the MI Works! agency.	On-going	Increased access to employment opportunities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of barriers to employment 	To increase chances for job placement	All community service agencies.	Immediately	Improved Employability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional funding for training and supportive services 	To be able to assist more individuals	Federal and State government.	ASAP	Self-sustaining employment

Goal 5: Ensure that law enforcement, the criminal justice system, and other institutions are active partners in addressing the needs of homeless individuals within our community.				
Objective # 1: Ensure that individuals moving back into the community from the criminal justice system and other institutions are provided with the supports needed to ensure a smooth transition and identify barriers that individuals face in re-entering the community.				
Actions	Why	Who	When	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold a Committee meeting to develop the list of needed supports and to identify the barriers. 	Shared knowledge about the needs and barriers will help to create the desired system of care.	Tom Moore / Lucy DeSilvis	By December 31, 2006	Needs and barriers are identified.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with the Judges in Monroe County to discuss a change in sentencing so that inmates are discharged during working hours. 	When inmates are discharged at midnight, support services are often unavailable.	Criminal Justice Sub-Committee	By March 31, 2007	Sentences end during working hours.

Objective #2: Develop and implement a community protocol for discharge planning for persons being released from the criminal justice system, mental health facilities, and for youth aging out of foster care.				
Actions	Why	Who	When	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gather the current discharge planning policies from local agencies and review. 	Knowledge of the current policies is needed in order to develop a consistency.	Stephanie Morich	By December 31, 2006	Policies are obtained.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research best practices regarding discharge planning / Michigan Re-Entry Program. 	Research is available about successful practices.	Lucy DeSilvis	By March 31, 2007	Best practices are shared with Committee members
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A local protocol is developed so that discharge into the community is planned. 	Supports are often needed for people to transition back into the community.	Criminal Justice Sub-Committee	By June 30, 2007	Practices are consistent and transitions are successful.
Objective #3: Coordinate with the Monroe County Community Corrections Advisory Board in identifying and addressing needs that law enforcement may have in order to better serve individuals and families who are in need of housing and supports.				
Actions	Why	Who	When	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold a meeting with the Monroe County Corrections Advisory Board. 	The members of the Advisory Board will have input into the needs and activities need to be coordinated.	Lucy DeSilvis	By March 31, 2007 and at least annually.	Input into the needs is received and coordinated with protocols.
Objective #4 Enhance the data collection system within the criminal justice system so that data regarding the number of persons who are homeless is captured and made available.				
Actions	Why	Who	When	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the data that is currently available and the system that is needed to capture the number of homeless individuals who are involved with the criminal justice system. 	Having the data regarding the number of homeless individuals is needed in order to build adequate supports.	Criminal Justice Sub-Committee	By March 31, 2007	The data collection system is put in place.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the system and request the support of the justice system in collecting the data. 	Criminal justice personnel need to know what data is needed and how it is to be collected.	Criminal Justice Sub-Committee	By June 30, 2007	Data is collected and available for decision-making.

Goal 6: Ensure that barriers to serving individuals and families, when identified, are addressed at the local, State, and Federal levels, as appropriate.

Objective # 1: Develop a communication system for keeping up-to-date regarding policies and regulations.

Actions	Why	Who	When	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gather information regarding the eligibility and funding for programs and services for families and individuals who are homeless. 	Members of the Committee need to know the current policies in order to know if changes are warranted.	Planning Committee	By March 31, 2007	Committee members are educated about current programs / eligibility.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send a formal request to agencies to share changes in policies or procedures. 	Changes in policies and regulations are needed to keep members up-to-date.	Planning Committee	By March 31, 2007	Members are kept up-to-date about policy changes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a means of exchanging information regarding the eligibility and funding for programs and services for families and individuals who are homeless with fellow organizations throughout the state. 	Understanding like issues or problems will allow for collaborative resolution.	Planning Committee	By March 31, 2007	Stronger coalition to address issues and bring about change.

Objective # 2: Identify and address policy barriers that hinder our ability to impact homelessness

Actions	Why	Who	When	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include a standing item on the quarterly meeting agenda to elicit feedback about policy barriers that have been identified. 	A standing meeting item helps to keep the topic alive and provides a forum for making others aware of the barriers.	Planning Committee	Quarterly	Awareness of barriers is shared with Committee members.

Objective #3: Advocate for needed policy changes in a collaborative, systematic manner.

Actions	Why	Who	When	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the needed changes at a Planning meeting and agree on a plan of action. 	Consensus about the needed changes will promote unity.	Planning Committee	On-Going	Advocacy for policy changes occurs with the local, State, and Federal officials, as appropriate.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address issues where possible at the local level. 	Change that can be driven at the local level can begin immediately.	Planning Committee or Agency Leaders	On-Going	Improved delivery of services.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE SUBMISSION OF THE COUNTY'S TEN YEAR PLAN
TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS IN MONROE COUNTY

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has increased its focus on addressing the issue of homelessness so that all individuals and families should have safe, affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) has provided a planning grant to Monroe County Community to prepare a Ten Year Plan to address homelessness in the county; and

WHEREAS, the Monroe County Human Services Collaborative Network, the Monroe County Network on Homelessness, the State Department of Human Services in Monroe County, the Monroe Community Mental Health Authority, the Monroe County Opportunity Program, the United Way of Monroe County, the Monroe County Health Department, Habitat for Humanity - Monroe County and Salvation Army of Monroe County have joined together to prepare a community-wide plan to address homelessness in the county; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Team has taken the plan and its preparation to the community at a Community Stakeholders meeting; and

WHEREAS, the community stakeholders have embraced the concept of working together to address the homelessness and joined the working team to build the plan; and

WHEREAS, this plan when accepted by the State and implemented by the community of Monroe County will provide the opportunity for innovative partnerships and programs to address homelessness in the county; and

WHEREAS, such innovative partnerships and programs provide the potential for additional State and Federal grants so that all individuals and families should have safe, affordable housing.

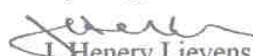
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that on this 10th day of October, 2006, the Monroe Board of Commissioners commends the members of the community and its organizations who have come together to work on the homelessness issue and resolve support for the submission of the County's Ten Year Plan to address homelessness in Monroe County.

Resolution Offered By Chairman Oley

Resolution Supported By Vice-Chairman Goebel


Jerry Oley, Chairman


James W. Goebel, Vice-Chairman


J. Henery Lievens


Dale W. Zorn


James P. Vaslo


Floreine M. Mentel


William D. Sisk


N. Randy Ansel


David R. Scott


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PORT OF MONROE

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Randy Richardville
Economic Development Director

Email: richardville@ci.monroe.mi.us



CITY OF MONROE

120 East First Street
Monroe, MI 48161-2169

October 10, 2006

Sandie Pierce
Project Coordinator
Ten Year Plan Advisory Committee
c/o United Way of Monroe County
216 North Monroe Street
Monroe, MI 48162

Dear Sandie:

Please accept this letter as an enthusiastic and wholehearted endorsement of the "Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness" for Monroe County, Michigan. The plan is a collaborative effort among many organizations (Monroe County Human Services Collaborative Network, the Monroe County Network on Homelessness, the State Department of Human Services, Monroe Community Mental Health Authority, Monroe County Opportunity Program, United Way, Monroe County Health Department, Habitat for Humanity, Salvation Army, and others) and offers a vision for the entire county:

Monroe County is committed to the elimination of homelessness so that every person in our community has a home that is safe, affordable, and accessible; and a continuum of supportive services is available to build self-sufficiency and ensure that the housing is sustained.

The plan lists some of our community's values, including "ending homelessness is the right thing to do". While serving in the Michigan House of Representatives, I co-chaired Homelessness Awareness Week with Senator Martha Scott from Detroit; I literally represented our community and this tenet. As an economic development director, I also wish to highlight the economic benefits. They are spelled out in the plan and tell a story of their own.

I am very pleased to serve on the advisory committee and, again, endorse the plan 100%.

Thank you, and may you continue to find success as you progress.

Sincerely,

Randy Richardville
Economic Development Director

Cc: Monroe Mayor Al Cappuccilli, Monroe City Council, Monroe Port Commissioners



Vision

Monroe County is committed to the elimination of homelessness so that every person in our community has a home that is safe, affordable, and accessible and a continuum of supportive services is available to build self-sufficiency and ensure that the housing is sustained.

October 16, 2006

Dear Monroe County Community Member:

During the summer and fall of 2006, the Monroe County Human Services Collaborative Network, the Monroe County Network on Homelessness, the Monroe County Department of Human Services, the Monroe Community Mental Health Authority, the Monroe County Opportunity Program, the United Way of Monroe County, the Monroe County Health Department, Habitat for Humanity – Monroe County, and The Salvation Army in Monroe County joined together to prepare a community-wide plan to address homelessness in the County with input from multiple community stakeholders. These stakeholders included educators, business leaders, local governmental officials, law enforcement leaders, consumers, and those agencies, both private and public, providing supportive services to the homeless.

The enclosed Ten-Year Plan to address homelessness in Monroe County was submitted to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority on the 16th of October. This Plan, and its implementation, will serve as a guiding template for the County and its multiple agencies and resources to build innovative partnerships and programs to address homelessness. We hope that you will review this document and continue to help us in the development of actionable steps toward implementation.

Respectfully,

Terrence Beurer, Director
Monroe County Department of Human Services
Co-Chair Homelessness Ten-Year Planning Team

Jane S. Terwilliger, Director
Monroe Community Mental Health Authority
Co-Chair Homelessness Ten-Year Planning Team