

Goal: Provide Essential Services for Homeless Persons in Okaloosa and Walton Counties

Objective: Establish Services for Unsheltered Homeless Persons that Alleviate Conditions and Facilitate Transition out of Homelessness

Strategies from 2007	Responsible Person/ Agency	Target Date	Status 4/15/2008
Construct website to help coordinate resources, posting resource directory on-line, solicit volunteers and donations, publicize available services and one-time events,	Executive Director, Opportunity, Inc.	10/1/2007	Accomplished 9/1/2007 and on-going
Recruit churches providing cold night shelter, to ensure seven churches available for cold night service	Committee Chair, Shelter Committee	11/1/2007	Accomplished 10/20/07
Provide funding and support to ensure cold night shelter maintains services and sufficient number of churches over the winter	Executive Director, Opportunity, Inc.	11/1/2007 and on-going	Accomplished for winter 07- 08
Secured designated paid, part-time persons to oversee laundry, showers, food and clothing distribution, haircuts	Executive Director, Opportunity, Inc.	11/1/2007	Secured designated volunteers
Establish systematic approach to transitioning families from homelessness to self-sufficiency	Executive Director, Opportunity, Inc.	5/1/2008	Planning
Assist homeless in work readiness skills, job placement	Resource and Referral Manager Opportunity, Inc.	1/1/2008	Placed 30 homeless in jobs; provided readiness training – On-going
Secure centralized access point for access to intake and services	Executive Director, Opportunity, Inc.	7/15/2008	Potential location unknown at this time
Provide HIV/AIDS testing at churches and agencies providing direct services to homeless	Executive Director/ AIDS/OASIS	1/1/2008	Accomplished and on-going
Provide linkage to existing resources for mental health and substance abuse treatment, such as Bridgeway Center, COPE. Mental Health Association	Resource and Referral Manager Opportunity, Inc.	11/1/2007	Accomplished and on-going

Additional Strategies for 2008-09			
Establish access points at meal sites to provide assistance in linking to mainstream benefits, and keeping homeless apprised of new opportunities for assistance, such as assistance with obtaining funds from economic stimulus package	Resource and Referral Manager, Opportunity, Inc.	4/1/2008	In-progress
Recruit one church or agency to coordinate application and distribution of hearing aids, glasses, work boots, hard hats, tools and other items essential for effective work performance	Executive Director Opportunity, Inc.	10/01/2008	Planning
Negotiate for resources allowing for provision of sleeping bags and tents to homeless	Executive Director Opportunity, Inc.	11/1/2008	Planning
Negotiate for location to provide storage facilities for homeless	Executive Director Opportunity, Inc.	3/15/2010	Planning
Identify solutions to transportation issues facing homeless	Executive Director Opportunity, Inc.	1/15/2009	Planning
Provide literacy services to homeless persons at locations already utilized	Resource and Referral Manager, Opportunity, Inc.	7/1/2008	Planning
Initiate web-based system for coordination, tracking of resource utilization	Director, United Way	5/1/2008	In progress

Objective: Maximize potential of planned shelter in transitioning homelessness into permanent employment and housing

Strategies	Responsible Person/ Agency
Create work group to devise income-generating opportunities for shelter residents, and to undertake feasibility study so as minimize competition with for-profit merchants (ideas could include pet grooming; landscape services and nursery projects; conservation project from Florida Department of Agriculture; barber skills; lawn mower, bicycle and small appliance repair; shoe repair; upholstery)	Executive Director Opportunity, Inc.
Provide transitional services such as adult literacy, computer and vocational training in coordination with mainstream sources such as Workforce Development Board; school systems	Shelter Administrator
Include facilities for showers, laundry, storage, linkage to financial institutions and counseling, mail drop and phone contact	Board of Directors, Opportunity, Inc.