**2015 Visioning Day Recommendations**

***The following recommendations reflect the voices of families who are overcoming homelessness, shelter providers and other key stakeholders. These recommendations are intended as guiding principles for policy makers to use in addressing the issue of family homelessness in the Commonwealth. Homes for Families will utilize this core set of principles to develop our own legislative and budget priorities and guide our decision making process.***

1. Ensure that families who are at risk of, or experiencing homelessness are treated with dignity and respect through trauma-informed, culturally competent, and inclusive practices to build trusting partnerships for more successful outcomes. Ensure that the children have every opportunity to thrive and be successful by focusing on their safety, education and well being.
2. Implement a comprehensive housing agenda, which includes deep investments in housing subsidies, supportive housing, affordable housing preservation, rehabilitation, and new development. Facilitate housing opportunities through access to public housing, fair distribution of rental subsidies and zoning reform that promotes increased multifamily housing.
3. Support families to move towards economic stability through increased wages, access to education and training programs, income supports, and minimizing the *cliff effect*; implement seamless, clearly-defined renewal processes for entitlement and benefit programs.
4. Open more doors to community-based supports through increased outreach and early warning systems with timely and targeted resource distribution. Increase focus on eviction prevention and residential services/coordinators. Build collaborations and minimize wait-lists.
5. Enhance coordination and implement aligned policies, practices and procedures between state agencies, while strengthening and solidifying processes for stakeholder input.