

Ending Homelessness

Progress Report 2016

The Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness is creating a system that will ensure that homelessness is **rare, brief, and non-recurring**.

In 2015 the Network partnered with federal, state and local government to:

➤ End Veteran Homelessness by 2016

- **27% reduction** in the number of veterans in emergency shelters or on the streets
 - **357 homeless and at-risk veterans permanently housed**
 - Institutionalized a system to **quickly identify and connect** veterans to resources
 - **Recruited landlords** volunteering to rent to homeless veterans
- Advanced development of **106 new units of supportive housing** for veterans

➤ End Chronic Homelessness by 2017

- **108 chronically homeless individuals** permanently housed
- **11 chronically homeless families permanently housed**, ending 30 years of homelessness and housing instability, including a total of 11 years in Emergency Assistance shelter
- **Collaborated with police, emergency room departments and crisis workers** to find and bring services to the most vulnerable people living on the streets

➤ End Family and Youth Homelessness by 2020

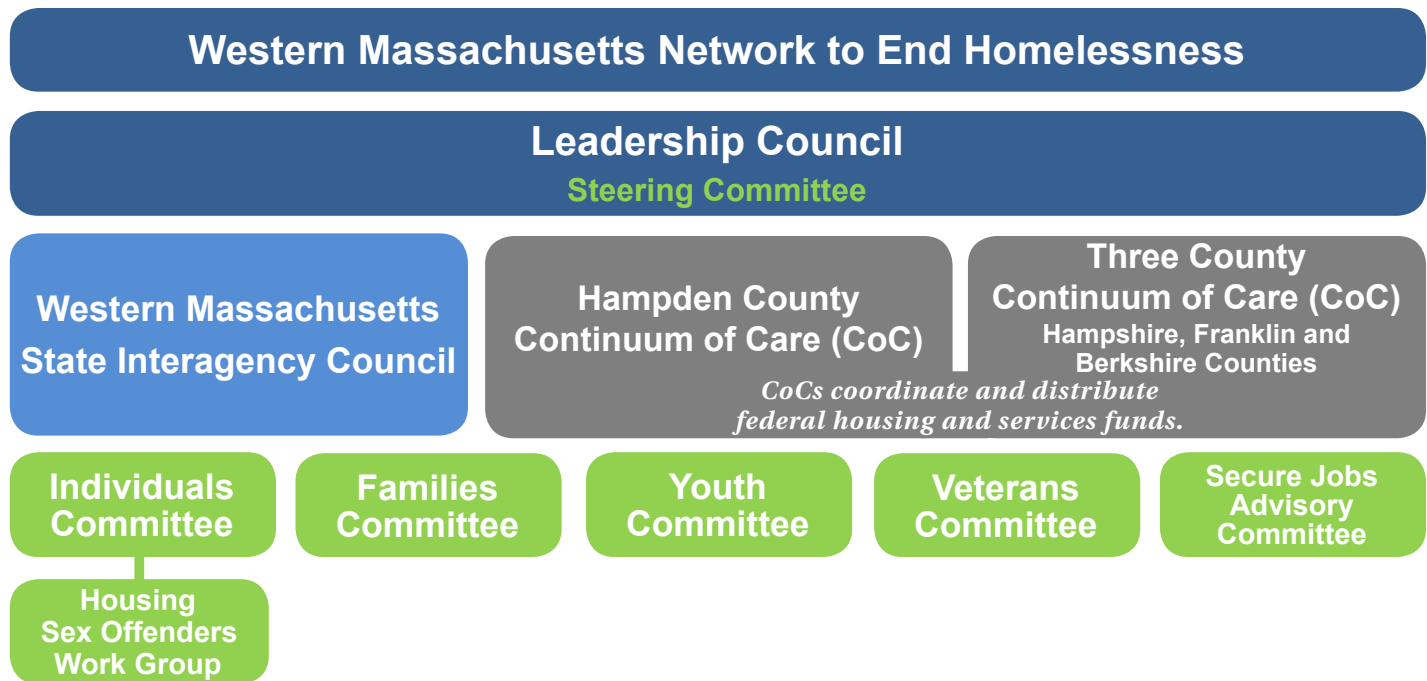
- **34% reduction in the number of families** living in shelter and motels, including a drop in the number of families in motels from 284 to **49**
 - **647 families moved into permanent housing** from shelters and motels with HomeBASE assistance
 - **Diverted 36% of families seeking shelter** with resources to solve their housing crisis
 - **Placed 80 parents in jobs** through Secure Jobs Connect, and a total of 245 families since the program's inception in 2013
- Improved **youth data collection** through participation in annual youth count
- Designed a **continuum of housing and services** to respond to the unique needs of homeless youth ages 18-24

➤ **Set A Path to End All Homelessness by 2020**

- Pioneering use of **new assessment tools** to ensure that people are matched with the right intervention
- Use of by-name lists of currently homeless people combined with **regular multi-agency case-conferencing** to connect each person with the right intervention

The Western Massachusetts Opening Doors Plan, published on June 30, 2015, sets forth a framework to end homelessness in the region. Its goals and strategies are modeled on the national Opening Doors Plan: the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, produced first in 2010 (with subsequent revisions) by the United States Interagency Council on Ending Homelessness. The Western MA Plan and its implementation are made possible by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Network at Work



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