



VIRGINIA BEACH STRATEGIC PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS (2017 – 2020)

Proposed Goals, Objectives & Actions

Aug. 1, 2017

City of Virginia Beach Department of Housing & Neighborhood Preservation
2424 Courthouse Drive, Bldg. 18A Virginia Beach, VA 23456

COMMUNITY'S HISTORY OF HELPING THE HOMELESS

For more than 30 years, our community has been committed to ending homelessness in Virginia Beach through a tapestry of city, faith and nonprofit organizations working together.

Our vision: Realizing our personal and collective responsibility to our fellow man, we mobilize our community to prevent and end homelessness. We envision a future where everyone in Virginia Beach will be able to live in safe, decent and affordable housing.

UNDERSTANDING HOMELESSNESS IN VIRGINIA BEACH

- There are many reasons why families and individuals become homeless: job loss, mental illness, family breakup, inability to afford housing costs because of expensive health care costs, etc.
- People move in and out of homelessness on an ongoing basis
- There is not a single number of homeless people that we can house and say we have succeeded





WHAT WE CAN DO

Get the best possible understanding of the different needs in our community, and act to address them.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO END HOMELESSNESS?

- Prevent as many people as possible from becoming homeless
- Shorten the length of time that people experience homelessness
- Help people leave homelessness behind for good

In other words, make homelessness *rare, brief and nonrecurring* -- that is our definition of ending homelessness.



HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE HOMELESS IN VIRGINIA BEACH?

We rely on various sources of data to understand the scope of the homelessness issue in Virginia Beach and the service needs of those who experience homelessness or who are at-risk.

2017 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

Our annual count of the homeless population, conducted during a 24-hour period in January, identified:

- **Total of 349 homeless individuals**
 - ▣ 271 in shelters or transitional housing
 - ▣ 78 unsheltered
- **Homeless families**
 - ▣ 111 persons were in households with children
 - 81 were children (under 18 years old)
- **Single homeless adults**
 - ▣ 226 adults
- **Chronically homeless**
 - ▣ Continually homeless for a year or more; or four or more episodes of homelessness in the past three years
 - ▣ 62 individuals – 18% of total homeless
- **Homeless Youth**
 - ▣ Unaccompanied individual 24 years of age and younger who is disconnected from a parent, guardian, or spouse
 - ▣ 54 homeless youths (34 were unaccompanied)

HOMELESS AND AT-RISK FAMILIES



During the 2016-17 school year, more than 800 students* were identified as living in households considered homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Note: Not included in the 349 Point-in-Time total. The federal homeless definition for the Project HOPE program is broader and includes all students who did not have a regular, permanent place to stay during the school year.

Source: Virginia Beach City Public Schools Project HOPE

HOMELESS PERSONS SERVED

Number of homeless persons who were connected to our service system and were permanently housed or placed in shelter or transitional housing.

- In FY 2016, 42% of the homeless persons served by our system were considered “first-time homeless” = client did not enter emergency shelter, transitional housing, or any permanent housing program in the previous 24 months.

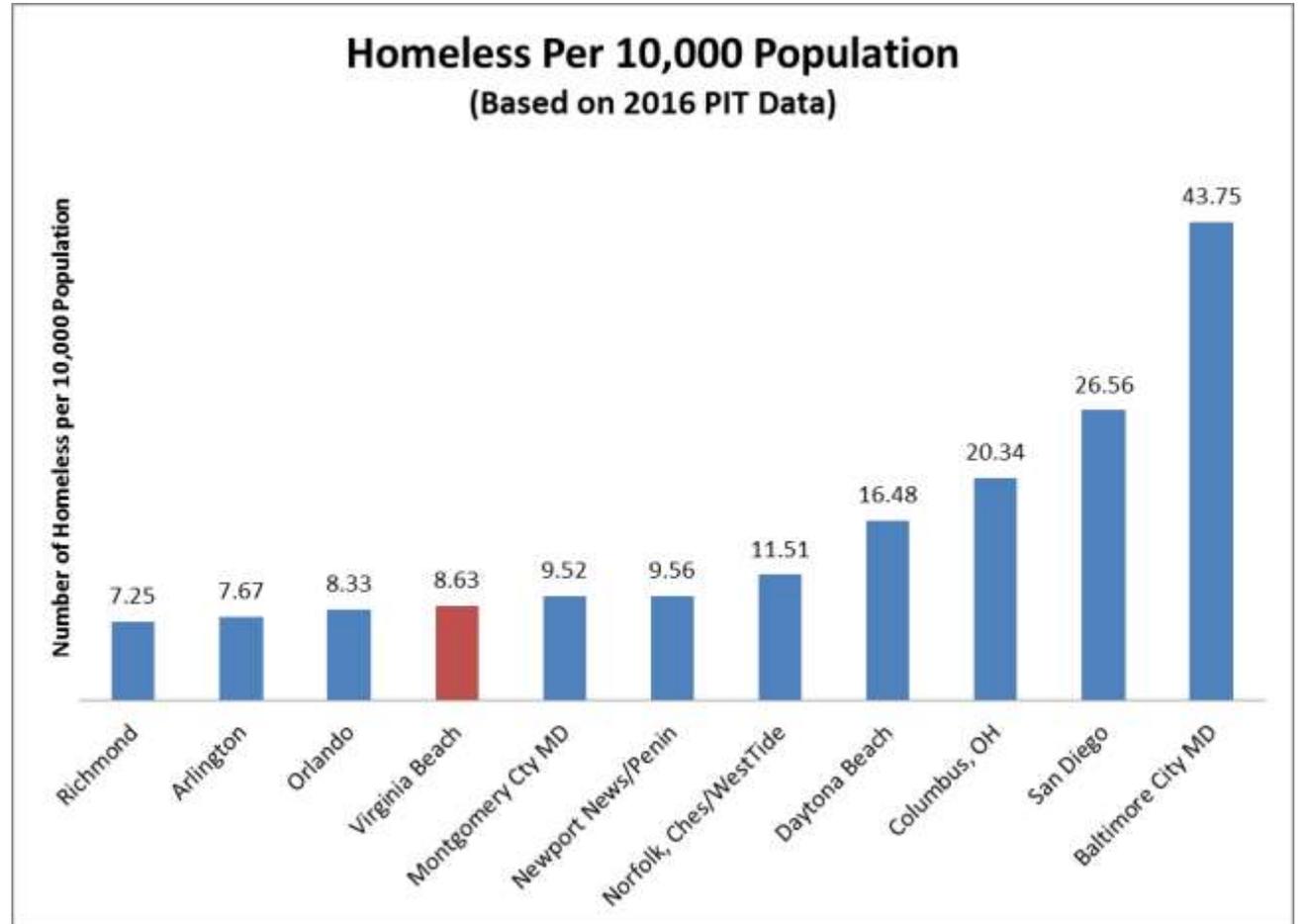
	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
UNDUPLICATED TOTAL HOMELESS PERSONS SERVED	1,569	1,946	1,667

Source: Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) = a computerized data collection system used by service providers

HOW VIRGINIA BEACH COMPARES TO OTHER CITIES

Virginia Beach's rate of homelessness is 8.63 persons per 10,000

- A decrease from 12 persons per 10,000 that was reported in 2010



VIRGINIA BEACH STRATEGIC PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS

The plan represents the vision of the entire Virginia beach community to make homelessness rare, brief and nonrecurring.

It is the collective work of the BEACH Community Partnership, city agencies, nonprofit service providers, and faith-based organizations.

The plan is intended to serve the needs of all who experience homelessness or a housing crisis, including families, individuals, youth, veterans, and people transitioning from institutional living.

City Council adopted the most recent strategic plan in 2013.

PURPOSE OF THE UPDATE



The updated strategic plan will build upon and expand the 2013 plan; incorporate progress to date and new research, and address the following key items:

- The opening of the Housing Resource Center, a one-stop-shop of essential services, shelter, and housing, that is scheduled to open at 104 N. Witchduck Road in June 2018
- Enhancements to the service system that have been implemented to unite city agencies, service providers, and the faith community as one coalition for ending homelessness
- Integrating best practices and input from our community partners for our service system

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DRAFT ACTION PLAN

The city is seeking public input on the proposed goals, objectives, and action steps for the strategic plan update.

The draft action plan includes 23 objectives and multiple action steps that are necessary to accomplish seven broad goals.

GOAL 1: TRANSFORM OUR SERVICE SYSTEM TO MAKE HOMELESSNESS RARE, BRIEF, AND NONRECURRING

Objective 1.1: Adapt our current system to ensure that it incorporates all necessary components to prevent and end homelessness and required by the HEARTH Act.

Objective 1.2: Continually enhance the professionalism, effectiveness and accountability of the services system.

Objective 1.3: Ensure that housing and supportive services projects will receive appropriate and eligible referrals for housing placement.

Objective 1.4: Enhance our system of capturing and reporting data.

Objective 1.5: Provide effective case management and aftercare services.

Objective 1.6: Complete and open the Housing Resource Center to expand and enhance our existing system, and replace the services provided by the Lighthouse Center.



GOAL 2: ENDING FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

Objective 2.1: Reduce the number of families experiencing homelessness for the first time.

Objective 2.2: Provide appropriate shelter and survival assistance to ensure that homeless families are safe and protected as they transition from homelessness to stable housing.

Objective 2.3: Create affordable housing for families who have demonstrated a need for permanent rental housing subsidies.

Objective 2.4: Target appropriate homeless assistance resources for families that are categorized as McKinney-Vento families.



GOAL 3: ENDING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Objective 3.1: Ensure those experiencing street homelessness are provided opportunities to connect to the housing crisis response system.

Objective 3.2: Provide appropriate shelter and survival assistance to ensure that the chronically homeless are safe and protected as they transition from homelessness to stable housing.

Objective 3.3: Increase the number of permanent housing beds and target them for persons experiencing chronic homelessness.

Objective 3.4: Prioritize the improvement of health and well-being of those with the longest history of homelessness by addressing physical and behavioral health issues to increase their quality/quantity of life.



GOAL 4: ENDING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Objective 4.1: Provide appropriate shelter and survival assistance to ensure that the unaccompanied homeless youth are safe and protected as they transition from homelessness to stable housing.

Objective 4.2: Reduce number of youth and young adults experiencing youth homelessness.

Objective 4.3: Ensure an adequate supply of housing that is appropriate for disconnected youth.



GOAL 5: MAINTAIN AND INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF PERMANENT, ACCESSIBLE, AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Objective 5.1: Continue to support the development of affordable housing units to meet identified priority housing needs using all available methods.

Objective 5.2: Expand housing services to facilitate access to rental housing.

Objective 5.3: Ensure an adequate supply of housing that is appropriate for all populations.



GOAL 6: INCREASE LEADERSHIP, COLLABORATION, AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN OUR COMMUNITY EFFORTS

Objective 6.1: Maintain and expand partnerships with all those who wish to be a part of the effort to prevent and end homelessness.

Objective 6.2: Increase community knowledge about homelessness and our community's efforts, successes and challenges.



GOAL 7: DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES TO SUPPORT OUR ONGOING COMMUNITY EFFORT

Objective 7.1: Maintain and increase the availability of funding to address community needs and system gaps.



THANK YOU

Next Steps

- ▣ Aug. 1 – Sept. 1: Receive public comments via Virtual Town Hall
- ▣ Sept. 5: City Council briefing
- ▣ Sept. 26: BEACH Governing Board and Performance Monitoring Committee votes on draft plan
- ▣ Oct. 17: City Council consideration for adoption

More Information

- ▣ www.vbgov.com/housing
- ▣ Contact Pam Shine:
 - ▣ (757) 385-5761
 - ▣ pshine@vbgov.com