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## Issue Brief –Homeless Coordinating Committee

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NUMBER EDHR-05-07

### **SUMMARY**

The Homeless Coordinating Committee channels state and federal funds to homeless and housing service providers state wide. Resources include funds from the Pamela Atkinson Homeless Trust Fund, General Fund appropriation, HUD's Emergency Shelter Program, and revenues generated by the Homeless Trust Fund Tax Write-in Campaign.

The State Homeless Coordinating Committee provides oversight and approves allocation of all funding identified. The Committee ensures that services provided to the homeless are utilized in a cost effective manner and works to facilitate a better understanding of the concept of homelessness. Programs that are funded emphasize; emergency housing and self sufficiency, placement in employment or occupational training activities, special services to meet unique needs of the homeless with mental illness and those who are in families with children. Contracts are awarded to providers based on need, diversity of geographic location, coordination with or enhancement of existing services, and the use of volunteers.

### **OBJECTIVE**

The purpose of this issue brief is to introduce the Homeless Coordinating Committees new proposal to end chronic homelessness over time.

### **DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

For individuals already in the system the Homeless Coordinating Committee is proposing a "Housing First" model. The goal of this model is to assist people exit homelessness by placing them in permanent supportive housing. The factors contributing to homelessness are then addressed once the homeless are housed. The model acknowledges in some cases life long support may be necessary. The model will maximize the use of existing resources including the Olene Walker Housing Loan Fund, Medicaid, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Social Security, Workforce Initiative Act, Food Stamps, housing subsidies, etc. They will utilize these resources to promote long-term self sufficiency.

Goals of the plan include: expanding the availability of affordable supporting housing, creating new affordable housing designated for the chronically homeless, developing units to function as safe havens, expand rental assistance, and increasing housing for homeless youth and youth transitioning out of foster care.

The plan is designed to ensure that households have access to a full range of resources and services designed to keep them housed. There will be an increased effort to coordinate these services across the state homeless delivery system.

Evaluation will be a key to success for this plan. The development of a database documenting the goals and measures of the program will be facilitated because efforts will be coordinated through the State Homeless Coordinating Committee. As part of the process the Committee has established five committees: Discharge Planning, Affordable Housing, Supportive Services, Information Systems, and Implementation Infrastructure. These committees will evaluate policies and procedures and recommend programmatic changes to increase the effectiveness of the system.