



MICHIGAN'S CAMPAIGN TO END HOMELESSNESS

January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2028
State Action Plan

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3** Vision for 2026 and Beyond: Summary of Goals & Strategies
- 4** Introduction: Building a Future Where Homelessness is Rare, Brief, and Non-Recurring
- 6** Measuring Continued Progress
- 7** Every Michigander has the Power to Make a Difference
- 9** Goals & Strategies

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Michigan faces a critical challenge: thousands of residents experience homelessness each year, and affordable housing remains out of reach for many. The Michigan Campaign to End Homelessness (MCTEH) has developed a bold, collaborative plan to address these issues head-on. This document outlines big goals, key strategies, and a vision for the future that inspires action and hope.

In this update to the MCTEH Action Plan, we recognize the seismic shifts happening with critical safety net programs, while focusing on highly actionable goals that will help us meet the moment, tamp the impacts of those changes, and lead to impactful results. We strengthen our commitment to racial equity and authentic engagement with people with lived experience by building off work completed under the 23-26 Action Plan. We also include a continued commitment to increasing deeply affordable and supportive housing, and preventing homelessness whenever possible.

In addition to the specific goals and strategies outlined below, the MCTEH upholds the following commitments in implementation of this Action Plan:

- 1 Ensure people with lived experience of homelessness provide ongoing guidance on implementation of the Action Plan**
- 2 Counteract existing racial inequities and ensure implementation of the Action Plan does not perpetuate inequities**
- 3 Use data to measure progress and create accountability**
- 4 Provide transparency and consistent communication from state departments to those in the field**

Goal 1: Increase amount of safe, accessible & affordable housing targeted to households experiencing homelessness

Goal 2: Enhance homelessness prevention and diversion efforts, targeting resources to households most at risk of becoming homeless

Goal 3: Reduce racial disparities among households experiencing homelessness and authentically engage people with lived experience of homelessness in statewide and local work

Goal 4: Collaborate and build relationships across statewide systems that are critical to preventing and ending homelessness

Goal 5: Collaborate with and support communities and homeless service providers navigating and responding to the changing federal and state landscape

Goal 6: Advocate for increased funding to support homeless services and housing and for policies that improve outcomes for people experiencing homelessness



INTRODUCTION: BUILDING A FUTURE WHERE HOMELESSNESS IS RARE, BRIEF, AND NON-RECURRING

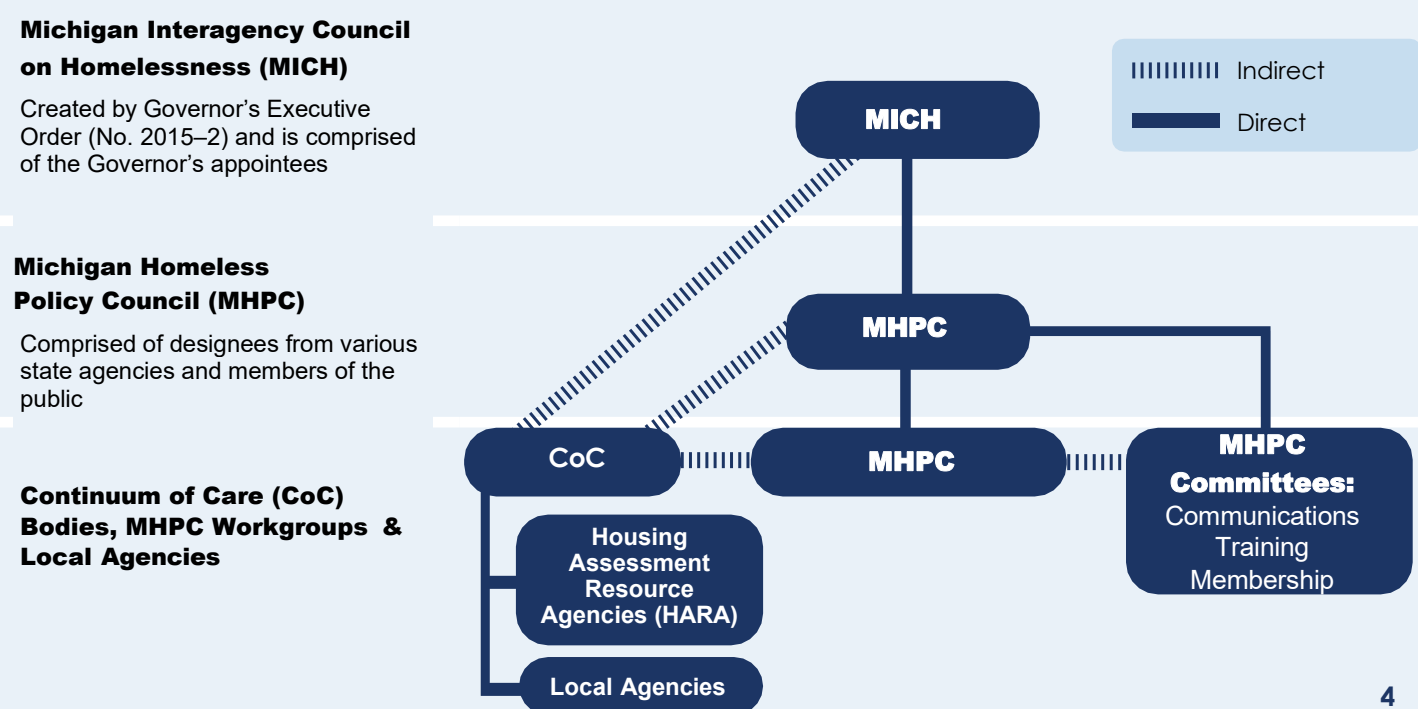
The first statewide action plan to end homelessness was written in 2006. What started as community-level action plans, aimed at increasing access to affordable housing and driving self-sufficiency, has evolved into a statewide infrastructure known as the Michigan Campaign to End Homelessness (MCTEH). In early 2015, former Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, created the Michigan Interagency Council on Homelessness (MICH) through Executive Order 2015-2. The council, chaired by state leadership, consists of representation from 12 state departments, non-profit agencies, and the general public who work together, using this plan as their guide, to prevent and end homelessness in Michigan.

2025 brought unbelievable amounts of change to communities. Entire social safety nets have been put at risk, and communities have had to respond to one crisis after another in order to ensure the people they serve continue to have access to housing and other critical supports they need. People experiencing homelessness, along with those who have histories of homelessness but are now stably housed, are significantly vulnerable right now. The goals and strategies laid out in this plan acknowledge the seismic shifts occurring around us and the reality that some of the impacts of those shifts will be out of our control, while also pushing us to collectively use our voices and political capital in a new and powerful way.

Ending homelessness in Michigan is possible. Homelessness is a complex and dynamic issue, but one that can be solved through good policy, sufficient funding, and a willingness to collaborate across systems. By centering equity, collaboration, and accountability, Michigan can ensure that every resident has a safe, affordable place to call home.

MCTEH STRUCTURE

In 2021, the MCTEH established an infrastructure to align efforts and maximize efficiency in accomplishing the goals of the MCTEH Action Plan. The infographic shown below provides a snapshot of the current MCTEH structure. As part of the 23-26 Action Plan, the Michigan Homeless Policy Council (MHPC), displayed in the infographic, restructured its membership to be more representative of people with lived experience of homelessness as well as homeless service providers and advocates throughout the state.



TOGETHER, WE ARE DRIVING CHANGE

In 2024, 31,211 people experienced homelessness in Michigan. While this number remains far too high, Michigan has implemented a number of innovative strategies and seen substantial progress in certain areas under the 23-26 Action Plan. Michigan was one of the earliest states to retool our crisis response systems by implementing coordinated entry statewide and shifting our resources toward permanent housing and services for those with the deepest needs. Over the last three years, we have continued to build on our success with an unwavering commitment to innovation and collaboration. It was that commitment that contributed to the following successes across the state:



Partnered with C4 Innovations to create local and state race equity action plans and begin to retool local prioritization processes to be more equitable



Funded shelter diversion programs in every CoC in the state



Enacted legislation to prohibit discrimination based on source of income



Developed 471 units of supportive housing



Secured a total of \$21M for supportive housing services over 3 years and distributed to supportive housing providers across the state



Restructured the Michigan Homeless Policy Council to be more representative of people with lived experience of homelessness as well as homeless service providers and advocates throughout the state.



Added another CoC (Balance of State) implementing Youth Homelessness Demonstration Programs (YHDP), in addition to Detroit, Northwest MI, and Grand Rapids



Increased access to SSI/SSDI benefits through the SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) program



MICHIGAN'S CAMPAIGN TO END HOMELESSNESS

MEASURING CONTINUED PROGRESS

Effectively ending homelessness in Michigan means that homelessness is prevented whenever possible and, when not possible, that the experience of homelessness is rare, brief, and one-time. While some of the goals within this action plan focus on how the work gets done, each of the goals outlined in the plan should have a direct impact on the overall system performance measures outlined here.

With that as the frame, we will evaluate our progress by tracking and assessing the following statewide system performance measures quarterly:

OVERALL REDUCTION GOAL (BY 2029) FOR TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS:

Current (2024): 31,211

Goal: 29,650 (5% decline from 2024 to 2029)

CURRENT & GOAL FOR BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN

Current (2024): 14,292

Goal: 13,577 (5% decline from 2024 to 2029)

MEASURE 1: TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS FOR THE FIRST TIME

Current (2024): 15,845

Goal: 15,053

CURRENT & GOAL FOR BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN

Current (2024): 6,810

Goal: 6,470

MEASURE 2: LENGTH OF TIME PEOPLE SPEND EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS (AVERAGE DAYS HL)

Current (2024): 87 days

Goal: 80 days

CURRENT & GOAL FOR BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN

Current (2024): 95 days

Goal: 80 days

MEASURE 3: RATE OF DISCHARGE TO PERMANENT HOUSING FROM HOMELESSNESS OR RETAINING PERMANENT HOUSING

Current (2024):

Street outreach: 29%

Emergency shelter, Transitional housing, Rapid re-housing: 48%

Permanent housing (excluding RRH): 93%

Goal:

Street outreach: 35%

Emergency shelter, Transitional housing, Rapid re-housing: 48%

Permanent housing (excluding RRH): 95%

CURRENT & GOAL FOR BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN

Current (2024):

Street outreach: 34%

Emergency shelter, Transitional housing, Rapid re-housing: 52%

Permanent housing (excluding RRH): 94%

Goal:

Street outreach: 37%

Emergency shelter, Transitional housing, Rapid re-housing: 54%

Permanent housing (excluding RRH): 96%

MEASURE 4: RATE OF RETURNS TO HOMELESSNESS FROM PERMANENT HOUSING (WITHIN 24 MONTHS)

Current (2024): 20%

Goal: 18%

CURRENT & GOAL FOR BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN

Current (2024): 20%

Goal: 16%



Homelessness is a complex problem, but solving it is simplified when all Michiganders do their part. Having a solid plan is important, but knowing our unique roles in implementation of the plan is what will truly drive the things we are able to achieve as a state over the next three years.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS AT STATE, TRIBAL, COUNTY, AND MUNICIPAL LEVELS; INCLUDING ELECTED OFFICIALS

- Provide leadership and accountability for progress on this plan, using your voice and power to advance the goals within public forums, funding processes, and when establishing new policies
- Seek opportunities to cede power and elevate voices that aren't traditionally honored
- Provide the funding and other resources necessary to achieve the goals within this plan
- Keep people experiencing homelessness front and center as you create policies, make funding decisions, and prioritize your work

PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE OF HOMELESSNESS

- Speak up and speak out about your experiences with homelessness; let people know what is working and what is not
- Engage in planning and decision making at local and state levels to help advance the goals within this plan and hold others accountable when progress is not being made
- Provide grace to people who are not used to having people with lived experience in consulting and decision making roles, but challenge them to continue to evolve

COC LEADERSHIP, HOMELESS SERVICE PROVIDERS, ADVOCATES, AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

- Continue the transformational work of providing direct services and supports, ensuring that dignity and respect are front and center in your day to day interactions
- Ask for what you need in order to do your work well and advocate at local & state levels

HOUSING DEVELOPERS AND PRIVATE LANDLORDS

- Minimize barriers to housing by removing unnecessary screening criteria and working to eliminate bias and stigma about people experiencing homelessness
- Prioritize development of deeply affordable housing
- Partner with homeless service providers to house people experiencing homelessness

PHILANTHROPY AND PRIVATE BUSINESSES

- Use your collective voice and power to influence local and state policies that align with the goals in this action plan and to convene partners around shared vision and opportunities
- Support homeless service providers to whether funding cuts through flexible funding, simple applications, and emergency grants

EVERY MICHIGANDER

- Learn about homelessness and dispel myths about the people who experience homelessness in MI
- Engage policymakers at every level of government about efforts to prevent and end homelessness
- Donate resources, goods, and time to organizations serving people experiencing homelessness

GOAL 1: INCREASE AMOUNT OF SAFE, ACCESSIBLE & AFFORDABLE HOUSING TARGETED TO HOUSEHOLDS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

The number one priority that we hear from CoCs, people with lived experience of homelessness, and public officials alike all over the state is the need for safe, accessible housing that is deeply affordable. Through Michigan’s first Statewide Housing Plan, the state set a goal to produce 115,000 new or rehabbed housing units. Because of income constraints and unique needs of people experiencing homelessness, this Action Plan prioritizes the development of deeply affordable housing units as well as Supportive Housing units.

Safe housing: A residence where people can feel physically and mentally protected and free from threat.

Accessible housing: A residence that offers accommodations for people with disabilities to live barrier-free and is free from unnecessary background and other screening criteria as a condition for residence.

Affordable housing: Housing in which rent is set at or below 60% of the area median income, based on needs of the community, and for which the occupant is paying no more than 30% of their gross income in housing costs, including utilities.

STRATEGY	CHAMPION	COMPLETION DATE
Strategy 1: Produce 500 new Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) units (non-SH) annually targeted to households at or below 30-50% AMI	MSHDA	Report Annually
Strategy 2: Produce 150 new Supportive Housing units annually	MSHDA	Report Annually
Strategy 3: Create inventory of LIHTC affordable and supportive housing units nearing end of affordability period and develop strategy for preserving them	MSHDA/CSH	August 2026
Strategy 4: Expand Moving On and/or Homeless Preference initiatives to 3 Public Housing Authorities (in addition to MSHDA)	CSH	June 2027
Strategy 5: Maximize housing resources for school-aged youth and ensure they are being utilized for the target population (ie. underutilized FYI vouchers, underutilized YHDP funding, etc.)	MDE	Report Annually



GOAL 2: ENHANCE HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND DIVERSION EFFORTS, TARGETING RESOURCES TO HOUSEHOLDS MOST AT RISK OF BECOMING HOMELESS

In order to end homelessness in Michigan, we have to prevent people from becoming homeless in the first place. Michigan has made great strides in funding and implementing homeless prevention and diversion programs in CoCs throughout the state, including funding for flexible financial assistance to help prevent households from having to enter emergency shelter. We need to take lessons learned from the implementation so far and continue advocating for rental assistance funding, legal representation, and mediation services.

STRATEGY	CHAMPION	COMPLETION DATE
<i>Strategy 1: Continue funding and implementation of homelessness diversion statewide, report outcomes, and make enhancements as needed.</i>	MSHDA	Report Annually
<i>Strategy 2: Develop a uniform tracking mechanism for shelter diversion & homeless prevention data</i>	MCAH	December 2026



GOAL 3: REDUCE RACIAL DISPARITIES AMONG HOUSEHOLDS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS AND AUTHENTICALLY ENGAGE PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE OF HOMELESSNESS IN STATEWIDE AND LOCAL WORK

Homelessness does not affect all Michiganders the same way. For instance, 46% of the state’s homeless population is Black, despite only making up 14% of Michigan’s overall population. Disparities such as this must motivate specific attention and action especially for Black, Indigenous, & People of Color (BIPOC), people with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ communities. In an effort to address some of these disparities, the MCTEH partnered with C4 Innovations to conduct a racial equity system analysis across CoCs in Michigan resulting in community-led plans as well as the statewide MCTEH Race Equity Action Plan.

Additionally, under the previous Action Plan, the MCTEH established a structure for equitably compensating people with lived experience of homelessness for their time participating on MCTEH workgroups and committees, and supporting implementation of critical work throughout the state. This goal charges us with digging deep and taking our commitment to equity and to elevating the voices of people with lived experience to the next level.

STRATEGY	CHAMPION	COMPLETION DATE
Strategy 1: <i>Implement MCTEH Race Equity Action Plan</i>	REAAC	Report Bi-Annually
Strategy 2: <i>Encourage and provide support and training to organizations and CoCs that are hiring people with lived homelessness experience (PWLE) and creating peer-support positions</i>	MDHHS/ MSHDA/ MCAH	Report Annually
Strategy 3: <i>Create funding strategy to compensate PWLE for MHPC and ICH related work and to ensure accessibility for participation (ie transportation, technology, etc.); engage private philanthropy as needed to secure funding</i>	MHPC	September 2026
Strategy 4: Amend Executive Order 2015-2 that established the Michigan Interagency Council on Homelessness to include more seats open to the public and encourage participation and membership of people with lived experience.	ICH	May 2026



GOAL 4: COLLABORATE AND BUILD RELATIONSHIPS ACROSS STATEWIDE SYSTEMS THAT ARE CRITICAL TO PREVENTING AND ENDING HOMELESSNESS

Collaboration is difficult, especially among various systems that function differently, utilize different data systems, and oftentimes have competing interests. However, it is a key path to ending homelessness in Michigan. Homelessness is a problem that effects almost every aspect of the Michigan ecosystem, and will take seemingly independent systems working together to solve it. This goal centers around finding common goals and bridging divides between the homeless system and other systems that are critical to preventing and ending homelessness.

STRATEGY	CHAMPION	COMPLETION DATE
Strategy 1: Distribute resources/guides to homeless service providers to help them ensure veterans experiencing homelessness are connected to the full array of VA benefits	MVAA	June 2026
Strategy 2: Increase the identification of eligible school aged youth for the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program by developing local and regional referral networks	MDE	February 2027
Strategy 3: Build partnerships with local and state law enforcement agencies to reduce criminalization of homelessness and improve discharge planning	MCAH/ MDOC	May 2027
Strategy 4: Create a cohesive discharge strategy to connect people to CoC resources when they discharge to homelessness from MDOC prisons without parole.	MDOC	April 2027
Strategy 5: Expand use of Housing Assistance Medicaid benefit by increasing number of CMHs and CCBHCs contracting with housing providers and increasing enrollment in CMH and CCBHC services	CSH/MDHHS	June 2026
Strategy 6: Help HARAs build relationships with local courts and attorneys to help divert evictions	SCAO	November 2026
Strategy 7: Increase households connected to employment supports by creating assessment and referral processes from CoCs to workforce development organizations & other income services	MHPC	Report Annually
Strategy 8: Increase number of annual SOAR applications from 136 per year to 201 per year (48% increase) and annual approval rate from 62% to 65%	MDHHS	Report Annually



GOAL 5: COLLABORATE WITH AND SUPPORT COMMUNITIES AND HOMELESS SERVICE PROVIDERS NAVIGATING AND RESPONDING TO THE CHANGING FEDERAL AND STATE LANDSCAPE

2025 brought unbelievable amounts of change to communities. Entire social safety nets have been put at risk, and communities have had to respond to one crisis after another in order to ensure the people they serve can continue to access housing and other critical supports they need. This goal calls on the MCTEH to work closely with communities to support them in navigating these changes through helping to create collaborative spaces for peer sharing, and helping to reduce administrative burden at the state level both for nonprofits and for the people they serve.

STRATEGY	CHAMPION	COMPLETION DATE
Strategy 1: <i>Communicate a unified statement about continued support for efforts to prevent and end homelessness</i>	ICH	March 2026
Strategy 2: <i>Where feasible, consolidate state funding applications (ie. ask same questions; require same reporting, etc.)</i>	MDHHS & MSHDA	Report Annually
Strategy 3: <i>Make resources (monetary and/or non-monetary) available to communities to help navigate new and/or imminent administrative requirements for entitlement programs (ie. more frequent redeterminations; work requirements, etc.)</i>	MDHHS	Report Bi-Annually
Strategy 4: <i>Create learning cohorts across CoCs to build solidarity, collaboration, & learning from one-another, including planning for private philanthropy engagement at local/regional level</i>	MCAH	Report Bi-Annually
Strategy 5: <i>Create/designate a space/group/entity dedicated to:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scenario planning, exploring best practices nationally, & brainstorming/ problem-solving 2. Creating a repository/clearinghouse of all homelessness-related federal & state actions 3. Assessing impact of federal & state actions & communicating to the field 4. Sharing learnings among state departments & homeless service providers 	MCAH	February 2026



GOAL 6: ADVOCATE FOR INCREASED FUNDING TO SUPPORT HOMELESS SERVICES AND HOUSING AND FOR POLICIES THAT IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

The last year has reinforced the power of advocacy, and the next couple years will require incredibly proactive and strategic advocacy from the homeless services sector. This goal pushes us to activate both at a local and state level and to clearly articulate the policy and funding priorities of the MCTEH. Successful advocacy relies heavily on transparent and accurate data, so this goal also pushes the MCTEH to create an easily accessible dashboard so data is always available to anyone throughout the state.

STRATEGY	CHAMPION	COMPLETION DATE
Strategy 1: Enhance knowledge, skills, and ability of homeless service providers & CoCs to do advocacy work	MCAH	Report Bi-Annually
Strategy 2: Create and maintain a publicly available dashboard that measures progress of the Action Plan and displays statewide and CoC level System Performance Measure data (disaggregated by race); update at least annually	MCAH	September 2026
Strategy 3: Establish a statewide policy advocacy agenda that focuses on key strategies to prevent and end homelessness, guided by the action plan	ICH	August 2026
Strategy 4: Establish statewide funding priorities (public and private funding) that focuses on the primary needs to prevent and end homelessness, guided by the action plan	ICH	August 2026
Strategy 5: Complete a workforce study to report on existing pay ranges and staffing levels in Michigan's homeless services workforce regionally and provide recommendations for increasing pay and improving staffing ratios	MHPC	December 2026
Strategy 6: Publish MSHDA and MDHHS funding allocations and performance metrics documented in 2025 and continue to update them annually; publish similar documentation of funding from other state departments (ie. MDE, MVAA, MDOC); and brainstorm a tracking mechanism for funding going directly to homeless service providers/CoCs and not passed through state departments (ie. HUD and other federal funds)	ICH/MCAH	December 2026

