On August 28, 2005, the world watched and waited as a catastrophic storm approached New Orleans. After a somewhat-weakened Katrina made landfall early on the morning of August 29 in Mississippi, it appeared at first that New Orleans – on the weak western side of the hurricane – had been saved yet again from the Big One. Then what is probably America’s greatest engineering catastrophe occurred: the levees failed. Ultimately, more than 1,800 people lost their lives due to Katrina and the levee failures in New Orleans and neighboring parishes. About 150,000 were stranded in the ruins of a city obliterated by floodwaters – in sweltering attics; on rooftops and bridges; in hospitals, nursing homes, and schools; huddled in the suffering masses at the Superdome and Convention Center. In an instant, a whole city – almost half a million people – became homeless.

The UNITY collaborative – an award-winning coalition of 63 organizations providing housing and services for homeless and at-risk people in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish – had sprung into action even before Katrina made landfall. While UNITY and others had begun working a year earlier to persuade then-Mayor Nagin to adopt a plan to evacuate the city’s poor who lacked private transportation ahead of a major hurricane, that plan tragically was not implemented. Nevertheless, the collaborative’s residential programs evacuated the city ahead of the storm with hundreds of vulnerable, often mentally ill, clients, staying with them around the clock in hotels and churches around the nation. Within 48 hours of Katrina making landfall, UNITY staff began the long, laborious process of locating all of our member agencies, securing their funding, and helping them to continue to serve the poorest and most vulnerable survivors of Katrina, get back to New Orleans, repair their agency’s properties, and get their programs back to full capacity.

As with any major disaster, the poorest and most vulnerable people suffered the most, and their suffering persisted for a very long time. By January 2007, 11,619 persons were living in abandoned buildings, on the streets, and in temporary homeless programs in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish, according to UNITY’s Point in Time Count and estimate.

The UNITY collaborative was determined to make sure that the poorest and most vulnerable were included in government plans for the recovery. Aided by partner organizations National Alliance to End Homelessness and Community Solutions, the collaborative worked closely with the Louisiana Recovery Authority, the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency, the Louisiana Department of Social Services, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals and other nonprofit, governmental and philanthropy partners to create a pathbreaking Rapid Rehousing and Homelessness Prevention program and a landmark Permanent Supportive Housing initiative, providing rent assistance and case management services to persons with disabilities who are homeless or at risk of homelessness or institutionalization. An intensive 2 ½ year lobbying effort led by UNITY and its partners culminated in the June 2008 congressional allocation of funds for 3025 Permanent Supportive Housing vouchers across the Katrina and Rita-affected parishes. Those vouchers, which became available for use in the fall of 2009 and today are administered as a permanent resource by the Louisiana Housing Corporation, continue to house some of the region’s most vulnerable survivors to this day. Those vouchers, along with generous ongoing funding provided by HUD for homeless programs and by national and local philanthropies, have been critical to the collaborative’s accomplishments in the decade after Katrina.
METHODOLOGY AND TERMINOLOGY

ABOUT THE POINT IN TIME SURVEY: The 2015 Homeless Point in Time (PIT) Count for New Orleans and Jefferson Parish took place on January 26, 2015, utilizing the staff of more than 50 of the 60 agencies that make up the New Orleans/Jefferson Parish/Kenner Homeless Continuum of Care. Surveys were administered on the streets and in homeless programs and other locations asking homeless people where they had stayed the night of January 26 and asking certain demographic information. In addition, a statistically significant sample of 237 census blocks was canvassed by UNITY’s Abandoned Buildings Outreach Team, during which all unsecured abandoned buildings were searched in order to count bedrolls in active use. Canvass results were then extrapolated to the census blocks not counted, in order to determine the number of abandoned building dwellers across the city.

The Point in Time Count is conducted to provide as comprehensive a count as possible of how many persons are homeless in emergency shelter, in homeless transitional housing, and in places not meant for human habitation on any given night. The Point in Time Count provides information with which to gauge the need for resources to end and prevent homelessness and the type of resources needed, and to better understand the nature and extent of homelessness in the New Orleans area. The Count is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The last official Point in Time Count was conducted in March 2014.

In addition to the Point in Time Count, in partnership with member agency VIA Link, UNITY maintains a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) in which all of its funded agencies are required to enter data on every homeless person served. HMIS data can provide information on how many homeless people are served over a longer period of time, as opposed to one night, but it does not include data on homeless people who are not served. Many homeless persons are not served either because they do not seek services or because programs are filled to capacity.

ABOUT UNITY: The Point in Time Count is coordinated by UNITY of Greater New Orleans, a nonprofit organization designated by HUD to lead the Homeless Continuum of Care of housing and services for New Orleans and Jefferson Parish. Founded in 1992, UNITY’s mission is to coordinate community partnerships to prevent, reduce and end homelessness. In partnership with HUD, the City of New Orleans, Jefferson Parish government and the City of Kenner, UNITY secures and distributes to its member agencies nationally competitive grants to provide housing and services to the homeless. UNITY also trains its member agencies on best practices, oversees homeless outreach on the streets and abandoned buildings, helps the public locate affordable housing, and advocates for public policy to end homelessness. In 2010, the UNITY collaborative was selected from 9,000 organizations nationwide by the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the premier organization in the field, to receive its Nonprofit Sector Award in recognition of its accomplishments in the post-Katrina environment.

In 2014, UNITY, the City of New Orleans and the local VA were honored by the NAEH for their accomplishments in reducing veteran homelessness. In partnership with Mayor Landrieu and his City Hall team, the VA, the Housing Authority of New Orleans, Supportive Services for Veteran Families providers and the CoC agencies, UNITY coordinated the implementation of the successful effort to make New Orleans by Jan. 2, 2015, the first city to reach a “functional zero” in veteran homelessness by permanently housing its veterans. Since Jan. 2, UNITY has maintained the “functional zero” through the hard work of creating and coordinating a Rapid Response for Homeless veterans system, in which all veterans who because of poverty or disability are pitched into homelessness are permanently housed within an average of 30 days, unless they choose to enter a long-term recovery program. Since Jan. 2, the collaborative has permanently housed an additional 90 homeless veterans and done so within an average of 24 days.

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Summary of Findings

• The number of homeless people is down by 85 percent since the post-Katrina high of January 2007, when there were 11,619 literally homeless people living in abandoned buildings, on the streets, and in temporary homeless programs. **No other community has accomplished such a large reduction in homelessness in eight years.** Homelessness is down 13 percent since one year ago. Still, there remain 1703 literally homeless people in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish on a single night.

• The primary causes of the reduction are the work of the collaborative and its government partners to find permanent housing for homeless persons, and the ongoing recovery of the city, which resulted in creation of affordable housing units and permanent rental subsidies to house many people, and the reestablishment of some of the city’s extended family and neighborhood networks, which help take care of people experiencing housing crises.

• The number of chronically homeless people – defined as people with mental and/or physical disabilities who have been living on the street or in emergency shelter for over a year, or have had four or more such episodes of homelessness in the past three years – is down 91 percent since 2009. **(Chronic homelessness was not tabulated in 2007.)** The primary cause of this reduction is the development of a large supply of Permanent Supportive Housing – permanent rent subsidies, used primarily in privately owned apartments, linked to case managers who visit the person with disabilities in their home to help them become more self-sufficient and do whatever is needed to maintain their tenancy. Despite the dramatic reduction in chronic homelessness, however, there still remain 423 chronically homeless people on a single night.

• Although the numbers of homeless people are down, New Orleans’ per-capita rate of homelessness is still very high, however. Using 2014 census data, the most recent available, New Orleans’ rate of homelessness – comparing its homeless population to its general population -- is 14 percent higher than it was in January 2005, prior to Katrina. This high per-capita rate is partly because the city’s general population post-Katrina is significantly lower than its pre-Katrina census population of 455,188.

• New Orleans’ per-capita rate of homelessness remains much higher than other comparably sized cities, and is higher than much larger cities like Chicago and Baltimore. **Clearly, much work remains to be done to reduce homelessness in New Orleans.**
• As a result of Mayor Landrieu’s campaign to end veteran homelessness, a “functional zero” in veteran homelessness was achieved on Jan. 2, 2015, by housing 227 homeless veterans on UNITY’s Master List. The January 26, 2015 Point in Time count shows that veteran homelessness on the streets and in emergency shelters has been reduced by 94 percent since 2011. Only 27 veterans were living on the streets or in emergency shelter in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish in January 2015, compared to 470 veterans in January 2011. Because veterans are at high risk of becoming homeless due to high rates of poverty and disability, there is not likely to be a night where there are literally zero homeless veterans. At any time, a veteran who is housed tonight may become homeless tomorrow due to loss of a job, mental or physical illness, substance use disorders, eviction, or other unfortunate circumstances. Instead, the national goal, which New Orleans was first to achieve, is to reach and maintain a “functional zero,” in which all homeless veterans who will accept housing are housed with appropriate case management services, and a Rapid Response System for Homeless Veterans is created and maintained so that all veterans who become homeless at any time in the future are housed within an average of 30 days. Since January 2, 2015, New Orleans has maintained the “functional zero” by housing 90 additional homeless veterans in an average of 24 days from the date they became or were discovered homeless.

• Over the course of an entire year, the number of homeless people is much higher than during the single night of the Point in Time count. UNITY’s Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), operated by partner agency VIALink, shows that 8,291 people who were living on the streets, abandoned buildings, emergency shelters or transitional housing programs of New Orleans were served by UNITY’s member agencies at some point in 2014. That is an undercount of the total number of people who were homeless during 2014 because the HMIS only records those people who were served by one of the HMIS-participating agencies.

• The number of homeless, formerly homeless and at risk persons served by the UNITY collaborative, as measured by the HMIS, in a given year is higher still. Many homeless people with serious disabilities are permanently housed by providing them with Permanent Supportive Housing, which means they are cared for longerterm by UNITY’s partner agencies, sometimes for the rest of their lives. The total number of homeless, formerly homeless and at-risk persons served by the UNITY collaborative in 2014 in both parishes, as recorded by the HMIS, was 23,831 unique persons, including 2505 children.
Homelessness is Down 85% Since Post-Katrina High of 2007

Annual One-Night Counts of Homeless People in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish

- 2005: 2,051
- 2007: 11,619
- 2009: 8,725
- 2011: 6,687
- 2012: 4,903
- 2013: 2,337
- 2014: 1,981
- 2015: 1,703

8/20/15
## New Orleans’ Per Capita Rate of Homelessness Worse Than Many Larger Cities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Rate of Homelessness*</th>
<th>2014 Population</th>
<th>Number of Homeless People</th>
<th>Poverty Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District of Columbia</td>
<td>117.6</td>
<td>658,893</td>
<td>7,748</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York City, NY</td>
<td>79.9</td>
<td>8,491,079</td>
<td>67,810</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco, CA</td>
<td>75.2</td>
<td>852,469</td>
<td>6,408</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Orleans, LA</strong></td>
<td><strong>46.9</strong></td>
<td><strong>384,320</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,804</strong></td>
<td><strong>27.3%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Louis City, MO</td>
<td>42.7</td>
<td>317,419</td>
<td>1,354</td>
<td>27.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore, MD</td>
<td>41.2</td>
<td>622,793</td>
<td>2,567</td>
<td>23.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit, MI</td>
<td>40.5</td>
<td>680,250</td>
<td>2,755</td>
<td>39.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia, PA</td>
<td>36.8</td>
<td>1,560,297</td>
<td>5,738</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nashville, TN</td>
<td>34.7</td>
<td>644,014</td>
<td>2,234</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>2,722,389</td>
<td>6,287</td>
<td>22.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albuquerque, NM</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>557,169</td>
<td>1,254</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indianapolis, IN</td>
<td>22.3</td>
<td>848,788</td>
<td>1,890</td>
<td>20.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Number of homeless people per 10,000 general population.
New Orleans-Jefferson Parish 2015 Homeless Point-in-Time Count

Number of Chronically Homeless

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Homeless</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>4,579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>4,087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2,422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>423</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Veteran Homelessness = 27 Persons

- Emergency Shelter
- Unsheltered

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Emergency Shelter</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New Orleans-Jefferson Parish 2015 Homeless Point-in-Time Count

2015 PIT Total Homeless
= 1,703 Persons

Emergency Shelter/Safe Haven 467
Transitional 447
Unsheltered 789

2014 vs. 2015 PIT

1981 1703
608 467
818 789
286 193
472 423

Total Population Emergency Shelter/SH Unsheltered Families Chronically Homeless

2014 2015

UNITY OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS
New Orleans-Jefferson Parish 2015 Homeless Point-in-Time Count

2014 vs. 2015 Unsheltered PIT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Street</td>
<td>517</td>
<td>587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abandoned Buildings</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2014 vs. 2015 Sheltered PIT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shelter</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Shelter/SH</td>
<td>608</td>
<td>467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitional</td>
<td>555</td>
<td>447</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New Orleans-Jefferson Parish 2015 Homeless Point-in-Time Count

2015 PIT Families = 193 Persons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number of Persons</th>
<th>Households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Shelter</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitional</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsheltered</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2015 PIT Unaccompanied Youth under age 18 = 13 Persons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Emergency Shelter</th>
<th>Transitional</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Shelter</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitional</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsheltered</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New Orleans-Jefferson Parish 2015 Homeless Point-in-Time Count

2015 PIT Persons in Households without Children
= 1,497 Persons

- Emergency Shelter/SH: 377
- Transitional: 337
- Unsheltered: 783

2015 PIT Chronically Homeless
= 423 Persons

- Individuals: 414
- Total Persons in Family Households: 9

Emergency Shelter/SH  Transitional  Unsheltered

Individuals  Total Persons in Family Households
New Orleans-Jefferson Parish 2015 Homeless Point-in-Time Count

2015 PIT Chronically Homeless
= 423 Persons

- Emergency Shelter: 108
- Street: 270
- Abandoned Building: 45

2015 PIT = 445 Adults with a Serious Mental Illness

- Emergency Shelter/SH: 92
- Transitional: 100
- Unsheltered: 253

UNITY OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS
New Orleans-Jefferson Parish 2015 Homeless Point-in-Time Count

2015 PIT Total Homeless by Parish
= 1,703 Persons

- Jefferson Parish
- Orleans Parish

1,603

100

Jefferson Parish
Orleans Parish
New Orleans-Jefferson Parish 2015 Homeless Point-in-Time Count

2015 PIT Orleans Parish Locations
= 1,603 Persons

- Emergency Shelter: 449
- Transitional: 399
- Unsheltered: 755

2015 PIT Jefferson Parish Locations
= 100 Persons

- Emergency: 18
- Transitional: 48
- Unsheltered: 34
New Orleans-Jefferson Parish 2015 Homeless Point-in-Time Count

2015 PIT Elderly = 36 Persons
Age 65 and Over

- Emergency Shelter: 17
- Transitional: 8
- Unsheltered: 11

2015 PIT Youth = 279 Persons
Age 18 to 25

- Emergency Shelter: 91
- Transitional: 57
- Unsheltered: 131
New Orleans-Jefferson Parish 2015 Homeless Point-in-Time Count

2015 PIT = 789 Persons
Unsheltered by Gender

- Female
- Male
- Transgender (male to female)
- Transgender (female to male)

2015 PIT = 914 Persons
Sheltered by Gender

- Emergency
- Transitional

2015 PIT = 789 Persons
Unsheltered by Gender

- Female: 167
- Male: 619
- Transgender (male to female): 3
- Transgender (female to male): 0

2015 PIT = 914 Persons
Sheltered by Gender

- Female: Emergency = 149, Transitional = 160
- Male: Emergency = 314, Transitional = 284
- Transgender (male to female): 1
- Transgender (female to male): 3
New Orleans-Jefferson Parish 2015 Homeless Point-in-Time Count

2015 PIT Females = 476 Persons

- Emergency Shelter: 149
- Transitional: 160
- Unsheltered: 167

2015 PIT = 10 Transgender Persons

- Transgender (Male to Female): 3
- Transgender (Female to Male): 3

Emergency Shelter | Transitional | Unsheltered
---|---|---
1 | 0 | 0
Five Factors Driving New Orleans’ High Per Capita Rate of Homelessness:

1. Crushingly high poverty rates yield tough choices that leave many people homeless: Ten years after Hurricane Katrina and the ensuing levee failures brought widespread devastation to New Orleans, the city is still haunted by a disturbingly high poverty rate. The poverty rate in New Orleans is 27%, essentially unchanged from pre-Katrina levels and nearly double the national figure of 16%\(^1\). Further, New Orleans ranks as second worst of any major American city for income inequality\(^2\). There is widespread agreement that “homelessness and poverty are inextricably linked”\(^3\). When people don’t have enough resources to cover their basic needs on a regular basis, homelessness can result. While national data show that 10 percent of people living in poverty become homeless for some period each year, that number is even higher – around 12 percent – in New Orleans.

2. A severe shortage of affordable housing provides few options for poor New Orleanians: Before Katrina, 58% of all apartments in New Orleans rented for less than $500 a month\(^4\). Now the fair-market rent for a one-bedroom is $767 and Fair Market Rent for a two-bedroom is $950\(^5\)- far out of reach of most low-wage workers. The federal government defines severe housing cost burden as a household paying more than 50% of its income on housing. Since Katrina, the share of severely cost burdened renters in New Orleans has spiked from 24% to 37%\(^6\). Similar pressures exist when it comes to homeownership: home prices in New Orleans have increased 46% since Katrina, according to a recently released study from the New Orleans Metropolitan Association of Realtors\(^7\). The inadequate supply of affordable housing in New Orleans, in combination with other factors like stagnant wages, make it difficult for many of the city’s residents to identify and maintain stable housing, thereby making them vulnerable to homelessness.

3. Stagnant wages are not keeping pace with housing costs, leaving low wage earners vulnerable to homelessness as they grapple with the disconnect: Louisiana has no state specific minimum wage, so the federal hourly minimum wage of $7.25 applies (except for tipped workers who make $2.13 and comprise a significant portion of New Orleans’ tourism dominated economy)\(^8\). Meanwhile, due to the imbalance between demand and supply for homes, a renter in New Orleans needs to make at least $15.43 an hour in order to afford the city’s fair market rent\(^9\). Coverage of the Katrina anniversary has highlighted New Orleans’ economic resurgence in the 10 years since the levee failures devastated the region, but such analyses also flag persistent stagnation in wages for low-income workers\(^10\). Low wages and high housing costs leave many New Orleanians having to confront a never-ending cycle that too often results in homelessness. Many homeless New Orleanians are employed yet earn too little to afford housing.

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Five Factors Driving New Orleans’ High Per Capita Rate of Homelessness, con’t:

4. Inadequate disability benefits pitch many people with disabilities into homelessness in post-Katrina New Orleans: In New Orleans since Katrina, a much higher proportion of homeless individuals also have disabilities when compared to national figures. People with disabilities who are unable to work can receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI); in Louisiana, that amounts to $733/month – less than the $767 fair market rent for a one-bedroom apartment.

5. The destruction of the extended family and neighborhood networks on which many vulnerable people once relied pitches many into homelessness: Prior to Katrina, a low-income person with a housing crisis often could count on an extensive network of extended family and neighbors to provide temporary housing. For most poor people, those networks are greatly weakened and may no longer exist at all. Many family members and neighbors died in the aftermath or in the ensuing stress of rebuilding or were scattered across the nation and not provided the means to return. Prior to Katrina, many individuals with disabilities relied on family and social networks, along with long-standing community and health care resources, to meet their needs. With those networks now obliterated, people with grave conditions often must fend for themselves and are pitched into homelessness. On the streets, their mental and physical health go downhill.

Source Information:

Recommendations

1. **The greater New Orleans community should continue to focus the majority of its public and private resources on cost-effective, proven solutions to homelessness: Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Rehousing.** Our local success in reducing homelessness by 85 percent in eight years, and reducing chronic homelessness of people with disabilities by 91 percent in six years, is directly due to the use of nationally proven evidence-based practices of Permanent Supportive Housing (long-term rental assistance, primarily used in partnership with private landlords, linked to case managers who visit clients in their apartments and provide the help they need to be stable tenants), and Rapid Rehousing (short term rental assistance linked to short term case management services for persons able to work and become self-sufficient).

2. **New Orleans greatly needs a Safe Haven, a small no-barrier shelter for people with mental illness living on the street, for the purpose of providing temporary housing for up to a month while their paperwork is being prepared for Permanent Supportive Housing.** Over the course of a year, a 20-bed Safe Haven would make possible the moving of over 200 unsheltered persons with mental illness into Permanent Supportive Housing. By eliminating the waste of time caused by having to search for the same person daily on the street to get them to appointments that are a prerequisite of Permanent Supportive Housing, a Safe Haven would speed the process of getting people housed and make it possible to house more people, thereby creating greater reductions in homelessness.

3. **The greater New Orleans community should come together to maintain a “functional zero” in veteran homelessness.** While there has been tremendous publicity about New Orleans’ tremendous accomplishment in becoming the first city to end veteran homelessness, there is little awareness of the fact that veteran homelessness does not stay “ended” without eternal vigilance and that the public’s involvement is needed. Since Jan. 2, 2015, when New Orleans officially reached a “functional zero” in veteran homelessness through a campaign led by Mayor Landrieu by housing all the homeless veterans on our Master List who could be found and would agree to be housed, the UNITY collaborative in partnership with the city and the VA has housed an additional 90 veterans newly pitched into homelessness because of their poverty and/or disability. The average length of time to house them from the day they became homeless was 24 days – well within our stated goal of 30 days. This ongoing initiative – called the Rapid Response System for Homeless Veterans – primarily relies on private donations and is not fully funded, thereby endangering our ongoing achievement.
4. The greater New Orleans community can and should end the tragedy of chronic homelessness (people with disabilities living on the street or emergency shelter for more than a year) before the federal goal of Dec. 31, 2017. The best hope for meeting this goal is if the community leverages federal housing resources by gathering private contributions of move-in kits (toiletries and gently used furnishings and household supplies necessary to make each apartment a home) and by strategic use of private and other local resources to pay for other short-term expenses like rent deposits, short-term stays in low-budget motels until the Safe Haven is developed, and salaries of additional outreach workers.

5. The community can and should achieve a functional zero in family and youth homelessness well before the federal deadline of 2020, by creating a Rapid Response System similar to what we have created for veterans, that will assure that no family with children and no unaccompanied young person remains homeless for longer than 30 days.

6. New Orleans should focus most of its attention on the unsheltered homeless population, who are living in the most dire homeless situations and who constitute 46 percent of the homeless population, and work to achieve a 75 percent reduction in unsheltered homelessness within the next 5 years primarily by using a combination of Rapid Rehousing, best-practice employment programs, and Permanent Supportive Housing.
UNITY Service Providers and Professionals Association:

Alternatives Living, LLC.  
Area Health Education Center Southeast LA 
Armstrong Family Services  
Baptist Friendship House  
Belle Reve  
Bridge House  
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans City of New Orleans Healthcare for the Homeless  
City of New Orleans Office of Community Dev. Common Ground Relief, Inc.  
Concerned Citizens for a Better Algiers  
Covenant House  
Depaul USA  
Easter Seals Louisiana, Inc.  
EXCELth  
Exodus House  
First Evangelist  
Goodwill Industries of Southeast Louisiana  
Grace At The Green Light  
Gulf Coast Teaching Family Services  
Harry Tompson Center  
Home Again  
Hope House  
House of Ruth  
Jefferson Parish Community Development  
Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority  
Jerusalem Economic Development  
Corporation Kingsley House  
Last Hope  
Lindy’s Place  
Loyola Law Clinic  
McCaleb Education Fund  
Metropolitan Center for Women & Children  
Metropolitan Human Services District  
NAMI New Orleans  
New Orleans Baptist Ministries, Inc.  
New Orleans Council on Aging  
New Orleans Family Justice Alliance  
New Orleans Public Schools- Homeless Education  
New Orleans Regional AIDS Planning Council  
New Orleans Women’s Shelter  
NO/AIDS Taskforce  
Odyssey House  
Ozananam Inn  
Pro-Bono Project  
Project Lazarus  
Resources for Human Development  
Responsibility House  
Salvation Army  
Shared Housing of New Orleans  
Single Stop at Delgado Community College  
Society of St. Vincent DePaul  
Southeast Louisiana Legal Services  
START Corporation  
The Policy and Research Group  
Total Community Action, Inc.  
Travelers Aid Society of GNO  
Tulane DropIn Center  
Tulane Law Clinic  
United Ministries  
VIA LINK  
Volunteers of America of Greater New Orleans  
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The mission of UNITY of Greater New Orleans is to coordinate community partnerships to prevent, reduce, and end homelessness.

web:  www.unitygno.org  phone:  (504) 821-4496  twitter:  @unitygno