

Draft of Blueprint 2 released for community comment

Solutions to prevent, end homelessness offered for public review

The draft of a follow-up to the Blueprint to End Homelessness, a 10-year plan that has guided the community in its efforts to prevent and end homelessness, was released today for public comment.

The draft of **Blueprint 2: Solutions to Homelessness in Indianapolis** outlines strategies that can be achieved in the next five years and provides a vision for the next 10. It calls for a permanent funding stream that will ensure that homeless individuals and families can be housed and get services to keep them housed. It also outlines measures in which the homeless-services network will be accountable to the public and procedures for regularly updating the plan. The draft may be read at <http://www.chipindy.org/BlueprintUpdate.php>.

The initiatives set out in the draft were also called for in an evaluation of the first blueprint. That evaluation was conducted contemporaneously but was completed in time to inform the new plan. The evaluation of the first blueprint was conducted in a collaborative effort led by Kevin Whiteacre, Ph.D., University of Indianapolis, and Kenneth Colburn, Ph.D., Butler University, principal investigators. The evaluation of the original blueprint may be read at <http://www.chipindy.org/CostStEvalDetail.php>.

Public comment on the draft of the new community plan may be sent to Blueprint2Comments@chipindy.org through Nov. 25. An open public comment session is also scheduled for **9 a.m. to noon on Nov. 22 in the Krannert Room at the Indiana Interchurch Center, 1100 W. 42nd St.** Members of the steering committee that guided creation of the draft will be present to accept comments.

Work on Blueprint 2 has been going on for nearly a year. As the 10-year life of the original blueprint was drawing to a close, the Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention – which was designated the “lead entity” in the original blueprint – began the process to coalesce the community around a post-blueprint plan.

From late January through early July 2011, more than 80 people – consumers; service providers; funders; elected and civic leaders; state and local government officials; law enforcement and justice officials; representatives of the faith community and community development; housing experts; businesspeople and others – were interviewed about successes and gaps in the continuum of services that Indianapolis offers to prevent and end homelessness.

A steering committee formed in July. More than 30 people who were representative of the spectrum of stakeholders were invited to participate, and they were encouraged to invite still others to ensure that a full array of stakeholders was represented. Using ideas gleaned from the interviews as their guide, the members of the steering committee identified priorities that they thought should be addressed in this plan. Three subcommittees refined the ideas. More than 100 people attended the Community Summit on Homelessness Oct. 11 to hone the ideas even further.

The final plan is scheduled to be issued Dec. 15.