

HEALTHCARE AND HOUSING (H²) SYSTEMS INTEGRATION INITIATIVE NORTH DAKOTA

Action Plan Overview

NORTH DAKOTA H² ACTION PLAN OVERVIEW¹

Goals and Strategies: North Dakota has identified four goals, each of which focuses on a key area of activity essential to achieving their vision of improving health and housing stability for North Dakota's neediest residents.

Strategically Collect and Analyze Data to Identify Needs, Facilitate System Planning, Measure Outcomes, and Advocate for Funding

- Create statewide data consortium of stakeholders.
- Collect, compile, and present data to:
 - Advocate for Housing First/Harm Reduction
 - Demonstrate the needs of underserved populations and identify ways to better serve them
 - Apply for grants or other funding
 - Identify gaps in service provision
 - Follow trends (including correlations with changes in oil prices)
 - Identify costs of homelessness across systems
 - Support Public Relations campaign
 - Identify best practices that can be duplicated in other agencies
 - Coordinate legislative advocacy for increased resources
 - Show cost savings resulting from social detox programs
 - Collect data on youth aging out of foster care to identify interventions necessary to secure access for them to Medicaid, affordable housing, post-secondary education, etc.
- Explore North Dakota State University's "North Dakota Compass," which tracks social issues in the state, as a possible resource to build from to track more comprehensive data and/or enable data matching.
- Include health/insurance questions in Coordinated Entry process.
- Analyze coordinated entry system data to:
 - Track number of referrals to different types of housing and how successful each is.
 - Determine markers/predictors of homelessness.
 - Understand utilization and gaps/needs.
- Improve functionality of HMIS and increase resources/staff capacity to administer it.
- Explore use of Heartview Foundation's web-based data portal and how it can be used to complement/work with the Coordinated Entry System.

¹ The North Dakota H² Action Plan Draft is currently being finalized by the Leadership Team, and therefore the Goals and Strategies presented here are subject to change.

HEALTHCARE AND HOUSING (H²) SYSTEMS INTEGRATION INITIATIVE NORTH DAKOTA

Action Plan Overview

- Encourage hospitals to identify and track patients who are homeless or unstably housed.

Create a Person-Centered Integrated System to Improve Health Outcomes, Housing Stability, and Access to Social Services

- Improve discharge planning processes/protocols, including cross-system communications and warm handoffs.
- Improve referral partnerships/connections for Medicaid enrollment.
- Build relationships with managed care organizations.
- Work with hospitals, health plans, and city governments to fund/create detox shelters. Ultimately attach any such shelter to Housing First program.
- Continue/strengthen conversations between Public Health and University of North Dakota regarding opening a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in Bismarck.
- Improve navigation throughout and across systems, using warm handoffs for referrals.
- Research successful programs/best practices from within North Dakota (and around the country) to identify opportunities to learn, expand, and replicate. Share information about promising options around the state.
- Explore creation of universal release of information form to be used by multiple state agencies.
- Explore possible ways to leverage/coordinate the use of the various Community Needs Assessments being conducted in various sectors (e.g. Housing Finance Agency; Community Action; hospitals).

Ensure North Dakota's Most Vulnerable Residents Have Sufficient Access to Needed Housing, Health Care, and Supportive Services

- Change public perception of homelessness through local and statewide Public Relations campaigns.
- Increase affordable housing stock.
- Improve access to private rental market.
- Increase mental and behavioral health services capacity.
- Ensure maximum enrollment in Medicaid.
- Increase awareness/dissemination of community resource guides (which include information about access points) among clinics, faith based organizations, and public health departments.

HEALTHCARE AND HOUSING (H²) SYSTEMS INTEGRATION INITIATIVE NORTH DAKOTA

Action Plan Overview

- Conduct comprehensive, community-based analysis of needed services to advocate for the following:
 - Expansion of FQHCs throughout the state
 - Expansion/modification of successful SSVF model for ending veteran homelessness to apply to other subpopulations
 - Continued modernization of the Domestic Violence and trafficking housing/service models
 - Hospice opportunities in homeless emergency shelters
 - Replacement of services lost when “soup kitchen” in Bismarck closed
 - Increased respite capacity across the state
 - Expansion of Coordinated Entry System to include domestic violence providers.
- Increase capacity to provide training and education across the state.
- Explore expansion of cab voucher program in Fargo that takes people from shelters to hospitals/health care providers.

Maximize Utilization of Resources to Fund Affordable Housing and Services that Support Housing Stability

- Increase funding resources for affordable housing and services.
- Find a mechanism for continuing Money Follows the Person program funding.
- Maximize extent to which Medicaid-covered services that support housing stability are provided in a way that enables Medicaid reimbursement.
- Encourage and advocate for a State application of 1915(i) Medicaid state plan amendment.