

Memorandum

To: Members & Partners of the FM Coalition to End Homelessness
From: Cody J. Schuler, Executive Director
Date: August 8, 2019
Re: Approved Statement on Ending Homelessness for Youth and Families

A key component of pursuing strategies to end homelessness in the Fargo-Moorhead Metro area is to identify particular populations where resources can be aligned and timelines established towards a goal of “functional zero” where systemically homelessness is rare, brief, and one-time. At the May 28, 2019 meeting of the general membership of the Coalition, a discussion was held about consideration of a focus population following the successes of previous emphasis on ending Veteran homelessness.

On July 18, 2019 the Board of Directors of the FM Coalition to End Homelessness approved a proposal to create a statement to be distributed to the members of the Coalition to End Homelessness designating a priority on ending homelessness for youth and families with children without distraction from efforts to end homelessness for other populations. The statement and key rationale was reviewed (with no action) at the July 23, 2019 meeting of the general membership of the Coalition. ***The statement was approved by vote of the membership of the FM Coalition via electronic ballot that closed August 7, 2019.***

Any timelines, strategies, and goals will be identified in the future as the Coalition approves strategies.

Ending Homelessness for Youth and Families with Children Statement

The Fargo-Moorhead Coalition to End Homelessness designates a priority for developing strategies for ending youth homelessness and homelessness among families with children in the Fargo-Moorhead Metro area. This priority includes aligning existing community resources and advocating for new resources. By emphasizing homelessness impacting youth and children, the FM Coalition aims to address root causes, break cycles of poverty, and end future instances of homelessness. While prioritizing youth and families with children, the FM Coalition pledges continued vigilance in seeking strategies and aligning resources for all populations experiencing homelessness, including chronic, veteran, and those fleeing domestic violence.

This designation stands until the FM Coalition states otherwise.

Key rationale for this designation:

- Addressing youth and child homelessness strategically addresses future chronic homelessness.
- Adult homelessness is often rooted in youth/child homelessness and childhood trauma.
- Ending homeless for youth/children is achievable in the near future for our community.
- Placing a priority on this population locally is in line with priorities set by Minnesota’s Action Plan and the US Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH).
- Improved services for these populations benefits all populations.
- Public awareness concerning these populations raises awareness about the wider issue of homelessness.
- Prioritizing these populations will not reduce urgency or efforts towards ending homelessness for other populations.