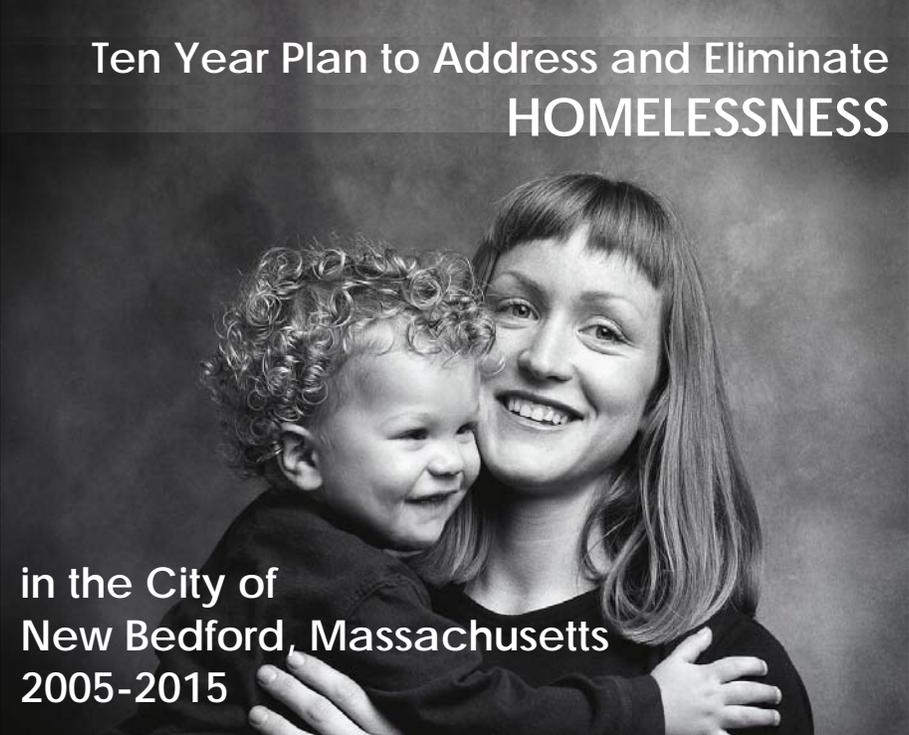


Ten Year Plan to Address and Eliminate  
**HOMELESSNESS**



in the City of  
New Bedford, Massachusetts  
2005-2015

## Executive Summary

**Office of Housing and Community Development**

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## Ten Year Plan to Address and Eliminate Homelessness in the City of New Bedford 2005-2015

### Executive Summary

The Ten Year Plan to Address and Eliminate Homelessness in the City of New Bedford articulates the City's formal strategy for assisting homeless individuals and families—both chronic and episodically homeless—move from streets and shelters to economic independence and self-sufficiency. Building on the strength of New Bedford's Continuum of Care as expressed through its membership entity, the Homeless Service Provider's Network (HSPN), the City of New Bedford's Office of Housing & Community Development has undertaken this initiative in seeking to strengthen the City's commitment to prevention strategies and the expansion of permanent affordable housing opportunities for chronic and episodic homeless individuals and families.

In December of 2004, Mayor Frederick M. Kalisz, Jr. formed the Mayor's Homeless Planning Task Force in order to develop and implement a plan comprised of sound and realistic strategies addressing episodic and chronic homelessness within New Bedford over the next ten years. Within this strategic planning effort, the Mayor's Homeless Task Force identified current resources available to service homeless individuals and families in New Bedford. The Task Force also explored the demographics of New Bedford's homeless and the various reasons why individuals and families experience homelessness. Once a thorough understanding of the problem of homelessness was realized, the Task Force turned to developing long-term strategies in order to reduce and eventually end homelessness in the City.

Through this process, New Bedford's vision in this regard was defined: Every individual and family in New Bedford facing homelessness will have access to safe, decent, and affordable housing and the resources to maintain it by 2015. To reach this vision, New Bedford's current efforts to address homelessness must continue to focus on the goal of ending homelessness through both prevention strategies, designed to reduce the number of individuals and families becoming homeless, as well as the production of permanent supportive housing targeted to homeless individual and families.

Given the extent of homelessness in New Bedford, the Task Force feels strongly that achieving this vision cannot occur without an increased and sustained commitment of resources from state and federal officials to help create the needed permanent supportive housing opportunities.

The long-term strategies put forth in this plan are realistic and informed through discussions with the Task Force members and members of the Homeless Service Provider's Network (HSPN). In addition, the development of these strategies was informed by available data from the New Bedford's Apartment Affordability Survey (2005), New Bedford's Consolidated Plan 2005-2009, HSPN's 2005 Homeless

Management Information System (HMIS) Summary Statistical Data, 2000 Census data tables, National Low Income Housing Coalition's Out of Reach 2004, and other housing studies. Those strategies, further elaborated on within the full version of this Plan are as follows:

1. Prevent homelessness for both individuals and families experiencing either episodic or chronic homelessness;
2. Expand the supply of permanent supportive housing targeted to homeless individuals and families;
3. Improve the existing network of emergency shelter and transitional housing as well as create additional units of emergency shelter and transitional housing;
4. Improve coordination and collaboration among homeless providers to meet the needs of emerging homeless sub-populations;
5. Expand employment opportunities and employment-related services for homeless individuals and families; and
6. Improve access to mainstream resources for homeless individuals and families.

The Mayor's Task Force believes that the implementation of these strategies can have a significant measurable impact on reducing the number of people who are homeless in New Bedford, but not without the input, participation, and commitment from the greater New Bedford community. It is critical to bring the skills and resources of the entire community to bear on behalf of New Bedford's homeless men, women, and children.

Throughout the implementation of this plan, the Task Force and the HSPN will continue to make an effort to engage the greater community of New Bedford to participate actively in this effort.

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The complete Ten Year Plan is available online at the Office of Housing and Community Development's website: [www.ci.new-bedford.ma.us/ohcd.htm](http://www.ci.new-bedford.ma.us/ohcd.htm) .