

Building Hope Together

New Britain's Work Plan to End Homelessness

The Vision

Mayor Timothy Stewart and citywide leaders have made a commitment to end homelessness. Their shared vision for New Britain is of a place of wide opportunity, with businesses that employ all who are able to work - including youth and individuals in homelessness, new and old immigrants. They see New Britain as a community where all residents find economic opportunity and a place to call home.

The Need

There are approximately 71,000 people who live in New Britain today. US Census 2000 data show that over 57% of all households are renters in New Britain and over 30% pay more than one third of their household income for rent, putting thousands of households in poverty and at risk of homelessness.

On any given night in New Britain, there are about 150 individuals and families experiencing homelessness, with over 400 people without a place to call home for some part of last year. The multiple causes of homelessness are rooted in the realities of housing costs, skill-driven employment needs, family disasters and the challenges faced by people with few financial resources when confronting illness, mental health and addiction issues.

Mayor's Plan to End Homelessness Goals

- ***Housing – Expand access to and the number of affordable housing units***
- ***Employment – Bridge skill gap between local growth sector jobs and workers***
- ***Prevention – Centralize and expand eviction prevention strategies***

I. Housing: Expand availability and access to affordable housing units

Strategies	Actions	Partner Implementers	Outcomes Year 1	Outcomes Year 5
Increase development opportunities for affordable housing units	<p>Review number, location of vacant housing units in city</p> <p>Create new, expanded partnerships around housing rehab and funding opportunities</p> <p>Expand partnerships with Churches focused on increased supportive housing units in city</p> <p>Link with Mayor and Downtown Developers Planning Process</p>	<p>Mayor's Office, Greg Howey OKAY Ind., Neighborhood Housing Services, Friendship Ctr., New Britain Housing Authority, Prudence Crandall, YMCA, Reaching Home, Habitat for Humanity, South Church</p>	<p><i>25 new supportive housing units</i></p>	<p><i>100 new supportive housing units</i></p> <p><i>50% Decrease in individuals / families in homelessness</i></p>
<p>Build a Landlord Consortium to create awareness of rental housing market, expand networks and partnerships that increase access to rental housing units</p>	<p>Establish newsletter outreach to over 500 local Section 8 Landlords</p> <p>Link support service network with landlord network, establish and share real-time vacancies inventory on web</p> <p>Twice a year breakfasts with Landlords, Nonprofits, Renters to celebrate connection between home and community health</p>	<p>City of NB, NBHA, HRA, CMHA, Friendship Ctr., DSS, DMHAS, Statewide Section 8 Grp, NB Landlord Group, Community Fdtns, Melville Charitable Trust (Neighborhood Housing Services as lead?)</p>	<p><i>15 new landlords in Landlord Consortium renting to very low income individuals and families</i></p>	<p><i>500 Landlords in active membership connection with nonprofits</i></p> <p><i>Visible decrease of "absentee landlord syndrome" in NB</i></p>

Strategies	Actions	Partner Implementers	Outcomes Year 1	Outcomes Year 5
<p>Create a Housing Rehab Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ incentive for landlords ○ fund to repair damages ○ renovate existing units ○ landscape properties 	<p>Identify existing and potential grant and donors for project infrastructure – link with Homelessness Prevention fund</p> <p>Identify nonprofit leader for Housing Rehab Fund \$\$</p> <p>Partner with Bank leaders for low interest loans for rehab</p>	TBD	\$30,000	\$500,000
<p>Establish partnership between YouthBuild, E.C. Goodwin and Landlord Consortium to do repairs, renovations</p>	<p>Coordinate Youthbuild and Landlord Consortium efforts, link with real-time website matching of Landlord needs and Youthbuild capacities</p>	<p>Rebuilding Together, Youthbuild, HRA, Christmas in April, Goodwin Tech.,</p>	<p><i>10 housing units repaired by new partnership with Youthbuild</i></p>	<p><i>300 housing units repaired, 100 renovated by Youthbuild partnership</i></p>
<p>Partner with trade unions and One Stop Center to train workers to renovate housing units and deconstruction as needed</p>	<p>Establish partnership with Landlord Consortium, matching landlord needs for housing renovations and strategic training / employment approaches</p>	<p>One Stop Center, Landlord Consortium Coordinator and Reconstruction Center</p>	<p><i>Establish three new “renovation” training partnerships</i></p>	<p><i>300 housing units repaired</i></p>
<p>Expand Rapid Re-housing Goals to shorten all lengths of time of homelessness</p>	<p>Monitor length of stay in shelters for all families and individuals</p> <p>Establish goals for length of stay matched with level of support needs of families and individuals</p>	<p>New Britain’s cross-agency PHIT case management team</p>	<p><i>Rapid Re-housing goals and benchmarks set by typology of households in homelessness</i></p>	<p><i>50% decrease in length of stay for families and individuals in homelessness in NB</i></p>

II. Employment: Create an integrated community infrastructure that connects Employment Services to High Growth Job Openings

Strategies	Actions	Partner Implementers	Outcomes Year 1	Outcomes Year 5
<p>Create Employer-to-Employer outreach network to increase participation and job opportunities</p>	<p>Assess and address employer fears with outreach plan –</p> <p>Create PR package for employer to employer outreach</p> <p>Create NB Employment brochure</p>	<p>McCue Mortgage Tomasso Construction CTDOL One Stop</p>	<p><i>25 new jobs in NB committed to individuals experiencing homelessness</i></p>	<p><i>200 jobs committed to individuals experiencing homelessness</i></p>
<p>Expand awareness and linkages w/ all CT Works One Stop Center in New Britain</p> <p>Support bridging programs that get very low-wage and unemployed people into skills training, increasing employment opportunities for homeless and at-risk of homeless populations</p>	<p>Identify specific homeless service providers for greater linkage with CT Works One Stop</p> <p>Replicate OWC Supportive Housing Pilot Project for New Britain</p> <p>Establish pathway for newly employed homeless workers to Low Wage Worker Pilot (LIFE) for New Britain</p> <p>Partner with Temp agencies that serve target sector employers to increase job opportunities</p>	<p>CWP, CT Works One-Stop Center, Hospitals; OWC</p> <p>Temp Agencies, OIC</p>	<p><i>25% increase in number of homeless individuals connected to CT Works One Stop services and training programs</i></p>	<p><i>250 individuals find employment utilizing the CT Works One Stop Center Services</i></p>

<p>Establish Employer-driven Entry level and Career ladder Workgroup that oversees the integration of existing training services.</p> <p>Create a targeted strategy to identify Sector Career Ladders in High Growth Sectors: Advanced Manufacturing, Allied Health, Retail/Hospitality and Business/Finance</p>	<p>Adopt CWP target sector career ladder models and career competency system as elements into existing program services.</p> <p>Identify specific programs or pilots, such as the Low Wage Worker Pilot (LIFE) and Supportive Housing Pilot to channel individuals into high growth occupations.</p> <p>Identify, through the CT Works Business Service Team, specific employers, within target industries that have openings and screen and refer appropriate candidates from pilot projects.</p>	<p>Capital Workforce Partners NB CT Works One Stop Center McChristy Industries NB Chamber of Commerce Webster Bank, TD Banknorth Tomasso Construction Hospital of Central CT Hospital for Special Care NB Community Foundation</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>TBD</p>
<p>Establish/Enhance support services for child-care, basic skills literacy, and transportation to homeless population</p> <p>Assess and meet non-traditional child care needs for sick children and evening daycare;</p> <p>Develop a Coordinated Transportation Plan for low-wage workers</p>	<p>Assess existing support network, and increase linkages with CT Works One Stop Center, adult education programs and community agencies serving the homeless population</p> <p>Create a community map of available non-traditional child care services for distribution to agencies</p> <p>Explore other citywide efforts to create coordinated transportation approach (ie. Derby Transportation Consultant)</p>	<p>YWCA, HRA, CT Works, New Britain Adult Education; community service providers,</p> <p>Lynn Wellman, Temp Agencies, State DOT</p>	<p><i>25% decrease in number of homeless people reporting other barriers to employment</i></p>	<p><i>75% decrease in number of homeless people reporting other barriers to employment</i></p>

III. Preventing Homelessness - Customized Prevention and Support Services

Strategies	Actions	Partner Implementers	Outcomes Year 1	Outcomes Year 5
<p>Create Public Housing Authority Pilot that hires two Resident Service Coordinators for families and individuals, rapidly matching individualized needs with existing community services and supports</p> <p>Interlink all existing mainstream services with coordinated, rapid response for families in and at risk of homelessness,</p>	<p>Explore CDBG and American Savings Foundation for funding</p> <p>Establish an integrated centralized database of local mainstream services</p>	<p>NB Public Housing Authority</p> <p>Renter's Rebate Program</p> <p>Utility Reimbursement Mayor CHRO Dpt</p> <p>211 Outreach PHIT team</p>	<p><i>50 families linked with homelessness prevention services, funds</i></p>	<p><i>500 families linked with homeless prevention services, funds</i></p>
<p>Expand Homelessness Prevention Fund, link with Housing Rehab Fund, to be used for emergency housing assistance, back- rent and utilities.</p> <p>Create incentives for families to pay back into fund themselves</p>	<p>Create a new entity or expand Friendship Center's Homeless Prevention Fund – outreach to funders and donors, combine with Housing Rehab Fund efforts (see above)</p>	<p>Friendship Center, American Savings Fdtn, NB Community Fdtn</p>	<p><i>\$40,000</i></p>	<p><i>\$150,000</i></p>
<p>Hold Project Connect Event</p>	<p>Engage all community providers in information sharing with each other and with all citizens in New Britain, and reaching out to at-risk populations - establish outreach and awareness of 211 resources</p>	<p>TBD, CT United Way, Employers, Landlords</p>	<p><i>One Project Connect Event</i></p>	<p><i>Twice/Year Project Connect Events</i></p>

Expand upon current Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) outreach and budget-coaching initiatives,	Create strategies that help individuals and families build assets, create individual development accounts (IDA), increase savings for future homeownership	United Way, HRA	<i>Increase number of EITC returns by 10%</i>	<i>Increase number of EITC returns by 50%</i>
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IV. Create Ten-Year Plan Implementation Framework to Coordinate and Support Action Plan

Strategies	Actions	Partner Implementers	Outcomes Year 1	Outcomes Year 5
Create leadership structure and staffing capacity for Mayor's Work Plan to End Homelessness	<p>Establish quarterly meeting cycle of Mayor's Work Plan to End Homelessness Leadership Circle</p> <p>Under fiscal oversight of CWP and programmatic oversight of Friendship Center, hire part-time staff person</p> <p>Submit proposal to American Savings Foundation, Community Foundation of New Britain</p>	Mayor's Office, CWP, Friendship Center	<i>Staff person hired</i>	<i>TBD</i>