



America's Road Home Statement of Principles and Action

This accord was initially created and adopted by a small group of local elected officials from across the country that USICH co-convened last October with Denver Mayor Hickenlooper and has since been signed onto by nearly 400 signatories and adopted into policy by both the U.S. Conference of Mayors and National Association of Counties.

Whereas: More than 2 million Americans across our country each year experience homelessness in our local communities, compromising the quality of life of the person, and the community; and

Whereas: As elected Mayors and County officials, we are on the frontlines of homelessness and accountable to our communities for the well-being of all citizens; and

Whereas: We recognize that no one level of government can remedy homelessness alone; and

Whereas: We affirm that we will work together with our partners in state and federal government as well as in the foundation community and private sector to maintain and enhance the sustainable investment of resources needed to respond; and

Whereas: We have taken action to create jurisdictionally-led, community-based 10 Year Plans to end chronic homelessness in our communities in partnership with the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM), and the National Association of Counties (NACo) to end the disgrace;

Now, therefore, we resolve to work together in a national partnership of every level of government and the private sector, with our fellow cities and counties and the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness to identify, adopt, and create innovative initiatives to advance the following principles and actions:

1. End the homelessness of our most vulnerable and disabled citizens who reside on our streets and in our shelters, those experiencing chronic homelessness, especially including homeless veterans.
2. With the support of our partners work to shorten the time any person is homeless.
3. Accept jurisdictional responsibility for accountability and results in the broader partnership that includes other levels of government and the private sector for an issue that is visible, expensive, and unacceptable in our communities.
4. Affirm our jurisdictionally-led, community-based 10 Year Plans as the community's primary planning strategy to effect accountability and results in ending and preventing homelessness.
5. Develop these plans to ensure that the measurable outcomes are sustainable and render lasting solutions to homelessness.
6. Endorse housing solutions as our primary investment to end homelessness, recognizing that shelter and punitive responses are often expensive and ineffective in reducing numbers and restoring lives and affirm that permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing models offer our most disabled citizens the housing and services they need in a cost effective response.
7. Affirm the work of faith and community based agencies for the work they have done on the frontlines for decades and partner with them to fashion innovative responses that are results-oriented.
8. Invite the business and philanthropic communities to be a partner in our efforts, especially local business associations, foundations, Business Improvement Districts, the United Way, and Chambers of Commerce.
9. Work with the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, the United States Conference of Mayors Task Force on Hunger and Homelessness, the National Association of Counties (NACo), and the Partnership to End Long Term Homelessness to assure rapid dissemination of innovations that ensure that every community will have equal access to the best ideas that create results in ending homelessness.
10. Create Project Homeless Connect events, the one-day, one-stop, targeted to homeless people in offering an array of housing, employment, and treatment services along with quality of life resources, as a component of our 10 Year Plan response.
11. Support all local, state, and federal legislation and resources that will offer new capabilities for investment in results.
12. Invite other communities to join us in this national effort.

We, the undersigned Mayors and County officials, do hereby commit to this Statement of Principles and Actions, embrace its goals, and announce our intention to work in partnership in bringing the homelessness of our most vulnerable and disabled neighbors to an end in the United States.