

United States Interagency Council on Homelessness



National Project Homeless Connect

Best Practices Colloquy

Toolkit 2.0

August 2008



“Instead of serving homeless people endlessly, our mission is to end their homelessness. In city after city, Project Homeless Connect becomes the living room of the community where we welcome those who have been metaphorically and literally exiled to the periphery of our community into our house of hospitality and welcome, to offer the resources to remedy the long misery of homelessness.”

**– Philip F. Mangano, Executive Director
United States Interagency Council on Homelessness**



Jurisdictional Support for Project Homeless Connect



“The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages and supports the increased involvement of Mayors in creating Project Homeless Connect events and participating in the 2008 National Project Homeless Connect Week and throughout the year in proven strategies that end homelessness; and commends this innovative initiative and encourages mayors to adopt the National Project Homeless Connect model and participate in the 2008 National Project Homeless Connect Week.”

***Resolution adopted by the U.S. Conference of Mayors
June 2008***



Jurisdictional Support for Project Homeless Connect



“The National Association of Counties encourages and supports the increased involvement of county officials in creating Project Homeless Connect events and participating in the 2008 National Project Homeless Connect (NPHC) Week and throughout the year in proven strategies that end homelessness. County officials have organized PHC events specifically to engage homeless youth, homeless families, and persons experiencing chronic homelessness on community streets and in shelters. County officials have engaged business, academia, professional sports, and an expansive range of new public and private partners in executing PHC events.”

***Policy Resolution adopted by the National Association of Counties
July 2008***



Jurisdictional Support for Project Homeless Connect

“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 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.”

***America’s Road Home Statement of Principles and Actions
Signed by 385 Mayors and County Executives
since November 2007***



Jurisdictional Support for Project Homeless Connect



“Project Homeless Connect is breaking the myth that people do not seek assistance and services and would rather be on the street. The data prove that, when people are approached in a respectful and kind manner and with available resources, they are eager to accept help toward self-sufficiency.”

– Mayor Gavin Newsom, City of San Francisco



Jurisdictional Support for Project Homeless Connect

“This is the beginning of a new way to address homelessness... Project Homeless Connect is a one-day, one-stop shop to deliver real services to people experiencing real homelessness in our community. But this is also about a commitment to move from simply managing homelessness towards really ending homelessness.”

– Mayor R.T. Rybak, City of Minneapolis





Jurisdictional Support for Project Homeless Connect

“Today we are building the community’s will to bring an end to homelessness. Government can’t do this alone. Project Homeless Connect brings in the support of our sponsors and our civic leaders. We need them. We need all of you.”

– Mayor Tom Potter, City of Portland





Jurisdictional Support for Project Homeless Connect

“Project Homeless Connect has evolved from the Knoxville/Knox County Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness, which calls for efforts by the whole community . . . to solve the problem. Project Homeless Connect is the first step to demonstrate how that can be done.”

– Mayor Bill Haslam, City of Knoxville





Jurisdictional Support for Project Homeless Connect

"The goal of Project Homeless Connect is to reach out and make connections with the homeless people who are not currently taking advantage of all the services available in the city and the county. We have to do an extensive outreach effort to make sure that happens; it's been a success, and we know it works."

- San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed





Support for Project Homeless Connect



“Project Homeless Connect models for other cities how to execute collective tolerance and generosity.”

– PHC Volunteer





Support for Project Homeless Connect

“Having worked in homeless services for the past 12 years I must admit that this is the most hopeful and productive time I can recall.”

- PHC Homeless Services Provider





Support for Project Homeless Connect



“I’ve been all over this state homeless for five years, and I’ve never seen anything like this in my life . . . I just heard about this ‘connect’ thing on the street . . . They’re saying out there that it’s not bull . . . They say you can get real help. I think they’re right.”

– PHC Consumer



Support for Project Homeless Connect



“There’s things here that I’ve never heard of before that I didn’t even know I qualified for. It’s like a big mini-mall right here. Everything you need is right here.”

– PHC Consumer



Project Homeless Connect in the News



PRNewswire
United Business Media

“Called National Project Homeless Connect... volunteers from all walks of life reached out to people experiencing homelessness and offered them a variety of services such as healthcare, legal aid, housing assistance, job opportunities, benefits enrollment, and more... Project Homeless Connect is growing in popularity as an approach that can not only make a difference in the lives of homeless people but also engage the community.” —
PRNewswire – 12/7/2005



Project Homeless Connect in the News

SAN FRANCISCO
Business Times

“Project Homeless Connect's operations are a lot like those of a business, which may be one reason local companies are finding it natural to get involved. Everyone, from the staff of the mayor's office to the volunteers to the community relations coordinators at the participating businesses, refer to the people PHC helps as ‘clients.’ And PHC has needs that businesses understand such as supply procurement and donation delivery.”

– San Francisco Business Times – 7/21/2006



Project Homeless Connect in the News

San Francisco Chronicle

“Project Homeless Connect began small in San Francisco, and went national... more than 6,000 homeless people in 21 cities from Nashua, N.H., to Hollywood have been fed, massaged and helped into welfare services or housing.”

– San Francisco Chronicle – 12/9/2005



Project Homeless Connect in the News

knoxnews
Knoxville News Sentinel

NEWS
SENTINEL

“An array of social services was made available... but the underlying idea was to get as many as possible on a track to self-sufficiency and, ultimately, into a home.”

– Knoxville News Sentinel – 12/9/2005



Project Homeless Connect in the News

The Day

“No sooner has southeastern Connecticut’s 10-year plan to fight homelessness been unveiled, a project took place that showed how well it can work... Project Homeless Connecticut did what the 10-year plan has set out to do, bringing government agencies, businesses and volunteers together to provide help. The plan was initiated under the auspices of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness.”

– The Day – 12/11/2006



Project Homeless Connect in the News

The Mercury News
MercuryNews.com

“After registering with volunteers, participants were directed to stations that focused on social-services benefits, shelter and long-term housing, employment and legal aid.”

– San Jose Mercury News – 12/7/2006



200 Communities Have Adopted Project Homeless Connect

- ❖ Over 330 events in 200 communities, including in Canada and Australia.
- ❖ 17 NEW Project Homeless Connect events coming in 2008.
- ❖ 77 events in the first half of 2008.

Fourth Annual National Project Homeless Connect Week

December 1-7, 2008



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