

# Project Homeward



*A Port in the Storm  
for those who are  
searching for home*

Huron / Tuscola County Ten-Year Plan  
to End Homelessness

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October 2006

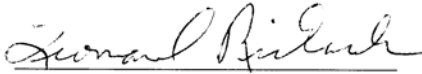
Greetings:


We, the key stakeholders of the *Huron/Tuscola County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness*, are pleased to present our vision of safe, affordable housing for every man, woman, and child in our agriculture-rich service area. We believe preventing homelessness is the first step toward ending homelessness. Keeping people housed stabilizes families and results in significant cost savings.


We, the key stakeholders, envision a future with permanent housing for all residents. This will be accomplished by embracing a Housing First methodology and by:

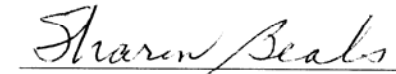
- Improving communications with the public and provider network.
- Increasing cooperation among all homeless assistance providers.
- Enhancing coordination of existing human and financial resources.
- Expanding collaboration on future housing initiatives.


We, the key stakeholders, do hereby endorse the *Huron/ Tuscola County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness*, and, subject to resource availability, we will take measures necessary for plan implementation.


  
Leonard Richards, Director  
Huron/Tuscola County Department of Human Services

  
Suzanne Prich, Director  
Huron Behavioral Health

  
Angela Hoff, Chairperson  
Thumb Area Continuum of Care

  
Sharon Beals, Director  
Tuscola Behavioral Health Systems

  
Marvin N. Pichla, Chairperson  
Huron County Community Collaborative

  
Carol Socha, Chairperson  
Tuscola County Community Collaborative

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Located in the “thumb” area of Michigan’s mitten-shaped lower peninsula, the counties of Huron and Tuscola span more than 1,600 square miles with small cities and villages scattered across an agriculture-rich landscape. With a combined population size exceeding 90,000, commonalities ranging from geographic size to household income to economic base contributed to the counties’ decision to plan together to end homelessness.

On any given day, 12 – 18 single adults and 10 – 15 families with children are homeless in Huron and Tuscola Counties. Some are fortunate to be housed in a temporary sheltering facility; many are less fortunate, living in cars, tents, and other places not meant for human habitation. Also, on any given day, 30 – 60 households are threatened with impending homelessness in the form of an eviction, a mortgage foreclosure, or being asked to leave the family home.

The counties of Huron and Tuscola are choosing to **PREVENT** the ravages of homelessness by “closing the front door” and stabilizing people in their existing housing. The counties are also choosing to **STOP** the destruction of homelessness by “opening the back door” and rapidly re-housing people. The counties believe the development of a planning process that embraces the Housing First methodology is the only viable approach to shift from managing homelessness to ending homelessness. The result of this effort is a unique 10-year plan, locally known as Project Homeward.

Project Homeward is created on the belief that no man, woman, or child should be forced to sleep on the streets, in a car, in the woods, in an abandoned building, in a shelter, or in any place not meant for human habitation. The project recognizes housing as a right, and ending homelessness as an achievable goal within the next ten years. The vision is safe, affordable, accessible housing for all residents, accompanied by income supports and services that lead to highest level of independence and self-sufficiency possible.

Project Homeward serves as a blueprint and a call to action for these two rural counties. The plan builds on existing data and resources, addressing gaps in services and offering solutions for safe, affordable housing. Keeping people housed and connecting them to essential resources helps to create a much needed housing safety net. Getting people into permanent, affordable housing increases their success in addressing those factors that contributed to the homeless episode...all of which leads to renewed hope for a more prosperous, productive future.

## INTRODUCTION

### Purpose

The counties of Huron and Tuscola are located in the “thumb” area of Michigan’s mitten-shaped lower peninsula. With a combined population size exceeding 90,000 residents, the counties span more than 1,600 square miles with small cities and villages scattered across an agriculture-rich landscape. Commonalities ranging from geographic size to household income to economic base contributed to the counties’ decision to plan together to end homelessness.

On any given day, 12 – 18 single adults and 10 – 15 families with children are homeless in Huron and Tuscola Counties. Some are fortunate to be housed in a temporary sheltering facility; many are less fortunate, living in cars, tents, and other places not meant for human habitation. Also, on any given day, 30 – 60 households are threatened with impending homelessness in the form of an eviction, a mortgage foreclosure, or being asked to leave the family home.

Homelessness (or the threat of homelessness) is an inclusive societal problem that affects men, women, and children of all ages, races, and incomes. Homelessness encroaches on those who are vulnerable like the elderly and the mentally ill. Homelessness re-victimizes both single adults and families with children with increased exposure to crime, disease, hunger, and lost opportunities for employment and education. And, most regrettable, homelessness diminishes all glimmers of hope for a prosperous, productive future.

The counties of Huron and Tuscola are choosing to **PREVENT** the ravages of homelessness by “closing the front door” and stabilizing people in their existing housing. Keeping people housed and connecting them to essential resources will help to create a much needed housing safety net. The counties are also choosing to **STOP** the destruction of homelessness by “opening the back door” and rapidly re-housing people. Getting people into permanent, affordable housing will increase success in addressing those factors that contributed to the homeless episode. Finally, the counties believe the development of a planning process that embraces the Housing First model is the only viable approach to shift from managing homelessness to ending homelessness.

### Key Stakeholders and Contributors

Key stakeholders for the *Huron/Tuscola County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness* are:

1. Leonard Richards, Director of Huron/Tuscola County Department of Human Services
2. Suzanne Prich, Director and CEO of Huron Behavioral Health
3. Sharon Beals, Director and CEO of Tuscola Behavioral Health Systems
4. Marvin N. Pichla, Chairperson of Huron County Community Collaborative
5. Carol Socha, Chairperson of Tuscola County Community Collaborative
6. Angela Hoff, Chairperson of Thumb Area Continuum of Care

The 10-Year Plan Coordinators are Kathie Harrison, Huron County Community Collaborative Prevention Coordinator, and Susan Andrus-Walker, Tuscola County Community Collaborative Prevention Coordinator. Assistance with plan development and submission is provided by Rebecca Hassler from the Human Development Commission. Other contributors to the 10-Year Plan are identified in the section entitled, Visioning Sessions.

**Process**

The development of the *Huron/Tuscola County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness* included both small and large group work, involvement of key stakeholders and other interested parties, and presentations to the highest elected officials in each county. Highlights from this process follow.

<b><u>Month/Year</u></b>	<b><u>Activity</u></b>
May 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Came to a decision to plan together and develop a <i>Huron/Tuscola County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness</i></li> <li>-Secured a fiduciary agent for the 10-year plan</li> <li>-Submitted a <i>Memorandum of Understanding</i> for the 10-year plan</li> </ul>
June 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Preliminary scheduling for 10-year plan development</li> <li>- Attended the 10-Year Advisory Board roundtable at the Michigan Affordable Housing Conference on June 5, 2006</li> <li>-Discussed 10-year plan process with several key stakeholders</li> <li>-Discussed 10-year plan undertaking with interested parties (e.g., Huron County Homeless Coalition; Thumb Area Continuum of Care)</li> <li>-Initiated national and state research on homelessness for 10-year plan</li> <li>-Submitted draft outline of 10-year plan on June 30, 2006</li> </ul>
July 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Continued discussions on 10-year plan process with key stakeholders and interested parties</li> <li>-Performed small group work on 10-year plan development</li> <li>-Continued national, state, and local research on homelessness for 10-year plan</li> <li>-Began outlining and drafting various sections of the 10-year plan</li> <li>-Facilitated large group work through visioning sessions on July 20, 2006 in Tuscola County and July 25, 2006 in Huron County; each session included key stakeholders, homeless assistance networks, other service providers, and formerly homeless persons</li> <li>-Received media coverage on 10-year plan as a result of the visioning sessions</li> </ul>
August 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Continued discussions on 10-year plan process with key stakeholders and interested parties</li> <li>-Performed small group work on 10-year plan development</li> <li>-Continued drafting various plan sections of the 10-year plan</li> </ul>

- August 2006  
(continued)
- Developed and distributed a Homeless Assistance Questionnaire to the homeless assistance network
  - Electronically submitted a draft of the 10-year plan on August 30, 2006
- September 2006
- Continued discussions on 10-year plan process with key stakeholders and interested parties
  - Performed small group work on 10-year plan development
  - Continued working on various plan sections of the 10-year plan that required additional research/work
  - Began tallying results from the Homeless Assistance Questionnaire
  - Presented 10-year plan to each county's Board of Commissioners
  - Obtained a resolution supporting the 10-year plan from each county's Board of Commissioners
- October 2006
- Received feedback on the draft of the *Huron/Tuscola County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness* on October 2, 2006
  - Developed PowerPoint presentation for the 10-year plan
  - Presented the *Huron/Tuscola County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness* as a final product to the key stakeholders on October 12, 2006 using PowerPoint presentation
  - Electronically submitted the *Huron/Tuscola County 10-Yer Plan to End Homelessness* by October 16, 2006
  - Will attend and participate in the First Annual Michigan Homeless Summit on October 24 and 25, 2006

## WELCOME TO HURON COUNTY



Located at the northern tip of Michigan’s “thumb”, Huron County is a rural farming community spanning 837 square miles. The county is surrounded by Lake Huron on three sides, providing over 90 shoreline miles of parks and beaches with three major harbors in Caseville, Port Austin and Harbor Beach.

Major rivers running through Huron County include the Pinnebog River, New River, and Willow Creek. Major Michigan highways traversing the county include M-25, encircling most of the county, M-53 bisecting the county north to south, M-142 which largely bisects the county from west to east, and M-19 in the southern portion of the county. No major expressways are located in Huron County, the nearest interstate being I-75, more than 30 miles to the east, and I-69, over 50 miles to the south. I-75 allows access to the cities of Saginaw and Midland and the major markets of Detroit and Toledo, Ohio while I-69 creates access to the cities of Lapeer and Flint and the major market of Lansing.

Huron County is served by the Huron Transit bus line, three truck lines, and two railways – the Chesapeake & Ohio and the Huron & Eastern. County airports include Huron County Memorial Airport and Sebewaing Township Airport, both serving small to medium planes only. The nearest major airport for national and international flights requires a trip to Tri-Cities International Airport, over 40 miles and two counties away.

Nearly 82% of Huron County’s land use is devoted to agriculture, representing 24.2% of the 2000 property tax base. The county is the top producer of dry beans and corn among Michigan’s 83 counties and ranks second in the production of sugar beets and dairy products. In addition, the county provides most of the world’s supply of navy beans. Other agricultural products include cattle, poultry, hogs, hay, wheat, oats, and barley. Local manufacturing consists of metal, plastic, and glass products, accounting for 8.6% of the 2000 property tax base (industrial sector). With 92.5 miles of Lake Huron’s scenic shoreline, containing more shoreline parks than any other county in the state, recreation and tourism are important contributors to the county’s economic base.

### **County Structure**

A seven-member Board of Commissioners governs Huron County, meeting twice a month (or more as deemed necessary by the Board Chair and as set by the commission). The Board of Commissioners is the highest elected governing board and policy-making body of county government. Many of its powers, duties, and responsibilities are outlined by law and delegated to others through the widespread use of commissions, boards, committees, and independently elected county officials. The Board is charged with developing and approving county policy and setting the county budget. Meetings are held in the centrally-located City of Bad Axe, the county seat, which is home to 9.6% of the county’s population.

Huron County is divided into seven districts, and each district is served by its own elected commissioner as listed in Figure One on the following page.

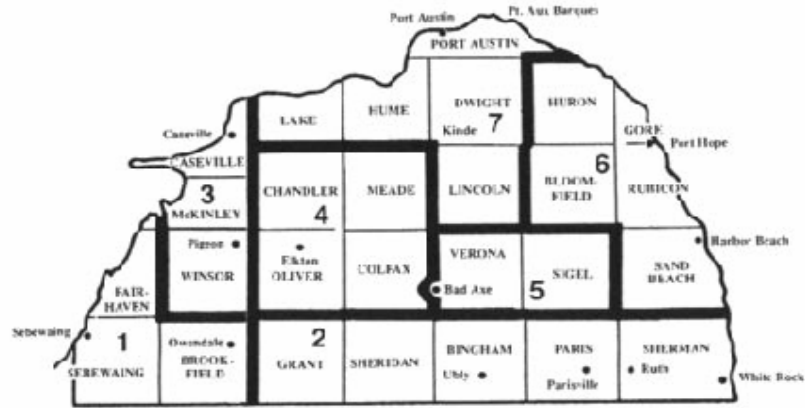


Figure One: Huron County’s 27 Townships and seven districts

- District No. 1 - Dale Koehler  
Brookfield, Fairhaven, and Sebewaing Townships
- District No. 2 – David Peruski  
Bingham, Grant, Paris, Sheridan, and Sherman Townships
- District No. 3 – Clark Elftman  
Caseville, McKinley, and Winsor Townships
- District No. 4 - Robert Haldane  
Chandler, Colfax, Meade, and Oliver Townships
- District No. 5 – James Leonard  
City of Bad Axe; Sigel and Verona Townships
- District No. 6 - Ronald Wruble  
City of Harbor Beach; Bloomfield, Gore, Huron, Rubicon, and Sand Beach Townships
- District No. 7 - Michael L. Gage  
Dwight, Hume, Lake, Lincoln, Pte. Aux Barques, and Port Austin Townships

Administrative departments such as Animal Control, Building and Zoning, Economic Development, Emergency Management, Road Commission, and Sheriff Department assist with the governance of Huron County.

On September 26, 2006, the Huron County Board of Commissioners issued a resolution in support of the *Huron/Tuscola County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness*. A copy of this resolution is provided as Attachment A.

**Census and Demographics**

A 2004 population estimate places Huron County’s population at 34,948, which represents a 3.13% decrease from its 2000 U.S. Census population size of 36,079. At the time of the most recent census, the county’s population was 50.5% female and 49.5% male, with a median age of 41.2 years. The racial composition of the county was

homogeneous with 98% of residents reporting their race as Caucasian; the remaining 2% of the population was rather evenly distributed among African American, American Indian, Asian and other races. Persons reporting their ethnicity as Hispanic represented 1.6% of the total population. Among persons age 25 and over, 78.3% were high school graduates or higher with 10.9% earning a postsecondary degree (bachelor or higher). The county's elderly citizens, age 65 and over, comprised 19.4% of the total population.

At the time of the most recent census, there were 14,597 households in Huron County of which 10,141 were family households and 4,456 were non-family households. The county's median household income of \$35,315 was significantly less than both the national and state averages of \$41,994 and \$44,667 respectively. In 2002, the county's per capita personal income was \$26,028, or 84% of the national per capita personal income of \$30,810.

### **Utilities and Infrastructure**

Residents and businesses in Huron County receive their electric supply from Detroit Edison (a subsidiary of DTE Energy) and Thumb Electric Cooperative. Natural gas is provided by Consumers Energy. Landline telephone service is available through local telephone companies of SBC and GTE, with long distance services provided by many companies including AT&T, MCI, Sprint, and others. Cable television is available in parts of the county from Comcast Cablevision, and satellite television is provided by national companies like DirectTV and DishNetwork. Internet services are available from various suppliers, some of which are local, that provide the county with web hosting and access to the World Wide Web.

Although larger cities like Bad Axe and Harbor Beach have a municipal water supply, rural drinking water is often obtained by private wells. There are known water problems in many areas of the county as a result of agricultural runoff, dropping water levels, arsenic, barium, and iron. Municipalities throughout the county are working diligently to address the need for safe drinking water and sanitary wastewater disposal.

### **Housing**

Knowing the type and age of existing housing stock as well as occupancy/vacancy rates help to determine the housing and housing-related (e.g., energy efficiency) needs within a community. The 2000 U.S. Census reported a total of 20,430 housing units in Huron County of which 82.9% were single-family dwellings, 2.3% were two-to-four unit structures, 1.9% were five-to-nine unit structures, and 2.4% were structures containing ten or more units. Mobile homes accounted for 10.0% of county residences.

The City of Bad Axe was the only minor civil division in the county with a population greater than 3,000. In Bad Axe, single-family dwellings made up 71.5% of available housing, 6.4% were two-to-four unit structures, 6.9% were five-to-nine unit structures, and 12.7% were structures containing ten or more units. Mobile homes comprised 2.5% of the city's housing stock.

At the time of the most recent census, Huron County had a relatively large number of older housing stock with approximately half (51.0%) of the county’s housing structures constructed between 1940 and 1979. In addition, nearly 25% of the county’s homes were built before 1940. In the City of Bad Axe, 47.9% of the housing stock was constructed between 1940 and 1979 with nearly one-third of the city’s homes built before 1940.

The 2000 decennial census also indicated 83.4% of Huron County’s housing stock was owner-occupied. In the City of Bad Axe, the rate of owner-occupied housing was 68.2%. Of all the county’s vacant homes, 81.8% were for seasonal or recreational use, 5.8% were for sale, and 3.3 % were for rent. Of all the vacant homes in the City of Bad Axe, 11% were for seasonal use, 17.3% were for sale, and 33.9 % were for rent. Huron County’s homeowner vacancy rate was 2.7% while the City of Bad Axe had a vacancy rate of 2.2%. (At the time of the most recent census, the national vacancy rate was 1.7%. Vacancy rates of less than 1.7% generally indicate a small housing supply within an area.)

Looking at differing housing values in a community can help determine the extent of diversity among housing choices. Housing values at differing levels help to ensure that residents from all economic conditions have opportunities for homeownership. In 2000, Huron County had 70.5% of its housing stock valued at under \$100,000 with 92.8% valued at \$200,000 or less. The City of Bad Axe had 86.0% of its housing stock valued at under \$100,000 with 98.5% valued at \$200,000 or less.

Both Huron County and the City of Bad Axe have median housing values below the statewide average of \$115,600 with the county’s median housing value at \$78,000 and the city’s at \$70,800. Likewise, both Huron County and City of Bad Axe have median rental values below the statewide average of \$546 per month with the county’s median gross rent at \$383 per month and the city’s at \$333 per month.

**Tables**

The information presented in the Housing section is being provided in table format for use as a “quick reference” to current and future readers of the *Huron/Tuscola County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness*. This information will also be of value for inclusion in future grant applications and is readily available using a “copy and paste” application.

**Table One**  
**Housing Structures in a Minor Civil Division (with populations >3,000)**

<b>Place</b>	<b>1-Unit</b>	<b>2-4 Units</b>	<b>5-9 Units</b>	<b>10+ Units</b>	<b>Mobiles</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>City of Bad Axe</b>	1,106 (71.5%)	98 (6.4%)	107 (6.9%)	196 (12.7%)	39 (2.5%)	1,546
<b>Huron County</b>	16,928 (82.9%)	475 (2.3%)	385 (1.9%)	477 (2.4%)	2,047 (10.0%)	20,430

Source: 2000 U. S. Census

**Table Two**  
**Structural Age for Huron a Minor Civil Division (with populations >3,000)**

Place	Year Built 1980-2000 (%)	Year Built 1940-1979 (%)	Year Built 1939 or Earlier (%)
City of Bad Axe	19.3%	47.9%	32.9%
Huron County	24.4%	51.2%	24.5%

Source: 2000 U. S. Census

**Table Three**  
**Housing Occupancy in a Minor Civil Division (with populations >3,000)**

Place	Owner Occupied	Renter Occupied	Vacant Seasonal	Vacant Other
City of Bad Axe	967 (68.2%)	451 (31.8%)	14 (11.0%)	36 (28.3%)
Huron County	12,174 (83.4%)	2,423 (16.6%)	4,770 (81.8%)	411 (7.0%)

Source: 2000 U. S. Census

**Table Four**  
**Housing Value Distribution for a Minor Civil Division (with populations >3,000)**

Place	<\$50,000	\$50,000- \$99,999	\$100,000- \$149,000	\$150,000- \$199,999	>\$200,000	Median Value
City of Bad Axe	220 (24.1%)	564 (61.9%)	89 (9.8%)	25 (2.7%)	13 (1.4%)	\$70,800
Huron County	1,739 (19.8%)	4,468 (50.7%)	1,362 (15.5%)	602 (6.8%)	634 (7.6%)	\$78,000

Source: 2000 U. S. Census

**Table Five**  
**Rental Value Distribution for a Minor Civil Division (with populations >3,000)**

Place	<\$300	\$300-\$499	\$500-\$749	>\$750	No Cash Rent	Median Rent
City of Bad Axe	167 (36.6%)	196 (43.0%)	63 (13.8%)	17 (3.7%)	13 (2.9%)	\$333
Huron County	543 (24.5%)	950 (42.7%)	384 (17.3%)	72 (3.3%)	275 (12.4%)	\$383

Source: 2000 U. S. Census

## WELCOME TO TUSCOLA COUNTY



With Saginaw Bay at its northwestern border, Tuscola County is an agricultural community with many small villages and one small city scattered across 813 square miles. The county has remained largely rural, with “family farm” agriculture and small communities dotting the landscape. The county is located on the western border of Michigan’s “thumb area” and features 20 miles of lakefront along Saginaw Bay.

Tuscola County is equidistant to major metropolitan centers in Flint, Saginaw, and Bay City, and residents have excellent access to these areas for employment, education, medical, and leisure activities. The I-75 expressway (10 miles to the west) and several major highways (M-15, M-24, M-46, M-81, and M-53) also provide access to the major markets of Detroit and Toledo, Ohio. The county is served by five truck lines, three rail lines, and an airport serving medium to small planes. Trips requiring a larger airplane will necessitate flying out of MBS International Airport in Bay City or Bishop International Airport in Flint, both of which are 20-30 miles. There are no metropolitan areas in the county, and major markets within 150 miles include Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Lansing.

Approximately 66% of the county’s land use is devoted to agriculture which represents 22.3% of the 2000 property tax base. Tuscola County ranks number one in the state for the output of sugar beets. Other major agricultural products include potatoes, dairy products, poultry, barley, corn, oats, rye, wheat, and cattle. Manufacturing includes automotive and small engine components, iron moldings, metal stamping, injection molding, welding supplies, carbide cutting products, ethanol, and many other products, accounting for 6.4% of the 2000 property tax base (industrial sector).

### County Structure

Tuscola County is divided into 23 townships, and with the addition of one small city and 10 villages, the county reflects 34 units of local government (see Figure One below).

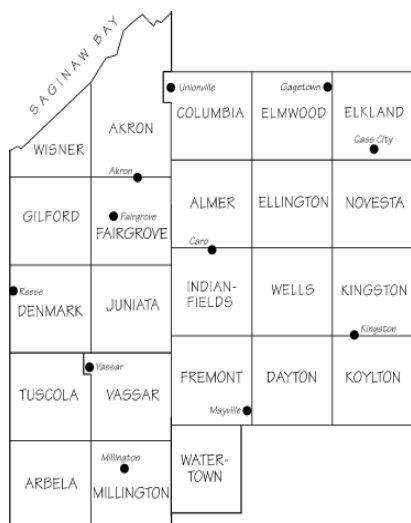


Figure One: Tuscola County  
Minor Civil Divisions

Divided into five districts, the county is governed by an elected, policy-making Board of Commissioners. As the county's highest elected officials, many of the Board of Commissioners' powers, duties, and responsibilities are outlined by law and delegated to others through the widespread use of commissions, boards, committees, and independently elected county officials. The Board is charged with developing and approving county policy and setting the county budget. Current commissioners include Thomas Bardwell, Donald McLane, David Milligan, Chairman Gerald Peterson, and Roy Petzold. County governance is also assisted by various administrative departments such as Building and Zoning, Drain Commission, Equalization, Planning Commission, Road Commission, and Sheriff Department.

On September 12, 2006, the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners issued a resolution in support of the *Huron/Tuscola County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness*. A copy of this resolution is provided as Attachment B.

### **Census and Demographics**

A 2004 population estimate places Tuscola County's population at 58,646, which represents an increase of 0.65% from the 2000 U.S. Census population size of 58,266. At the time of the most recent census, the county's population was 50.1% female to 49.9% male, with a median age of 37.0 years. The racial composition of the county was homogeneous with 96% of residents reporting their race as Caucasian; the remaining 4% of the population was comprised of 1.6% African American and 2.4% other races. Persons reporting their ethnicity as Hispanic represented 2.3% of the total population. Among persons age 25 and over, more than 81% percent of county residents had completed high school and 10.6% had earned an undergraduate (bachelor) degree or higher. The county's elderly citizens, age 65 and over, represented 12.8% of the total population.

There were 21,454 households in Tuscola County at the time of the most recent census, of which 15,981 were family households and 5,473 were non-family households. The county's median household income of \$40,174 was significantly less than the state average of \$44,667 and somewhat lower than the national average of \$41,994. In 2002, the per capita personal income in Tuscola County was \$21,492, or 70% of the national per capita income of \$30,810.

### **Utilities and Infrastructure**

Residents and businesses in Tuscola County receive their electrical supply from Detroit Edison and Thumb Electric Cooperative. Natural gas is provided to most of the county through Consumers Energy Company. In some areas (specifically Cass City), Southeast Michigan Gas Company addresses the local natural gas needs. Landline telephone service is available through CenturyTel, GTE, Wolverine, and Ameritech with long distance services provided by many companies including AT&T, MCI, Sprint, and others. Cable television is available in parts of the county from Comcast Cablevision, and satellite television is provided by national companies like DirectTV and DishNetwork.

Internet services are available from various suppliers, some of which are local, that provide the county with web hosting and access to the World Wide Web. In addition, broadband (cable) Internet service is available in the county through Charter Communications.

Although larger villages and cities like the Village of Caro and City of Vassar have a municipal water supply or import drinking water from other cities, most rural drinking water is provided through private individual wells. There are known problems in some county areas with agricultural runoff and arsenic and barium contamination. This problem, however, is less evident in Tuscola County than other “thumb” area counties.

### **Housing**

Knowing the type and age of existing housing stock as well as occupancy/vacancy rates help to determine the housing and housing-related (e.g., energy efficiency) needs within a community. The 2000 U.S. Census reported a total of 23,378 housing units in Tuscola County, of which 79.9% were single-family dwellings, 3.6% were two-to-four unit structures, 1.9% were five-to-nine unit structures, and 1.3% were structures containing ten or more units. Mobile homes accounted for 13.3% of county residences.

In Tuscola County, there are nine minor civil divisions with populations greater than 3,000, which include the eight townships of Almer, Arbela, Denmark, Elkland, Fremont, Indianfields, Millington, and Vassar and the Village of Caro. Among these minor civil divisions, the largest number of single-family units was found in Millington Township (88.8%) and the smallest in Vassar Township (62.2%).

According to the most recent census, Tuscola County has a relatively large number of older housing stock with more than half (51.8%) of the county’s housing structures constructed between 1940 and 1979. In addition, one of every four homes was built before 1940. Within the nine minor civil divisions, the Village of Caro had the largest number of structures built before 1940 (35.7%) while Vassar Township has had the largest number of new home construction since 1990 (23.3%).

The 2000 decennial census also indicated more than 75% of Tuscola County’s housing stock was owner-occupied. Within the nine minor civil divisions with populations greater than 3,000, the highest rate of owner-occupied housing was in Arbela Township (89.1%) and the lowest rate was in the Village of Caro (58.0%). Of vacant housing units in Tuscola County, 3.1% were for seasonal or recreational use. The highest seasonal housing rate within the nine minor civil divisions was in Millington Township (2.7%). Tuscola County’s homeowner vacancy rate was 1.6%; among the nine minor civil divisions, the Village of Caro had the highest vacancy rate (2.5 %) and Arbela Township had the lowest vacancy rate (0.8%). (At the time of the most recent census, the national vacancy rate was 1.7%. Vacancy rates of less than 1.7% generally indicate a small housing supply within an area.)

Looking at differing housing values in a community can help determine the extent of diversity among housing choices. Housing values at differing levels help to ensure that residents from all economic conditions have opportunities for homeownership. In 2000, Tuscola County had 64.0% of its housing stock valued at under \$100,000 with 97.1% valued at \$200,000 or less. Overall, Tuscola County had a significantly smaller median housing value (\$87,100) than the statewide average of \$115,600. For the nine minor civil divisions, the highest median housing value was in Denmark Township (\$104,600) and the lowest median housing value was in Indianfields Township (\$81,700); both were less than the statewide average.

The median gross rent in Tuscola County was \$455 per month, which was nearly \$100 less than the statewide average of \$546 per month. All of the nine minor civil divisions had median gross rents that were less than the statewide average. Vassar Township had the highest median gross rent of \$467, and the Village of Caro had the lowest median gross rent of \$381.

### **Tables**

The information presented in the Housing section is being provided in table format for use as a “quick reference” to current and future readers of the *Huron/Tuscola County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness*. This information will also be of value for inclusion in future grant applications and is readily available using a “copy and paste” application.

**Table One**  
**Housing Structures in Minor Civil Divisions (with populations >3,000)**

<b>Place</b>	<b>1-Unit</b>	<b>2-4 Unit</b>	<b>5-9 Unit</b>	<b>10+ Unit</b>	<b>Mobiles</b>	<b>Total</b>
Caro	1,327 (70.4%)	205 (10.8%)	127 (6.7%)	174 (9.2%)	54 (2.9%)	1,887
Almer	864 (75.9%)	36 (3.3%)	89 (7.8%)	19 (1.7%)	130 (11.4%)	1,138
Arbela	994 (84.9%)	11 (0.9%)	4 (0.3%)	0 (0.0%)	159 (13.6%)	1,168
Denmark	995 (74.7%)	41 (3.1%)	53 (4.0%)	14 (1.1%)	229 (17.2%)	1,332
Elkland	1,234 (79.0%)	139 (8.9%)	51 (3.3%)	22 (1.4%)	116 (7.4%)	1,562
Fremont	1,030 (76.4%)	58 (4.3%)	34 (2.5%)	4 (0.3%)	222 (16.5%)	1,348
Indianfields	1,934 (71.1%)	201 (7.4%)	59 (2.2%)	159 (5.8%)	369 (13.6%)	2,722
Millington	1,528 (88.8%)	70 (4.1%)	55 (3.2%)	4 (0.2%)	63 (3.7%)	1,720
Vassar (township)	987 (62.2%)	28 (1.8%)	0 (0.0%)	10 (0.6%)	561 (35.4%)	1,586
<b>Tuscola County</b>	18,668 (79.9%)	839 (3.6%)	446 (1.9%)	313 (1.3%)	3,112 (13.3%)	23,378

Source: 2000 U.S. Census

**Table Two**  
**Structural Age in Minor Civil Division (with populations >3,000)**

Place	Year Built 1980-2000 (%)	Year Built 1940-1979 (%)	Year Built 1939 or Earlier (%)
Caro	12.1%	52.2%	35.7%
Almer	30.8%	53.2%	16.0%
Arbela	21.8%	61.9%	16.3%
Denmark	20.7%	55.9%	23.4%
Elkland	22.3%	50.4%	27.3%
Fremont	31.1%	42.4%	26.5%
Indianfields	17.5%	55.5%	27.0%
Millington	19.2%	59.3%	21.5%
Vassar (township)	42.1%	51.5%	6.4%
<b>Tuscola County</b>	30.8%	51.85	25.0%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census

**Table Three**  
**Housing Occupancy in Minor Civil Divisions (with populations >3,000).**

Place	Owner Occupied	Renter Occupied	Vacant Seasonal	Vacant Other
Caro	1,101 (58.0%)	637 (33.5%)	16 (0.8%)	145 (7.6%)
Almer	887 (74.1%)	225 (18.8%)	9 (0.8%)	76 (6.3%)
Arbela	1,041 (89.1%)	93 (8.0%)	3 (0.3%)	32 (2.7%)
Denmark	1,085 (81.8%)	180 (13.6%)	6 (0.5%)	56 (4.2%)
Elkland	1,183 (75.8%)	296 (19.0%)	17 (1.1%)	65 (4.2%)
Fremont	1,061 (79.7%)	205 (15.4%)	11 (0.8%)	55 (4.1%)
Indianfields	1,833 (67.7%)	672 (24.8%)	25 (0.9%)	177 (6.5%)
Millington	1,376 (80.3%)	233 (13.6%)	46 (2.7%)	58 (3.4%)
Vassar (township)	1,367 (84.5%)	165 (10.2%)	15 (0.9%)	70 (4.3%)
<b>Tuscola County</b>	18,037 (77.2%)	3,417 (14.6%)	724 (3.1%)	1,200 (5.1%)

Source: 2000 U.S. Census

**Table Four**  
**Housing Value Distribution in Minor Civil Divisions (with populations >3,000).**

Place	<\$50,000	\$50,000- \$99,999	\$ 100,000- \$149,000	\$150,000- \$199,999	>\$200,000	Median Value
Caro	139 (14.2%)	518 (53.1%)	244 (25.0%)	22 (2.3%)	53 (5.4%)	\$69,000
Almer	65 (9.5%)	297 (43.4%)	237 (34.6%)	26 (3.8%)	59 (8.7%)	\$96,100
Arbela	56 (8.8%)	299 (47.0%)	218 (34.3%)	51 (8.0%)	12 (1.9%)	\$95,900
Denmark	36 (4.9%)	305 (41.3%)	259 (35.1%)	103 (14.0%)	35 (4.7%)	\$104,600
Elkland	129 (13.9%)	468 (50.4%)	235 (25.3%)	80 (8.6%)	16 (1.7%)	\$86,800

Place	<\$50,000	\$50,000- \$99,999	\$ 100,000- \$149,000	\$150,000- \$199,999	>\$200,000	Median Value
Fremont	61 (11.5%)	270 (50.9%)	158 (29.8%)	39 (7.4%)	2 (0.4%)	\$88,300
Indianfields	186 (14.0%)	720 (54.2%)	299 (22.5%)	88 (6.6%)	36 (2.7%)	\$81,700
Millington	56 (5.4%)	515 (49.7%)	331 (31.9%)	86 (8.3%)	49 (4.7%)	\$96,700
Vassar (township)	56 (8.7%)	386 (60.1%)	189 (29.4%)	11 (1.7%)	0 (0.0%)	\$89,600
<b>Tuscola County</b>	1,517 (13.0%)	5,935 (51.0%)	3,077 (26.5%)	764 (6.6%)	334 (2.9%)	\$87,100

Source: 2000 U.S. Census

**Table Five**  
**Rental Value Distribution in Minor Civil Divisions\ (with populations >3,000)**

Place	<\$300	\$300-\$499	\$500-\$749	>\$750	No Cash Rent	Median Rent
Caro	181 (28.5%)	315 (49.5%)	124 (19.5%)	0 (0.0%)	16 (2.5%)	\$381
Almer	52 (23.7%)	86 (39.3%)	59 (26.9%)	13 (5.9%)	9 (4.1%)	\$453
Arbela	8 (10.1%)	23 (29.1%)	15 (19.0%)	4 (5.1%)	29 (36.7%)	\$393
Denmark	27 (18.0%)	72 (48.0%)	32 (21.3%)	5 (3.3%)	14 (9.3%)	\$453
Elkland	23 (8.0%)	186 (64.6%)	49 (17.0%)	12 (4.2%)	18 (6.3%)	\$423
Fremont	11 (6.0%)	100 (54.9%)	33 (18.1%)	8 (4.4%)	30 (16.5%)	\$445
Indianfields	129 (19.9%)	321 (49.5%)	158 (24.4%)	8 (1.2%)	32 (4.9%)	\$421
Millington	41 (19.1%)	115 (53.7%)	33 (15.4%)	5 (2.3%)	20 (9.3%)	\$397
Vassar	9 (6.8%)	76 (57.1%)	40 (30.1%)	0 (0.0%)	8 (6.0%)	\$467
<b>Tuscola County</b>	412 (13.1%)	1,480 (46.9%)	804 (25.5%)	97 (3.1%)	363 (11.5%)	\$445

Source: 2000 U.S. Census

## **IMAGE OF HOMELESSNESS**

### **National/State Data**

#### **State of Housing in the Nation**

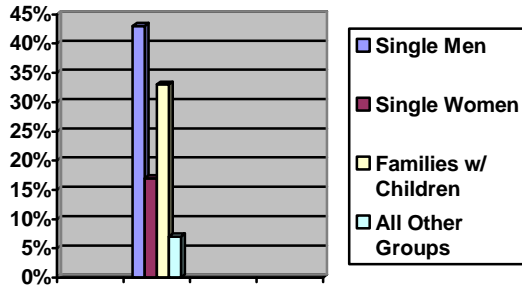
Although the housing boom of the past few years has continued due to solid job and household growth, overall growth has begun to slow. Moderate growth is projected to continue, but dual factors of an economy that generates mostly low-wage jobs, combined with rising housing costs, create an affordability gap that has the potential to become a housing crisis. Affordability has been eroding for some time with median home prices exceeding median household income in many urban centers by a factor of four or more<sup>i</sup>, and affordability problems are worsening. Housing prices continue to increase due to factors like land use restrictions (e.g., larger, minimum lot size requirements) and per-unit fees that discourage the construction of affordable housing. Rental units also continue to disappear at an alarming rate. From 1999-2001<sup>ii</sup>, the number of rental units available for persons with incomes below 50% of the area median income fell by four percent. From 2001-2004, the number of households paying more than half of their income for housing increased by 1.9 million, bringing the total number of “cost burdened” households in the United States to 15.6 million. Statistics on poor working families reveal nearly one in two are severely cost burdened. With the majority of household income directed toward housing costs, low- and moderate-income families have little money available for other basic needs such as food, clothing, and health care.

#### **Homeless in America**

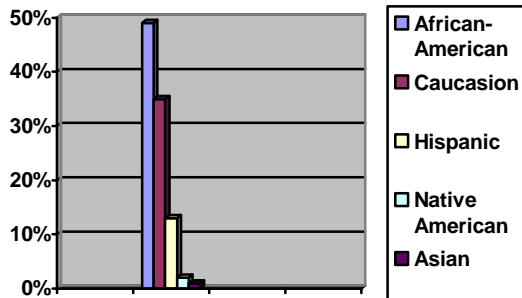
The Stewart B. McKinney Act states a person is considered homeless who “lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence; and...has a primary night time residence that is: (A) a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations... (B) an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or (C) a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.” Other federal agencies, like the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), interpret the Act’s definition to include “only those persons who are on the streets or in shelters and persons who face imminent eviction (within a week) from a private dwelling or institution and who have no subsequent residence or resources to obtain housing.” While the HUD interpretation illustrates conditions in metropolitan areas where hundreds, even thousands, of homeless persons are concentrated and highly visible, this interpretation is challenging for rural communities. With far fewer, if any, sheltering facilities in rural communities, homeless persons are more likely to be doubled up (staying with relatives or friends), living in substandard housing, or living in other places not meant for human habitation like cars and tents. Families, single mothers, and children represent the largest group of homeless persons in rural communities.<sup>iii</sup>

Homelessness is impossible to measure with 100% accuracy. Differences in research methodologies such as homeless definitions, time frames, and even financial constraints

require cautiousness when estimating the number of people experiencing homelessness. According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, "...the best approximation is from a study done by the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty which states that approximately 3.5 million people, 1.35 million of them children [39%], are likely to experience homelessness in a given year."<sup>iv</sup> This same study found 42% of homeless children were under age five. A survey by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, 2005 found that the homeless population consisted of 43% single men, 17% single women, 33%, families with children, and 7% all other groups.



The previous year's survey by the U.S. Conference of Mayors identified the ethnicity of the homeless population as 49% African-American, 35% Caucasian, 13% Hispanic, 2% Native American, and 1% Asian. It is important, however, to remember that the ethnic composition of the homeless will vary by geographic location. For example, there is a higher probability that homeless persons in rural areas will be Caucasian.

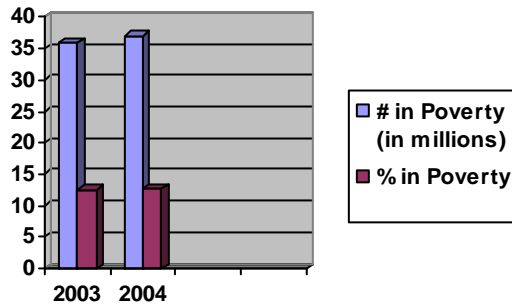


In contrast, studies comparing urban and rural homelessness suggest homeless persons in rural communities are more likely to be Caucasian, female, married, working, and experiencing homelessness for the first time<sup>v</sup>.

### **Causes of Homelessness**

The National Coalition for the Homeless reports there are two interconnected trends responsible for rising homelessness, specifically a shortage of affordable rental housing and an increase in poverty.<sup>vi</sup> Persons living in poverty are often faced with difficult decisions on where to direct their limited resources – childcare, food, health care, housing, and transportation are the most common basic necessities. Of these basic necessities, housing is usually the most costly and the first victim when personal finances

cannot cover expenses. The U.S. Census Bureau reports 37 million people, 12.7% of the U.S. population, lived in poverty in 2004, up 0.2% from 2003 or 1.1 million people.



The two factors that are most often credited for increased rates of poverty are lack of employment opportunities and declining public assistance.

### **Cost of Homelessness**

One of the most common myths surrounding homelessness is that housing homeless people in shelters is an inexpensive way of meeting basic needs. A National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) fact sheet, *The Cost of Homelessness*, reports that “the cost of an emergency shelter bed funded by HUD's Emergency Shelter Grants program is approximately \$8,067, more than the average annual cost of a federal housing subsidy (Section 8 Housing Certificate)”. The American Planning Association’s (APA) Policy Guide to Homelessness states “...emergency shelter is the least effective approach to solving the need for long-term housing.” APA also reports the average annual cost of sheltering single adults is 2.5-3.0 times higher than an annual rent subsidy. For families with children, the average annual cost is 4.0-6.5 times greater than an annual rent subsidy.

Because they lack a permanent place to stay, people who are homeless use public service systems such as emergency rooms, residential treatment programs, and jails inappropriately. Both the NAEH and APA report homeless persons spend an average of four more days per hospital visit, at an estimated cost of \$2,414 per hospitalization. Also at substantial cost to the nation’s health care system is the treatment of the homeless for drug and alcohol-related illnesses. Homeless persons spend more time incarcerated, often for minor offenses. The typical cost of a prison bed at a state/federal facility is 3.3-4.4 times higher than an annual rent subsidy. Preventing homelessness or rapidly re-housing those who become homeless can result in significant financial and human savings within health care, mental health, and correctional systems.

### **Who Is Homeless? (target/special populations)**

#### ***Families with Children***

Families with children account for 33% of the homeless population. Homelessness disrupts nearly every aspect of family life, damaging both physical and emotional health

while disrupting children's educational pursuits.<sup>vii</sup> Homeless children are reported to be in fair-to-poor health twice as often as their peers with increased asthma, ear, stomach, and speech problems; they are twice as likely to experience hunger and four times as likely to have delayed development.<sup>viii</sup> Homeless children also have more mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, and withdrawal. Affordable housing and jobs that pay a living wage are essential to ending family homelessness.

### ***Victims of Domestic Violence***

Women, especially poor women, who choose to leave an abusive relationship often have no one to turn to and no place to go. The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence reports nearly half of all homeless women and children are fleeing domestic violence. When comparing domestic violence to receiving public assistance, States report that 50-60% of recipients experienced violence from a current/former partner.<sup>ix</sup> Recognizing the impact domestic violence has on a victim's employment readiness as well as increased affordable housing and support services are pivotal when serving this population.

### ***Veterans***

Approximately 40% of all homeless men are veterans as compared to 34% of the nation's male population.<sup>x</sup> Homeless veterans are more likely to be Caucasian, better educated, and previously/currently married.<sup>xi</sup> The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs considers long-term housing, dental/eye care, and childcare to be the most significant unmet needs of this population.

### ***Persons with Mental Illness and/or Addiction Disorders***

The nation's homeless population consists of a large number of persons with mental health and/or substance abuse disorders, especially among single men. It is estimated that 86% of the homeless population has, at some time, experienced mental health, alcohol, or drug-related problems.<sup>xii</sup> The survey by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, 2005 indicates 22% of single homeless adults suffer from severe and persistent mental illness while 30% of homeless adults have some form of addiction disorder. For persons with co-occurring disorders, substance abuse can function as a form of self-medication.<sup>xiii</sup> Treatment programs often adhere to an abstinence-only policy, which is unrealistic for many persons with addictive disorders. Research indicates housing stability, followed by treatment, is more promising for recovery.

### ***Prisoners***

At some point in time, 54% of homeless adults have been incarcerated with 18% lodged in a state or federal prison.<sup>xiv</sup> Inappropriate (or a lack of) discharge planning leads to homelessness for inmates and prisoners. Public housing is often denied to ex-offenders, and property owners (landlords) use criminal background checks to screen rental applicants. Stable housing and support services become essential for successful prisoner re-entry into society.

## *Youth*

Homeless or unaccompanied youth are persons under age 18 who lack parental, foster, or institutional care. It is estimated 500,000 to 1.3 million youth are homeless each year.<sup>xv</sup> The survey by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, 2005 suggests unaccompanied youth represent three percent of the homeless population in urban centers.

Family discord is the primary reason that young people leave home. A 1995 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) study revealed over half of the youth interviewed were told to leave by their parents or parents knew they (youth) were leaving home and did not care. Another HHS study in 1997 indicated 47% of runaway and/or homeless youth had been physically abused while 17% were sexually abused.

Living on the street poses countless threats for homeless youth. Often, shelter policies prohibit the admission of unaccompanied youth, and because of their age, these youth are unable to secure gainful employment or other income supports leaving them to survive by exchanging sex for food, clothing, and shelter. Homeless youth are at increased risk of contracting AIDS or HIV-related illnesses. It has been suggested that the rate of HIV for homeless youth is two-to-ten times higher than other adolescents.<sup>xvi</sup> Programs offering a range of services such as housing, job training, education, and health care are the basic supports needed by this vulnerable population.

**IMAGE OF HOMELESSNESS  
Local Data**

**National Low Income Housing Coalition**

For nearly a decade, the National Low Income Housing Coalition’s *Out of Reach* has offered a “side-by-side comparison of wages and rents in every county” across the nation to underscore America’s housing crisis and substantiate the need for more affordable housing. Annually, *Out of Reach* calculates the hourly wage a person must earn to afford a two-bedroom home at fair market rent. (Fair Market Rent [FMR] is the generally accepted affordability standard of paying no more than 30% of income for housing costs, which includes rent and utilities.)

*Out of Reach* also calculates the number of hours a minimum wage earner must work to afford a two-bedroom home at fair market rent. (Calculations are based on Michigan’s previous minimum hourly wage of \$5.15 which was in effect for eight years until a recent increase beginning October 1, 2006.) Housing wage information from *Out of Reach* 2005 is highlighted in the table below.

<b>Descriptor</b>	<b>State of Michigan</b>	<b>Huron County</b>	<b>Tuscola County</b>
2-bedroom FMR in 2005	\$724.00	\$503.00	\$530.00
Annual income needed to afford a 2-bedroom at FMR	\$28,961.00	\$20,120.00	\$21,200.00
Wage needed to afford a 2-bedroom at FMR (40 hours/week, 52 weeks/year)	\$11.34/hour	\$9.67/hour	\$10.19/hour
Hours needed to afford a 2-bedroom at FMR earning minimum wage	108 hours/ week	75 hours/ Week	79 hours/ Week
Estimated percent of renters unable to afford a 2-bedroom at FMR	48%	43%	38%

**Point-in-Time Count: 2003**

The Thumb Area Continuum of Care (CoC) conducted two point-in-time counts in 2003. The first count occurred on January 24, 2003 as part of the MSHDA Continuum of Care plan update process. The second count occurred on August 8, 2003 to provide seasonal comparison data for the Thumb Area CoC, specifically winter vs. summer homeless counts. The tables on the following pages highlight point-in-time count data for the homeless and near homeless in 2003, including the identification of target/special populations reflected in the one-day snapshot.

**For Homeless Single Adults**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Descriptor</b>	<b>Huron County</b>	<b>Tuscola County</b>
January 24, 2003	Number of adults	6	12
	Subpopulations (see Legend)	→ SMI: 1 → CH: 4	→ CSA: 1 → SMI: 3 → DD: 1 → DV: 3 → CH: 3
August 8, 2003	Number of adults	6	12
	Subpopulations (see Legend)	→ CSA: 3 → SMI: 1 → DD: 1 → VET: 1	→ CSA: 5 → SMI: 1 → DV: 3 → Y: 1

**For Homeless Families with Children**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Descriptor</b>	<b>Huron County</b>	<b>Tuscola County</b>
January 24, 2003	Number of 1-parent families	2	1
	Number of 2-parent families	0	1
	Total adults/children	2 adults/4 children	3 adults/ 3 children
	Subpopulations (see Legend)	→ DV: 1 (1 adult/3 children)	→ P/P Teen: 1 (1 adult)
August 8, 2003	Number of 1-parent families	0	12
	Number of 2-parent families	0	3
	Total adults/children	0 adults/0 children	15 adults/20 children
	Subpopulations (see Legend)	→ Not applicable	→ DV: 7 (7 adults/9 children) → P/P Teen: 2 (2 adults/2 children)

**LEGEND**

<b>CH:</b>	Chronic homelessness	<b>P/P Teen:</b>	Pregnant/parenting teen
<b>CSA:</b>	Chronic substance abuse	<b>SMI:</b>	Serious mental illness
<b>DD:</b>	Dually diagnosed	<b>VET:</b>	Veteran
<b>DV:</b>	Domestic violence	<b>Y:</b>	Youth

**For Individuals At-Risk of Homelessness**

Date	Descriptor	Huron County	Tuscola County
January 24, 2003	Number of adults	5	7
	Reasons for near homelessness (see Legend)	→ FHS: 3 → DUS: 1 → SH: 1	→ FHS: 5 → DUS: 2 → SH: 0
August 8, 2003	Number of adults	4	6
	Reasons for near homelessness (see Legend)	→ FHS: 3 → DUS: 1 → SH: 0	→ FHS: 3 → DUS: 2 → SH: 1

**For Families with Children At-Risk of Homelessness**

Date	Descriptor	Huron County	Tuscola County
January 24, 2003	Number of 1-parent families	6	1
	Number of 2-parent families	4	2
	Total adults/children	14 adults/18 children	5 adults/8 children
	Reasons for near family homelessness (see Legend)	→ FHS: 2 → DUS: 7 → SH: 1	→ FHS: 2 → DUS: 1 → SH: 0
August 8, 2003	Number of 1-parent families	0	5
	Number of 2-parent families	0	4
	Total adults/children	0 adults/0 children	13 adults/17 children
	Reasons for near family homelessness (see Legend)	→ FHS: N/A → DUS: N/A → SH: N/A	→ FHS: 6 → DUS: 2 → SH: 1

<b><u>LEGEND</u></b>			
<b>DUS:</b>	Doubled up status	<b>SH:</b>	Substandard housing
<b>FHS:</b>	Fragile housing status		

**Point-in-Time Count: 2004 and 2005**

Revisions to the 2004 MSHDA CoC plan update changed the methodology used to conduct point-in-time counts. The number of unsheltered homeless adults and families with children continued to be reported by county whereas the sheltered homeless were

reported by region, not county. Subsequently, some of the data provided in the tables below represent the tri-county region of Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola.

**For Unsheltered Homeless Single Adults**

Date	Descriptor	Huron County	Tuscola County
January 29, 2004	Number of adults	1	2
	Subpopulations (see previous Legend)	→ SMI: 1	→ DV: 2
January 25, 2005	Number of adults	2	5
	Subpopulations (see previous Legend)	→ CSA: 1 → SMI: 1	→ CSA: 1 → SMI: 4

**For Unsheltered Homeless Families with Children**

Date	Descriptor	Huron County	Tuscola County
January 29, 2004	Number of families	0	1
	Subpopulations	→ Not applicable	→ Not applicable
January 25, 2005	Number of families	0	1
	Subpopulations	→ Not applicable	→ Not applicable

**For Sheltered Homeless Single Adults**

Date	Descriptor	Tri-County Region (Huron/Sanilac/Tuscola)
January 29, 2004	Number of adults	9
January 25, 2005	Number of adults	6

**For Sheltered Homeless Families with Children**

Date	Descriptor	Tri-County Region (Huron/Sanilac/Tuscola)
January 29, 2004	Number of families	4 families
January 25, 2005	Number of families	9 families

**For All Persons At-Risk of Homelessness**

Date	Descriptor	Huron County	Tuscola County
January 29, 2004	Number of persons	14	20
January 25, 2005	Number of persons	44	12

## Youth Homeless Survey

Since 2003, the Thumb Area CoC has contemplated the extent and impact of youth homelessness in the tri-county region. CoC members were aware of such issues as youth aging out of foster care and parents forcing high school students to leave home, but the membership did not have data to quantify the need. To address this issue, the CoC established a Youth Homeless Committee to explore and document youth homelessness.

With assistance from Saginaw Valley State University, a 17-question survey was distributed to 120 agencies to collect information on the extent and impact of youth homelessness between April and June 2005. (The survey was distributed in Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola Counties which comprise the Thumb Area CoC service area. Subsequently, some data represent an individual county while other data reflect the collective service area.) During this three-month period, 71 homeless youth (self-reported) responded to the survey as highlighted in the table below.

Descriptor	Huron County		Sanilac County		Tuscola County	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Age 15-20	9	7	0	0	8	14
Age 21-25	7	5	0	5	0	4
Age 26+	0	1	0	4	1	6
Total	16	13	0	9	9	24
<b>County Total</b>	<b>29</b>		<b>9</b>		<b>33</b>	

When asked about their *current living situation*, youth respondents from the tri-county region indicated they were housed in six distinct places as outlined in the table below.

Housing Status	Huron County	Sanilac County	Tuscola County
Staying in a homeless shelter	0	8	5
Staying at a relative's house	13	1	5
Staying at a friend's house	5	0	13
Living in their vehicle	0	0	2
Staying at a public place	1	0	2
Other	10	0	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>33</b>

When asked about the *main reason for being homeless*, youth respondents from the tri-county region reported these underlying causes of their homelessness (in rank order).

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| #1: Chose to leave home                  | #3: No income                            |
| #2: Parents asked me to leave home (tie) | #4: Ran away from home                   |
| #2: Drug/alcohol abuse at home (tie)     | #5: Released from jail/juvenile facility |

When asked about their *sources of support*, youth respondents from the tri-county region reported receiving assistance from the following sources (could select more than one).

-20 received assistance from family  
 -28 received assistance from friends  
 -25 received assistance from Department of Human Services  
 -21 received wages from a job

-10 received assistance from a church  
 -7 received assistance from mental health  
 -4 received assistance from a food bank/pantry  
 -2 received assistance from other sources

When asked about *personal issues* they faced, youth respondents from the tri-county region reported experiencing the following issues (could select more than one).

-36 selected tobacco use  
 -19 selected learning disability  
 -14 selected alcohol use

-11 selected drug use (tie)  
 -11 selected mental illness (tie)  
 -2 selected multiple disabilities

When asked about *being a victim of abuse*, youth respondents from the tri-county region were very candid in reporting the types of abuse they had experienced with 90% selecting more than one type of abuse as indicated by the table below.

Type of Abuse	Youth: Male	Youth: Female	Total
Emotional abuse	11	12	23
Domestic violence	6	15	21
Physical abuse	8	9	17
Sexual abuse	3	7	10

Lastly, when asked to identify their *current needs*, youth respondents from the tri-county region were again candid in reporting their various problems for which they needed assistance (could select more than one) as indicated by the table below.

Problem/Need	Youth: Male	Youth: Female	Total
Counseling	11	13	24
Skills training	5	10	15
Clothing for work	4	9	13
Difficulty reading	7	3	10
Dental help	6	3	9
Health issues (tie)	6	2	8
Glasses (tie)	5	3	8
Difficulty w/ math	4	2	6
Ex-offender	6	0	6
Help w/ interviews	3	2	5
Unable to lift	1	3	4
Need job tools	3	0	3
Unable to read/write English	1	1	2

## CURRENT INVENTORY

### **Facilities**

An inventory of existing homeless facilities, specifying bed capacity and populations served, is included in the annual Thumb Area CoC plan update. Below is an inventory summary from the most recent CoC planning document submitted in February 2006.

#### **Huron County: Emergency Sheltering**

<u>Agency/Organization</u>	<u>Shelter Name</u>	<u>Bed Capacity</u>	<u>Population Served</u>
Blue Water Center for Independent Living (BWCIL)	MSHDA: Rural Homeless Initiative	1, 2-bedroom rental unit (adults: 2 max)	→ Single adults → Families w/ children
Huron County Coalition Against Domestic Abuse	SafePlace (community supported)	3-bedroom, 16-bed single-family house	→ DV victims → Homeless women

#### **Huron County: Transitional Housing**

<u>Agency/Organization</u>	<u>Shelter Name</u>	<u>Bed Capacity</u>	<u>Population Served</u>
Human Development Commission (HDC) in partnership w/ BWCIL	HUD-SHP: Welcome Home	1, 2-bedroom rental unit	→ Single adults with a disability
HDC	MDVPTB: Transitional Supportive Housing	8 scattered site locations (Huron/Sanilac/Tuscola)	→ DV victims w/ children

#### **Huron County: Permanent Housing/Permanent Supportive Housing**

<u>Agency/Organization</u>	<u>Shelter Name</u>	<u>Bed Capacity</u>	<u>Population Served</u>
HDC	MDHS-SHP: Creating Homes	Scattered sites	→ Single adults → Families w/ children
HDC in partnership with Huron Behavioral Health & BWCIL	MDCH-SHP: A Door to Open	6 scattered sites	→ Single adults w/ serious mental illness

**Tuscola County: Emergency Shelter**

<u>Agency/Organization</u>	<u>Shelter Name</u>	<u>Bed Capacity</u>	<u>Population Served</u>
BWCIL	MSHDA: Rural Homeless Initiative	1, 2-bedroom rental unit (adults: 4 max)	→ Single adults → Families w/ children
HDC	MDVPTB: Thumb Area Assault Crisis Center	6-bedroom, 28- bed, 3-story house	→ DV victims → Homeless women
Tuscola Place for Peace (TPP)	Not applicable	1 bed	→ Single men

**Tuscola County: Transitional Housing**

<u>Agency/Organization</u>	<u>Shelter Name</u>	<u>Bed Capacity</u>	<u>Population Served</u>
HDC in partnership w/ BWCIL	HUD-SHP: Welcome Home	4, 2-bedroom rental units	→ Single adults w/ a disability
HDC	MDVPTB: Transitional Sup- portive Housing	8 scattered site locations (Huron/ Sanilac/Tuscola)	→ DV victims w/ children
TPP	MDCH: Stepping Stones	3 beds	→ Single men w/ disabilities

**Tuscola County: Permanent Housing/Permanent Supportive Housing**

<u>Agency/Organization</u>	<u>Shelter Name</u>	<u>Bed Capacity</u>	<u>Population Served</u>
HDC	MDHS-SHP: Creating Homes	Scattered sites in Tuscola County	→ Single adults → Families w/ children

**Services**

Equal in importance to bed capacity is service provision. On August 22, 2006, the Huron and Tuscola County Community Collaborative Prevention Coordinators mailed a two-page homeless assistance questionnaire to providers that regularly serve the homeless and near homeless. The questionnaire asked providers to identify: (a) homeless populations served; (b) number served in calendar year 2005; (c) number served in first half of calendar year 2006; (d) types of assistance/services that are available currently for the

homeless and near homeless; (e) types of assistance/services needed to continue serving the homeless and near homeless (generally those services that are not currently available or are underutilized).

Questionnaires were mailed to seven agencies/organizations (see list below) in each county with a requested return date of September 8, 2006.

**Huron County**

1. Blue Water Center for Independent Living: Rural Homeless Initiative, MSHDA Emergency Shelter Grant, and Other Available Services
2. Caseville United Methodist Church: Emergency Food and Shelter Program
3. Department of Human Services: State Emergency Relief
4. Human Development Commission: A Door to Open, Welcome Home, Creating Homes, and Housing Choice Voucher – Homeless Preference
5. Huron Behavioral Health: Serious and Persistent Mental Illness
6. Huron County Homeless Coalition
7. Huron County Coalition Against Domestic Abuse: SafePlace

**Tuscola County**

1. Blue Water Center for Independent Living: Rural Homeless Initiative, MSHDA Emergency Shelter Grant, and Other Available Services
2. Department of Human Services: State Emergency Relief
3. Human Development Commission: A Door to Open, Welcome Home, Creating Homes, and Housing Choice Voucher – Homeless Preference
4. Human Development Commission/Thumb Area Assault Crisis Center: Shelter and Support, Transitional Housing, and Homeless Women
5. Tuscola Behavioral Health Systems: Serious and Persistent Mental Illness Tuscola Homeless Coalition
6. Tuscola Homeless Coalition
7. Tuscola Place for Peace: Stepping Stones

The response rate to the Homeless Assistance Questionnaire was approximately 50% in each county; as such, no decisive conclusions should be drawn from this single activity. The following information can be considered when linked with other data sources.

<b><u>County</u></b>	<b><u>Most Common Homeless Populations for which Services Are Available</u></b>	<b><u>Least Common Homeless Populations for which Services Are Available</u></b>
<b>Huron:</b>	-Single women -Single women w/ children -Persons w/ disabilities -Persons w/ HIV/AIDS -Victims of domestic violence	-Youth under age 18
<b>Tuscola:</b>	-Persons w/ disabilities -Substance abusers	-Youth under age 18 -Persons w/ HIV/AIDS

<u>County</u>	<u># Served in 2005*</u>	<u># Served in First Half of 2006*</u>
<b>Huron:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Single men: 15 adults</li> <li>-Single men w/ children: 1 adult; 2 children</li> <li>-Single women: 17 adults</li> <li>Single women w/ children: 27 adults; 57 children</li> <li>-Adult couple only: 8 adults</li> <li>-2-parent family w/ children: 15 adults; 23 children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Single men: 18 adults</li> <li>-Single men w/ children: 0 adults; 0 children</li> <li>-Single women: 22 adults</li> <li>Single women w/ children: 21 adults; 32 children</li> <li>-Adult couple only: 7 adults</li> <li>-2-parent family w/ children: 13 adults; 32 children</li> </ul>
<b>Tuscola:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Single men: 33 adults</li> <li>-Single men w/ children: 0 adults; 0 children</li> <li>-Single women: 34 adults</li> <li>Single women w/ children: 109 adults; 168 children</li> <li>-Adult couple only: 4 adults</li> <li>-2-parent family w/ children: 6 adults; 11 children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Single men: 19 adults</li> <li>-Single men w/ children: 1 adult; 1 child</li> <li>-Single women: 32 adults</li> <li>Single women w/ children: 42 adults; 64 children</li> <li>-Adult couple only: 0 adults; 0 children</li> <li>-2-parent family w/ children: 2 adults; 6 children</li> </ul>

\*The number of persons served represents duplicate counts among responding agencies.

<u>County</u>	<u>Most Common Homeless Assistance / Services Available</u>	<u>Least Common Homeless Assistance / Services Available</u>
<b>Huron:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Security deposit</li> <li>-First month's rent</li> <li>-Utility arrearage</li> <li>-Case management/counseling</li> <li>-Housing placement assistance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Local emergency shelter</li> <li>-Transitional housing</li> <li>-Transportation to emergency shelter</li> <li>-Assistance w/ delinquent taxes</li> <li>-Education/legal/health services</li> <li>-Childcare</li> </ul>
<b>Tuscola:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Transitional housing</li> <li>-First month's rent</li> <li>-Utility arrearage</li> <li>-Case management/counseling</li> <li>-Housing placement assistance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Local emergency shelter</li> <li>-Motel vouchers</li> <li>-Permanent supportive housing</li> <li>-Rent/mortgage arrearage</li> <li>-Landlord/tenant mediation</li> <li>-Employment assistance</li> <li>-Education/legal/health services</li> <li>-Mental health counseling</li> <li>-Substance abuse treatment</li> <li>-Childcare</li> </ul>

<b>County</b>	<b>Most Needed Homeless Assistance / Services Available</b>	<b>Least Needed Homeless Assistance / Services Available</b>
<b>Huron:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Emergency shelter for men</li> <li>-Emergency shelter for youth</li> <li>-\$\$\$ for rent/mortgage arrearage</li> <li>-\$\$\$ for transitional housing</li> <li>-\$\$\$ for permanent supportive housing</li> <li>-More jobs</li> <li>-More community awareness/ education</li> <li>-Housing coordinator/single point of contact</li> <li>-Childcare</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Substance abuse treatment</li> <li>-Mental health counseling</li> <li>-Education</li> <li>-Life skills</li> <li>-Case management/counseling</li> <li>-More opportunities for home ownership</li> </ul>
<b>Tuscola:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Emergency shelter for men</li> <li>-Emergency shelter for youth</li> <li>-Emergency shelter for families w/ children</li> <li>-\$\$\$ for transitional housing</li> <li>-More affordable rentals</li> <li>-More jobs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Motel vouchers</li> <li>-Security deposit</li> <li>-First month's rent</li> <li>-\$\$\$ for home repair</li> <li>-More opportunities for home ownership</li> <li>-Case management/counseling</li> <li>-Childcare</li> <li>-Budgeting/money management</li> <li>-Health services</li> </ul>

With only a fair rate of return from a targeted market segment and with a duplicate count among questionnaire respondents, the need for accurate data collection is clear. The Michigan Statewide Homeless Management Information System (MSHMIS) provides both the means and opportunity for reliable data collection.

**Other Supportive Housing**

Subsidized housing is constructed and financed through MSHDA and HUD programs across the state to ensure very low, low, and moderate-income households have access to safe, affordable rental housing. Knowing this type of information helps to gauge the extent of affordable housing, including the number of accessible units, within a given community. Posted on the MSDHA website, subsidized housing information for Huron and Tuscola Counties is provided on the following pages, serving as a “quick reference” for the homeless assistance network and other providers.

**Subsidized Housing in Huron County**

<b>Name/Location</b>	<b>Low Rise Apartment</b>			<b>Townhouse</b>			<b>Miscellaneous</b>
	<i>Bedroom</i>	<i>Elderly</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Bedroom</i>	<i>Elderly</i>	<i>Family</i>	
Anderson Apartments: Bad Axe	1 BR	0	16	1 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1987
	2 BR	0	16	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	0	3 BR	0	0	
	4 BR	0	0	4 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
East Butler Senior Apartments: Bad Axe	1 BR	10	0	1 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1984
	2 BR	2	0	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	0	3 BR	0	0	
	4 BR	0	0	4 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Port Crescent I Apartments: Bad Axe	1 BR	0	24	1 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1976 -2 barrier free units
	2 BR	0	24	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	0	3 BR	0	0	
	4 BR	0	0	4 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Village Square Apartments: Bad Axe	1 BR	0	12	1 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1979 -2 barrier free units
	2 BR	0	16	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	2	3 BR	0	0	
	4 BR	0	2	4 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Woods Apartments: Bad Axe	1 BR	0	16	1 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1993
	2 BR	0	16	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	0	3 BR	0	0	
	4 BR	0	0	4 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Hallack Apartments: Caseville	1 BR	0	12	1 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1985
	2 BR	0	12	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	0	3 BR	0	0	
	4 BR	0	0	4 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Oakwood Senior Citizen Apartments: Caseville	1 BR	47	0	1 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1982/1983 -5 barrier free units -47 Public Housing
	2 BR	0	0	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	0	3 BR	0	0	
	4 BR	0	0	4 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
McKinley Apartments: Elkton	1 BR	0	2	1 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1981 -2 barrier free units -24 Section 8
	2 BR	0	20	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	2	3 BR	0	0	
	4 BR	0	0	4 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Mitchell Apartments: Elkton	1 BR	0	8	1 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1985
	2 BR	0	8	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	0	3 BR	0	0	
	4 BR	0	0	4 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

<b>Name/Location</b>	<b>Low Rise Apartment</b>			<b>Townhouse</b>			<b>Miscellaneous</b>
Harbor House: Harbor Beach	1 BR	58	0	1 BR	0	0	
	2 BR	6	0	2 BR	0	30	
	3 BR	0	0	3 BR	0	6	
	4 BR	0	0	4 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36</b>	
Lincoln Apartments: Kinde	<i>Bedroom</i>	<i>Elderly</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Bedroom</i>	<i>Elderly</i>	<i>Family</i>	-Constructed 1985 -12 Section 8
	1 BR	0	6	1 BR	0	0	
	2 BR	0	6	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	0	3 BR	0	0	
	4 BR	0	0	4 BR	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		
Pleasant View Apartments: Pigeon	1 BR	0	8	1 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1982/1983 -1 barrier free unit
	2 BR	0	4	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	4	3 BR	0	0	
	4 BR	0	0	4 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Sigel Apartments: Pigeon	1 BR	0	12	1 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1985
	2 BR	0	12	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	0	3 BR	0	0	
	4 BR	0	0	4 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Crawford Apartments: Port Austin	1 BR	0	12	1 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1987
	2 BR	0	12	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	0	3 BR	0	0	
	4 BR	0	0	4 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Harbor Villas: Port Austin	1 BR	0	8	1 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1984 -10 Section 8
	2 BR	0	12	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	0	3 BR	0	0	
	4 BR	0	0	4 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Dix Apartments: Sebewaing	1 BR	0	12	1 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1990 -9 Section 8 -15 Market Rate
	2 BR	0	12	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	0	3 BR	0	0	
	4 BR	0	0	4 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Huron Apartments: Sebewaing	1 BR	0	12	1 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1984
	2 BR	0	8	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	4	3 BR	0	0	
	4 BR	0	0	4 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Lyons Apartments: Ubyly	1 BR	0	8	1 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1987
	2 BR	0	8	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	0	3 BR	0	0	
	4 BR	0	0	4 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

**Subsidized Housing in Tuscola County**

Name/Location	Low Rise Apartment			Townhouse			Miscellaneous
	Bedroom	Elderly	Family	Bedroom	Elderly	Family	
Alpine Hills Apartments I: Caro	0 BR	0	2	0 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1974/1977 -26 Section 8
	1 BR	0	15	1 BR	0	0	
	2 BR	0	25	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	8	3 BR	0	0	
	4 BR	0	0	4 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Alpine Hills Apartments II: Caro	1 BR	0	1	1 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1977
	2 BR	0	13	2 BR	0	8	
	3 BR	0	0	3 BR	0	0	
	4 BR	0	0	4 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	
Alpine Hills Apartments III: Caro	1 BR	0	1	1 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1983
	2 BR	0	11	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	2	3 BR	0	0	
	4 BR	0	0	4 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Caro Alpine South Apartments: Caro	1 BR	18	0	1 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1986
	2 BR	2	0	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	0	3 BR	0	0	
	4 BR	0	0	4 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Caro Senior Commons Apartments: Caro	1 BR	94	0	1 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1976 -5 barrier free units -100 Section 8
	2 BR	6	0	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	0	3 BR	0	0	
	4 BR	0	0	4 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Countryside Acres: Caro	1 BR	0	8	1 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1985
	2 BR	0	19	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	0	3 BR	0	0	
	4 BR	0	0	4 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Montague Place Apartments: Caro	1 BR	26	0	1 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1992 -2 barrier free units
	2 BR	2	0	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	0	3 BR	0	0	
	4 BR	0	0	4 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Cass City Apartments: Cass City	1 BR	24	0	1 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1985
	2 BR	0	0	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	0	3 BR	0	0	
	4 BR	0	0	4 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Northwood Heights Apartments: Cass City	0 BR	0	1	0 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1981 - 1 barrier free unit
	1 BR	0	8	1 BR	0	0	
	2 BR	0	11	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	2	3 BR	0	0	
	4 BR	0	0	4 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

<b>Name/Location</b>	<b>Low Rise Apartment</b>			<b>Townhouse</b>			<b>Miscellaneous</b>
	<i>Bedroom</i>	<i>Elderly</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Bedroom</i>	<i>Elderly</i>	<i>Family</i>	
Rosecrans Apartments: Gagetown	1 BR	0	4	1 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1985
	2 BR	0	8	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	0	3 BR	0	0	
	4 BR	0	0	4 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Kingsview Apartments: Kingston	1 BR	0	8	1 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1982 -1 barrier free unit
	2 BR	0	14	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	2	3 BR	0	0	
	4 BR	0	0	4 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Mayville Apartments: Mayville	1 BR	0	8	1 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1987
	2 BR	0	12	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	0	3 BR	0	0	
	4 BR	0	0	4 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Colonial South Apartments: Millington	0 BR	0	1	0 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1983
	1 BR	0	8	1 BR	0	0	
	2 BR	0	11	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	2	3 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Orchard Apartments: Millington	0 BR	0	1	0 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1978
	1 BR	0	8	1 BR	0	0	
	2 BR	0	7	2 BR	0	6	
	3 BR	0	0	3 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	
Tyrolean Village Apartments: Millington	0 BR	1	0	0 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1974
	1 BR	7	0	1 BR	0	0	
	2 BR	6	0	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	0	3 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Reese Barvaria South Apartments: Reese	0 BR	0	2	0 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1984
	1 BR	0	14	1 BR	0	0	
	2 BR	0	6	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	0	3 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Union Villa Apartments: Unionville	1 BR	0	8	1 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1985
	2 BR	0	8	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	0	3 BR	0	0	
	4 BR	0	0	4 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Manor Ridge Apartments: Vassar	<i>Bedroom</i>	<i>Elderly</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Bedroom</i>	<i>Elderly</i>	<i>Family</i>	-Constructed 1989
	1 BR	0	28	1 BR	0	0	
	2 BR	0	4	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	0	3 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

<b>Name/Location</b>	<b>Low Rise Apartment</b>			<b>Townhouse</b>			<b>Miscellaneous</b>
Sandy Hill Apartments: Vassar	1 BR	0	0	1 BR	0	0	-Constructed 2004
	2 BR	0	12	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	11	3 BR	0	0	
	4 BR	0	0	4 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Tall Oaks Manor Apartments: Vassar	1 BR	0	7	1 BR	0	0	-Constructed 1978
	2 BR	0	25	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	0	3 BR	0	0	
	4 BR	0	0	4 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Village Place Apartments: Vassar	1 BR	0	12	1 BR	0	0	-Constructed 2003
	2 BR	0	20	2 BR	0	0	
	3 BR	0	2	3 BR	0	0	
	4 BR	0	2	4 BR	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

## VISIONING SESSIONS

### Introduction

Visioning sessions (focus groups) are an efficient, inexpensive way of obtaining feedback from a number of people and gauging responses to a specific topic. Benefits of visioning sessions include:

- Using organized discussion to obtain multiple perspectives on the same topic.
- Triggering memories/experiences that may not surface during an interview or survey.
- Obtaining insight into a group’s shared understanding of the specific topic.

The Huron/Tuscola 10-Year Plan Community Coordinators determined a local visioning session would offer valuable feedback toward envisioning a future free of homelessness.

### Purpose and Logistics

To complement national and state research data on homelessness and to gain a better understanding on the scope of homelessness in their predominantly rural counties, the Community Coordinators hosted two visioning sessions in July 2006. These visioning sessions provided a means of identifying both common and unique needs of each county and offered “real time” impressions of *what is and is not working* relative to ending homelessness. Logistics for each visioning session are recorded below.

### **Tuscola County**

<b>Date:</b>	Thursday, July 20, 2006
<b>Time:</b>	9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
<b>Location:</b>	Tuscola Intermediate School District: Caro, MI
<b>Community Coordinator:</b>	Susan Andrus: Prevention Coordinator for Tuscola County Community Collaborative; 10-Year Plan Lead Contact and Community Coordinator for Tuscola County
<b>Moderator:</b>	Kathie Harrison: Prevention Coordinator for Huron County Community Collaborative; 10-Year Plan Lead Contact and Community Coordinator for Huron County
<b>Recorder:</b>	Rebecca Hassler: Program Development Director for Human Development Commission; 10-Year Planning Coordinator
<b>Attendees:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Sue McElroy, Tuscola Behavioral Health Systems</li> <li>→ Marianne Karpovich, Tuscola Homeless Coalition</li> <li>→ Bob Tallman, Community Volunteer – Homeless Men’s Efforts</li> <li>→ Donna Randall, Tuscola Place for Peace</li> <li>→ Michael DeGrace, Tuscola Homeless Coalition</li> <li>→ Amy Joles, <u>Tuscola County Advertiser</u></li> <li>→ Lori Offenbecher, Human Development Commission</li> <li>→ Judy Murphy, Caro Thumbbody Express (public transit)</li> </ul>

<b>Attendees (continued):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Jerry Smith, Caro United Methodist Church</li> <li>→ Ann Marie Ball, Tuscola County Transition Network</li> <li>→ Janet Ellis, Blue Water Center for Independent Living</li> <li>→ Dustin Hoff, Blue Water Center for Independent Living</li> <li>→ Ralph Moore, Blue Water Center for Independent Living</li> <li>→ Terry Wood, Tuscola County Department of Human Services</li> <li>→ Deborah Wisenbaugh, Tuscola Place for Peace</li> <li>→ Joyce Gromak, Community Representative</li> </ul>
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## **Huron County**

<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday, July 25, 2006
<b>Time:</b>	8:30 a.m. registration; 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. visioning session
<b>Location:</b>	Franklin Inn (restaurant): Bad Axe MI
<b>Community Coordinator &amp; Moderator:</b>	Kathie Harrison: Prevention Coordinator for Huron County Community Collaborative; 10-Year Plan Lead Contact and Community Coordinator for Huron County
<b>Recorder:</b>	Rebecca Hassler: Program Development Director for Human Development Commission; 10-Year Planning Coordinator
<b>Attendees:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Dian McConnel, Human Development Commission</li> <li>→ Danielle Rice, Huron Behavioral Health</li> <li>→ Dustin Hoff, Blue Water Center for Independent Living</li> <li>→ Ellen Rothfuss, Flashpoint</li> <li>→ Fred Brown, Community Member (formerly homeless)</li> <li>→ Pamela Chabot, Flashpoint</li> <li>→ Chuck Rondo, Forgotten Man Ministries</li> <li>→ Gary Bendry, Citizen</li> <li>→ Ken Jimkowski, Huron Transit Corporation</li> <li>→ Mary Thrushman, Huron County Health Department</li> <li>→ Terry Brown, Huron Intermediate School District</li> <li>→ Kerrie Fox, Bad Axe Public Schools/Homeless Liaison</li> <li>→ Jill Ischow, Huron Intermediate School District</li> <li>→ Lynn Siemen, Huron County Department of Human Services</li> <li>→ Robert Bodis, Huron County Department of Human Services</li> <li>→ Marcie Jeffery, Thumb Area Michigan Works!</li> <li>→ Lori Schorneck, Northstar Bank</li> <li>→ Carl Osentoski, Huron County Economic Development Corp.</li> <li>→ Dave Drossos, Huron County Sheriff Department</li> <li>→ Arlin Henford, Huron County Sheriff Department (jail administrator and discharge planner)</li> <li>→ Pam Kahler, Huron County Homeless Coalition</li> <li>→ Crystal Waugh, Huron Behavioral Health</li> <li>→ Amy Kain, Huron County SafePlace</li> <li>→ Jessica Kirsch, Huron Behavioral Health (intern)</li> </ul>

**Process**

Each visioning session used a specific set of open-ended statements/questions to elicit responses from the group. Responses at the Tuscola County visioning session indicated a slight modification to two questions/statements would be helpful for Huron County’s visioning session. Questions/statements presented during the visioning sessions are highlighted in the chart below.

<b>TUSCOLA COUNTY: JULY 20, 2006</b>	<b>HURON COUNTY: JULY 25, 2006</b>
#1: Describe who is homeless in your community.	#1: Describe who is homeless in your community.
#2: What is the single, most frequent cause of homelessness in your community?	#2: What is the single, most frequent cause of homelessness in your community?
#3: Ending homelessness is frequently described as “getting people into permanent housing”. What adjective/descriptor/tag line would you add?	#3: Ending homelessness is frequently described as “getting people into permanent housing”. What adjective/descriptor/tag line would you add?
#4: Describe your experience in referring someone in need of housing assistance.	#4: Describe your experience in referring someone in need of housing assistance. Obstacles? What works well? What would make the process more effective/easier?
#5: Describe any obstacles you have encountered when referring individuals for housing assistance.	#5: What services are not being utilized to their fullest extent?
#6: What services are not being utilized to their fullest extent?	#6: What gaps in service have you encountered?
#7: What gaps in service have you encountered?	#7: What services do we need more of?
#8: What services do we need more of?	#8: How effective are current resources in meeting the community’s housing needs?
#9: If you could change some aspect of the services provided or of the referral process, what would that be? (Wish List)	
#10: How effective are current resources in meeting the community’s housing needs?	

**Results**

Results from the visioning sessions for each county are provided as Attachment C. As expected, there were many similarities between the counties which share common demographic and geographic characteristics. Differences in responses from the visioning sessions are noteworthy and help to identify the uniqueness of each county. A brief discussion on the similarities and differences follows.

### Who is homeless

- Similarities:**
- Single men
  - Students (asked to leave/ kicked out/left home/”dumped”)
  - Single women/single, pregnant women
  - Substance abusers
  - Persons with disabilities (physical/cognitive delays/mental illness)
  - Victims of domestic violence
  - Inmates released from jail/prisoners re-entering the community
  - People who relocated to the area and have no job/no family support
  - “At risk” families/families one paycheck away from homelessness/doubled-up families
- Differences-Huron:**
- Children
  - Migrants
  - Emancipated youth (cannot qualify for services)
  - Wanderers from other counties or states
- Differences-Tuscola:**
- Fathers who leave their families due to stress
  - Low-income wage earners having to pay high child support
  - Older adults who are displaced
  - 2-parent families separated for temporary sheltering

### Frequent causes of homelessness

- Similarities:**
- Fragile employment/ minimum wage jobs
  - Lack of full-time, viable jobs
  - Inadequate/incomplete benefits
  - Lack of affordable housing/increased cost of housing
  - Increased cost of utilities
- Differences-Huron:**
- Disabilities (unable to work)
  - Behavior problems/troubled/social actions not acceptable
- Differences-Tuscola:**
- Increased number of evictions/foreclosures
  - Banks “more generous” with mortgages that people cannot afford
  - Lack of financial education
  - Increased transportation costs

### Permanent housing needs to be...

- Similarities:**
- Affordable
  - Appropriate
  - Safe/habitable
  - Offer transitional housing assistance
  - Educate on housing/budgeting/energy/life skills
  - Continue education/supports/case management after securing housing
- Differences-Huron:**
- Sustainable
  - Energy efficient (especially for older and mobile homes)
  - Provide employment opportunities
- Differences-Tuscola:**
- Accessible
  - Create a sense of ownership

### Obstacles

- Similarities:**
- People do not seek help soon enough; come in with higher deficits for housing and utility bills
  - Lack of transportation
  - Lack of education on available resources
  - Stigma associated with asking for or needing help
  - Lack of housing/support services for youth under age 18
- Differences-Huron:**
- People are looking for an “instant fix”
  - Lack of child care and medical care
  - Do not have “real time” knowledge of available housing
  - Homes purchased on land contract (especially older homes) are often unsafe and substandard
  - Lack of temporary sheltering facility for general homeless
  - Lack of rehabilitation funds for mobile homes
  - Youth cannot be full-time students and receive services
  - Lack of literacy skills, especially surrounding paperwork
- Differences-Tuscola:**
- General public does not believe there is a homeless problem
  - People are not being treated with respect
  - Cost of obtaining needed documents like birth certificates
  - Lack of access to telephone
  - Doubled-up families often do not qualify for assistance
  - Lack of funds to staff/operate temporary sheltering facilities
  - Challenge to house families with children/felons/single men/single women without children

### Underutilized services

- Similarities:**
- Housing Choice Vouchers
  - USDA Rural Development grant/loans
  - Thumbresources.org
- Differences-Huron:**
- DHS home repair
  - Existing educational opportunities (classes are not filled)
  - Public transportation (averaging 900 “no shows” per month)
- Differences-Tuscola:**
- Welcome Home (transitional housing)
  - Emergency Food and Shelter Program (motel vouchers)
  - Thumb Area Michigan Works!
  - Blue Water Center for Independent Living: I & R service
  - Connection with faith-based community

### Gaps in service

- Similarities:**
- Immediate, temporary housing
  - Restrictive definition of homelessness/definition does not include those “at risk” of homelessness
- Differences-Huron:**
- Home repairs for mobile homes/replacement housing
  - Incentives to improve low-income rental properties
  - Jobs/health insurance
  - Housing for substance abusers
- Differences-Tuscola:**
- Need for staffing/resource person/case management
  - Affordable housing
  - Need *customer service* training for service providers

### Services needed

- Similarities:**
- Sustainable jobs
  - Housing coordinator
  - Funds prevent homelessness by keeping people housed
- Differences-Huron:**
- Something for youth/something for men
  - Education in high school (e.g., credit)
  - Transportation
  - Involvement of the faith-based community/mentoring
  - Substance abuse treatment
- Differences-Tuscola:**
- Wrap-around component
  - Mediation (landlord/tenant)
  - Funds for motel stays
  - Discharge planning

## **Press Coverage**

An article, *Creating a Plan to End County's Homelessness*, appeared in the July 19, 2006 issue of the Tuscola County Advertiser, the county newspaper of record. The article publicized and staff writer Amy Joles attended the Tuscola County visioning session.

Staff writer Kate Finneren interviewed both Community Coordinators after the Huron County visioning session. An article, *Envisioning Future Free of Homelessness*, appeared in the August 1, 2006 issue of the Huron Daily Tribune, the county newspaper of record. Copies of these newspaper articles (and subsequent articles) are provided as Attachment D.

## VISION, GUIDING PRINCIPLES, AND STRUCTURE

The Housing First methodology is ingrained throughout the *Huron/Tuscola County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness*, which will locally be known as Project Homeward. The plan serves as a blueprint for the key activity work plan and as a **call to action** for these two rural counties. The plan builds on existing data and resources, addressing gaps in services and offering solutions for safe, affordable housing. First, this plan will focus on the way the community-at-large and provider networks gain knowledge of available supports for the homeless and near homeless. Second, this plan will focus on preventing homelessness by keeping people housed. Third, this plan will focus on rapidly re-housing homeless individuals and families with children. Fourth, this plan will focus on coordinating those supports necessary to sustain permanent housing. Fifth, this plan will focus on reliable data collection to measures overall success.

### Vision

We, the key stakeholders for Project Homeward, believe no man, woman, or child should be forced to sleep on the streets, in a car, in the woods, in an abandoned building, in a shelter, or in any place not meant for human habitation. We believe housing is a right, and ending homelessness is an achievable goal within the next ten years. Our vision is safe, affordable, accessible housing for all residents, accompanied by income supports and services that lead to highest level of independence and self-sufficiency possible.

### Guiding Principles

Project Homeward is crafted from local experiences in serving the homeless and near homeless, keeping ever vigilant the following beliefs.

- We recognize that homelessness and near homelessness are growing problems within our counties, and a shortage of employment opportunities and affordable housing is contributing to this increase.
- We recognize that the majority of individuals and families are not homeless by choice, although their decisions may have contributed to the episode of homelessness.
- We recognize that mainstream service providers, the homeless assistance network, and other provider groups can improve service delivery and coordination to better address the complex needs of the homeless and near homeless.
- We recognize that preventing homelessness is a cost effective method of ending homelessness that promotes both housing and family stability.
- We recognize that rapidly re-housing those who are already homeless (or those for whom homelessness cannot be prevented) is the first step toward self-sufficiency, and on-going supports may be needed to maintain permanent housing.

- We embrace the Housing First methodology and will work to incorporate this approach throughout existing homeless services and new homeless initiatives.

### **10-Year Plan Leadership Structure**

As designated signatories, the key stakeholders representing the Huron/Tuscola Department of Human Services, Huron Behavioral Health, Tuscola Behavioral Health Systems, Huron County Community Collaborative, Tuscola County Community Collaborative, and Thumb Area Continuum of Care will continue to serve as the Advisory Board for Project Homeward. The Advisory Board will establish an Interagency Services Team (IST) that will serve as Project Homeward’s community champions. The IST will be comprised of representatives from the Thumb Area Continuum of Care as well as the Huron County Homeless Coalition and the Tuscola County Housing Alliance, both of which are workgroups of the local Community Collaborative. At minimum, the IST will meet quarterly and be representative of administrative, managerial, and direct service personnel from:

- Department of Human Services
- Behavioral Health
- Thumb Area Michigan Works!
- Emergency/Domestic Violence Shelter Providers
- Hospitals
- Sheriff’s Department/Local Police Department
- Housing Resource Specialist
- Veterans Affairs
- Homeless Youth Programs
- School District Homeless Liaison
- Michigan Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative
- Community Action Agency
- Substance Abuse Agency
- Current/formerly homeless persons

The Advisory Board and IST will work to ensure the key activities, tasks, and spirit of the 10-year plan are carried out (or modified as needed) across Project Homeward’s two-county service area. Planned leadership responsibilities and benefits include:

#### **Project Homeward Advisory Board**

- Establish Project Homeward IST
- Coordinate orientation and training for IST members
- Make final decisions regarding applicants for homeless program initiatives via the 10-year plan
- Review progress toward achieving key activities outlined in the 10-year plan; approve modifications as needed
- Serve as designated signatories

#### **Project Homeward IST**

- Review progress toward achieving key activities outlined in the 10-year-plan; make recommendations to Advisory Board
- Identify local service gaps and recommend projects/services to fill gaps
- Make funding recommendations regarding applicants for homeless program initiative via the 10-year plan to Advisory Board
- Report 10-year plan progress to Community Collaborative and CoC annually
- Support, direct, supervise, and evaluate the Huron/Tuscola Housing Resource Coordinator

### **10-Year Plan Staffing Structure**

The key activity work plan for Project Homeward offers practical, attainable strategies for ending homelessness in Huron and Tuscola Counties that embrace the Housing First methodology. An important part of the work plan is predicated on engaging a Huron/Tuscola County Housing Resource Coordinator to manage day-to-day plan activities and bring together available supports and resources.

Funding for the Housing Resource Coordinator is essential to the overall success of Project Homeward, and the leadership structure is committed to exploring and securing funding for this position. Although an Advisory Board/IST agency would serve in a fiduciary capacity for this position, the coordinator would be supported, directed, supervised, and evaluated by the IST membership. This action will help to ensure that each county is represented equitably, and the work tasks performed are aligned with the vision of safe, affordable, accessible housing for all residents.

### **10-Year Plan Future Structure**

The Project Homeward Advisory Board is receptive to partnership discussions and opportunities that would expand homeless programming and services beyond Huron and Tuscola Counties. The board would consider cross-county collaboration with:

- Sanilac County, which is part of the Thumb Area Continuum of Care service area along with Huron and Tuscola Counties.
- Sanilac, Lapeer, and St. Clair Counties, all of which are part of the five-county “thumb” area along with Huron and Tuscola Counties.
- Sanilac, Lapeer, St. Clair, and Genesee Counties, all of which are part of MSHDA Region 5 along with Huron and Tuscola Counties.
- Other counties or communities as interested in coordinating efforts or as recommended by state government.

## Key Activity Work Plan

- A. Keyword Description:** Awareness and Education for the Provider Community
- B. Brief Statement of Activity:** To improve awareness of new/current homeless prevention and rapid re-housing assistance.
- C. Data (findings that drive the activity e.g., concerns, opportunities, planning):** Visioning sessions in both Huron and Tuscola Counties identified a “lack of education on available resources” as an obstacle when referring someone for homeless prevention/rapid re-housing assistance.

<b>D. Task List</b> (component steps of the activity)	<b>E. Responsibilities</b> (who is assigned to tasks)	<b>F. Timeline</b> (quarter/year)	<b>G. Benchmarks</b> (evidence that that task has been completed)	<b>H. Resource Needs</b> (human, financial, and community resources for task completion)
1. Add “Housing First” as a Category Search to Thumbresources.org to electronically connect with available resources. Also, add as “Homeless Prevention/Rapid Re-Housing” as a Keyword Search.	-Housing Resource Coordinator -Service providers with new resources -Thumb Area CoC, Affordable Housing Committee	-2007 -On-going maintenance by service providers with new resources	-Thumbresources.org has “Housing First” in its Category Search and “Homeless Prevention/Rapid/ Re-Housing” in its Keyword Search. -Services listed are current	-Computer/Internet access -Staffing and/or volunteer time to add and update data
2. Create a distribution list wherein new or updated Housing First service announcements are emailed monthly.	-Housing Resource Coordinator	-2007; on-going monthly maintenance	-Monthly distribution lists	-Computer/Internet access -Staffing and/or volunteer time to compose and send email updates
3. Develop a printable, user-friendly Housing First resource map on Thumbresources.org that functions as a referral source for Homeless Prevention/Rapid Re-Housing assistance (service providers, homeless school liaisons, etc.) and an outreach piece (law enforcement, park rangers, etc.).	-IST -Housing Resource Coordinator	2007; on-going maintenance	-Resource map printable from Thumbresources.org	-Agency/service provider data -Computer/Internet access -Staffing and/or volunteer time to create resource map

## Key Activity Work Plan

**A. Keyword Description:** Awareness and Education for the Community-at-Large

**B. Brief Statement of Activity:** To improve overall awareness and general understanding of homelessness.

**C. Data (findings that drive the activity e.g., concerns, opportunities, planning):** Visioning sessions in both Huron and Tuscola Counties identified a “misconception of homelessness, including the belief that there is not a homeless problem in these rural counties,” as an obstacle to obtaining community and financial support for homeless and near homeless programming.

<b>D. Task List</b> (component steps of the activity)	<b>E. Responsibilities</b> (who is assigned to tasks)	<b>F. Timeline</b> (quarter/year)	<b>G. Benchmarks</b> (evidence that that task has been completed)	<b>H. Resource Needs</b> (human, financial, and community resources for task completion)
1. Design an annual community outreach calendar to keep the “face of homelessness” in the forefront. Put on Thumbresources.org.	-IST -Thumb Area CoC -Housing Resource Coordinator	-2007; annual maintenance	-Outreach file containing news articles, flyers, presentation schedules, etc.	-Current data on homeless trends and services -Computer/Internet access -Staff/volunteer time
2. Submit an editorial quarterly to illustrate a recent episode of homelessness (or near homelessness).	-IST -Thumb Area CoC -Housing Resource Coordinator	-4 times/year	-Tear sheet placed in outreach file	-Signed release by featured individual/family -Computer/Internet access -Staffing time
3. Submit an editorial annually on the progress of the 10-year Plan to End Homelessness.	-Advisory Board/IST -Housing Resource Coordinator	-Annually	-Tear sheet placed in outreach file	-Computer/Internet access -Staffing time
4. Draw on high school and college students to create media/outreach pieces (PSAs, posters, etc.).	-Housing Resource Coordinator -Thumb Area CoC	-2007; annual maintenance	-Media pieces placed in outreach file	-Staffing time to meet with secondary/post-secondary groups
5. Coordinate promotional efforts during Homeless Awareness Week, Cardboard City, grant awards, etc.	-Thumb Area CoC -IST Housing Resource Coordinator	-November 2006; annual maintenance	-Promotional pieces placed in outreach file -Record of community events	-Staffing time for production and participation in community event -Faith-based organizations
6. Publish results of each Point-in-Time (PIT) count.	-Thumb Area CoC	January 2007; on-going maintenance	-Promotional pieces placed in outreach file	-Local PIT coordinators -Computer/Internet access

## Key Activity Work Plan

- A. **Keyword Description:** Preventing Homelessness = Ending Homelessness
- B. **Brief Statement of Activity:** To expand the definition of homelessness.
- C. **Data (findings that drive the activity e.g., concerns, opportunities, planning):** Visioning sessions in both Huron and Tuscola Counties identified the HUD definition of homelessness as being too restrictive, thereby creating a gap in service for households “at risk” of becoming homelessness.

<b>D. Task List</b> (component steps of the activity)	<b>E. Responsibilities</b> (who is assigned to tasks)	<b>F. Timeline</b> (quarter/year)	<b>G. Benchmarks</b> (evidence that that task has been completed)	<b>H. Resource Needs</b> (human, financial, and community resources for task completion)
1. Support local, state, and national efforts to expand the HUD definition of homelessness to include those “at risk” of homelessness. Give testimony when requested and provide data to support the inclusion of those “at risk” of homelessness.	-Advisory Board/IST -Thumb Area CoC	-On-going	-Testimonial pieces placed in outreach file	-Data on cost of homelessness
2. Embrace “preventing homelessness” as a viable strategy for ending homelessness. Maintain accurate records to support the inclusion of those “at risk” of homelessness.	-Advisory Board/IST -Thumb Area CoC -Homeless assistance network -Service provider community -Housing Resource Coordinator	-2007; on-going maintenance	-Data on number of those who are “at risk” of homelessness	-Staffing time to track services for those “at risk” of homelessness -Training and usage of Michigan Statewide Homeless Management Information System (MSHMIS)

## Key Activity Work Plan

**A. Keyword Description:** Preventing Homelessness through Education

**B. Brief Statement of Activity:** To encourage those “at risk” of homelessness to seek services as soon as possible.

**C. Data (findings that drive the activity e.g., concerns, opportunities, planning):** Visioning sessions in both Huron and Tuscola Counties indicated households wait too long to seek services that would prevent homelessness and help them maintain their current housing (e.g., housing and/or utility payments are thousands of dollars in arrears).

<b>D. Task List</b> (component steps of the activity)	<b>E. Responsibilities</b> (who is assigned to tasks)	<b>F. Timeline</b> (quarter/year)	<b>G. Benchmarks</b> (evidence that that task has been completed)	<b>H. Resource Needs</b> (human, financial, and community resources for task completion)
1. Work to minimize the stigma associated with needing or asking for help by treating people with respect and dignity.	-IST -Housing Resource Coordinator -Huron Behavioral Health (anti-stigma in-service on mental illness & homeless)	-2007; on-going maintenance	-Promotional pieces placed in outreach file	-Staffing and/or volunteer time to compose and submit media pieces -Computer/Internet access -In-service logistics (date/time, invitees, location, refreshments, etc.)
2. Develop local educational promotions that encourage people to seek help before the situation escalates.	-IST -Housing Resource Coordinator	-2007; on-going maintenance	-Promotional pieces placed in outreach file	-Secondary/postsecondary student volunteers -Staffing time to review, edit, and distribute promotional pieces -Financial resources
3. Educate provider community on financial resources available to prevent homelessness (mortgage/rent/utility arrearage, etc.).	-IST -Housing Resource Coordinator	-2007/2008; on-going maintenance	-In-service training agenda -Email distribution list -Resource map	-Thumbresources.org -Staffing time
4. Educate the provider community on supports available to prevent homelessness (budgeting, energy education, rent subsidies, etc.).	-IST -Housing Resource Coordinator	-2007/2008; on-going maintenance	-In-service training agenda -Email distribution list -Resource map	-Thumbresources.org -Staffing time

## Key Activity Work Plan

**A. Keyword Description:** Preventing Homelessness with Financial Assistance

**B. Brief Statement of Activity:** To provide direct financial assistance to those “at risk” of homelessness.

**C. Data (findings that drive the activity e.g., concerns, opportunities, planning):** Visioning sessions in both Huron and Tuscola Counties identified a “lack of available resources” as an obstacle to keeping people housed.

<b>D. Task List</b> (component steps of the activity)	<b>E. Responsibilities</b> (who is assigned to tasks)	<b>F. Timeline</b> (quarter/year)	<b>G. Benchmarks</b> (evidence that that task has been completed)	<b>H. Resource Needs</b> (human, financial, and community resources for task completion)
1. Work w/ Thumb Area CoC to re-examine how MSHDA Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds are distributed; create ESG funding equity among the three counties.	-Thumb Area CoC Bylaws and Plan Committees -Community Collaborative Prevention Coordinators	-November 2006 (with changes anticipated in the upcoming ESG cycle)	-Changes to Thumb Area CoC bylaws and planning process -Equitable distribution of ESG resources for each of the three counties comprising the Thumb Area CoC	-Staffing/committee time
2. Identify other sources of homeless prevention funding (Veterans, Salvation Army, Emergency Food & Shelter Program, etc.).	-IST -Provider community -Housing Resource Coordinator	-2007/2008; on-going maintenance	-Increased funding for homeless prevention	-Staffing time
3. Use landlord/tenant mediation as a homeless prevention strategy to keep people housed.	-Provider community -Housing Resource Coordinator	-2007/2008; on-going maintenance	-Reduction in the number of evictions/foreclosures	- Financial resources to train volunteer mediators -Volunteer-base of trained mediators
4. Develop and/or increase a Homeless Prevention Endowment (HPE) fund balance w/ each county's Community Foundation.	-Executive Director of each Community Foundation -Advisory Board/IST -Community Collaborative Prevention Coordinators	-2010	-Create HPE fund in Huron County -Increase HPE fund balance in Tuscola County	-Fundraising event(s) -Fund donors

## Key Activity Work Plan

**A. Keyword Description:** Preventing Homelessness with Supports

**B. Brief Statement of Activity:** To provide supports for those “at risk” of homelessness.

**C. Data (findings that drive the activity e.g., concerns, opportunities, planning):** Visioning sessions in both Huron and Tuscola Counties indicated a need to provide supports after the housing crisis is resolved to avoid future episodes of near homelessness.

<b>D. Task List</b> (component steps of the activity)	<b>E. Responsibilities</b> (who is assigned to tasks)	<b>F. Timeline</b> (quarter/year)	<b>G. Benchmarks</b> (evidence that that task has been completed)	<b>H. Resource Needs</b> (human, financial, and community resources for task completion)
1. Create awareness in the provider community of available supports – people and housing – to prevent a recurrence of near homelessness.	-IST -Thumb Area CoC -Housing Resource Coordinator	-2007/2008; on-going maintenance	-In-service training agenda -Email distribution list	-Thumbresources.org -Staffing time
2. Identify availability of people supports: budgeting, case management, credit repair, energy education, nutrition, parenting, tax preparation, etc.	-Provider community -Housing Resource Coordinator	-2007/2008; on-going maintenance	-Persons “at risk” of homelessness are connected to needed services to prevent future episodes of near homelessness	-Faith-based organizations -Homeless assistance and service provider agencies -Funds for more support services
3. Identify availability of homeowner housing supports: emergency repair, home maintenance, rehabilitation, loans (Property Improvement, Rural Development), weatherization, etc.	-Provider community -Housing Resource Coordinator	-2007/2008; on-going maintenance	-Homeowners “at risk” of homelessness are connected to needed rehab services to prevent future episodes of near homelessness	-Faith-based organizations -Homeless assistance and service provider agencies -Funds for more homeowner rehab services
4. Identify availability of landlord/tenant housing supports: housing choice vouchers, property improvement loans, rental rehabilitation, weatherization, etc.	-Provider community -Landlords -Housing Resource Coordinator	-2007/2008; on-going maintenance	-Landlords and tenants receive education on and are connected to available resources to prevent future episodes of homelessness	-Faith-based organizations -Homeless assistance and service provider agencies -Funds for landlord/tenant education and support

## Key Activity Work Plan

**A. Keyword Description:** Temporary Sheltering (35 days or less)

**B. Brief Statement of Activity:** To provide temporary sheltering options for homeless individuals and families with children.

**C. Data (findings that drive the activity e.g., concerns, opportunities, planning):** Visioning sessions in both Huron and Tuscola Counties indicated a need for temporary sheltering, especially for youth, unaccompanied adult males and intact, two-parent families that are homeless, while permanent housing is located and accompanying paperwork is completed.

<b>D. Task List</b> (component steps of the activity)	<b>E. Responsibilities</b> (who is assigned to tasks)	<b>F. Timeline</b> (quarter/year)	<b>G. Benchmarks</b> (evidence that that task has been completed)	<b>H. Resource Needs</b> (human, financial, and community resources for task completion)
1. Support existing temporary sheltering providers in each county (DHS State Emergency Relief, MSDHA Rural Homeless, DV shelters, homeless coalitions, etc.).	-IST -Thumb Area CoC -Housing Resource Coordinator	-On-going	-Sustainability of existing sheltering facilities that predominantly serve victims of domestic violence and homeless women with children	-Financial resources -Staffing/volunteer resources -Community support
2. Create additional temporary sheltering options by securing other resources for motel vouchers (MSHDA Rural Homeless Initiative, Emergency Food & Shelter Program, etc.).	-Current sheltering providers -Thumb Area CoC -Homeless assistance providers	-2008	-Creation of alternative sheltering for unserved/underserved homeless populations (men, youth, families with children) while permanent housing is secured.	-Financial resources -Staffing resources -Community support
3. Coordinate the availability of temporary sheltering, in particular motel vouchers, through a single point of entry whenever possible.	-Housing Resource Coordinator	-2007/2008; on-going maintenance	-Centralized distribution of motel vouchers as an alternative sheltering strategy.	-Staffing resources
4. Explore/engage the faith-based community in offering temporary sheltering (like the faith-based project in Lapeer County, <i>The Refuge</i> ).	-IST -Thumb Area CoC -Huron Co. Homeless Coalition -Tuscola Co. Housing Alliance	-2008; on-going maintenance	-Creation of alternative sheltering for unserved/underserved homeless populations while permanent housing is secured.	-Financial resources -Fundraising -Staffing/volunteer resources -Community support

## Key Activity Work Plan

**A. Keyword Description: Temporary Sheltering (continued)**

**B. Brief Statement of Activity: To provide temporary sheltering options for homeless individuals and families with children.**

**C. Data (findings that drive the activity e.g., concerns, opportunities, planning): Visioning sessions in both Huron and Tuscola Counties indicated a need for temporary sheltering, especially for single, adult males and intact, two-parent families that are homeless, while permanent housing is located and accompanying paperwork is completed.**

<b>D. Task List</b> (component steps of the activity)	<b>E. Responsibilities</b> (who is assigned to tasks)	<b>F. Timeline</b> (quarter/year)	<b>G. Benchmarks</b> (evidence that that task has been completed)	<b>H. Resource Needs</b> (human, financial, and community resources for task completion)
5. Identify availability of housing services and supports while in temporary sheltering: vacant housing units, case management, child care, food assistance, job search, money management, parenting, etc.	-IST -Thumb Area CoC -Provider community -Housing Resource Coordinator	-2007/2008; on-going maintenance	-Resource map on Thumbresources.org	-Housing Locator (anticipated in 2007) -Computer/Internet access -Staffing/volunteer time
6. Create mentoring experiences to assist individuals and families while in temporary sheltering with varying needs such as paperwork, transportation, independent living skills, etc. Engage the faith-based community in these efforts as well.	-Huron County Homeless Coalition -Tuscola County Housing Alliance -Housing Resource Coordinator	-2008/2009; on-going maintenance	-In-service for volunteers/ staff to become Housing First mentors (agenda, sign-in sheet, materials, etc.) -Roster of volunteers trained as housing mentors	- Financial resources to train volunteer mentors -Background checks for volunteers -Volunteer-base of trained housing mentors

## Key Activity Work Plan

**A. Keyword Description:** Supportive Housing

**B. Brief Statement of Activity:** To provide supportive housing programming options (transitional and permanent supportive housing).

**C. Data (findings that drive the activity e.g., concerns, opportunities, planning):** Visioning sessions in both Huron and Tuscola Counties indicated a need for supportive housing, transitional and/or permanent, for the general homeless population and homeless subpopulations with emphasis on those who are a “challenge to house”, specifically families with children, single males, felons/inmates, and youth under age 18.

<b>D. Task List</b> (component steps of the activity)	<b>E. Responsibilities</b> (who is assigned to tasks)	<b>F. Timeline</b> (quarter/year)	<b>G. Benchmarks</b> (evidence that that task has been completed)	<b>H. Resource Needs</b> (human, financial, and community resources for task completion)
1. Maximize usage of existing supportive housing programs (A Door to Open [individuals], Creating Homes [individuals and families], and Welcome Home [individuals]) and other available resources (Housing Choice Vouchers [individuals and families], Stepping Stones [single males]).	-Case management staff assigned to a particular supportive housing project	-Currently available; on-going maintenance	-Housing slots (bed capacity) are continuously filled -Point-in-Time count indicates there is a gap in service as all housing slots are filled -30-day turnaround from the time someone exits and a new enrollment occurs	-Communication w/ agencies/organizations that serve target population -Financial resources for street outreach efforts
2. Work with funding sources to enhance/expand existing supportive housing programs (SHP). <u>Example:</u> Welcome Home needs a 1- and 2-bedroom project design, not just 2-bedroom. <u>Example:</u> A Door to Open is operational in Huron County but not Tuscola County. (Need to contact Tuscola Behavioral Health Systems [TBHS] to determine interest).	-Current supportive housing grantees and partners -Tuscola County Community Collaborative Prevention Coordinator (for A Door to Open)	-Welcome Home: Late 2006 w/ implementation in July 2007 (upon HUD approval) -A Door to Open: January 2007 w/ start-up in May 2008 (if TBHS is interested & funds are available)	- HUD modification for Welcome Home submitted; letter regarding approval status -Record of discussion with TBHS regarding participation in A Door to Open -Record of discussion with MDCH regarding expansion of A Door to Open into Tuscola County	-Staffing time to submit grant modifications -Staffing time to coordinate and conduct necessary meetings

## Key Activity Work Plan

**A. Keyword Description: Supportive Housing (continued)**

**B. Brief Statement of Activity: To provide supportive housing programming options (transitional and permanent supportive housing).**

**C. Data (findings that drive the activity e.g., concerns, opportunities, planning): Visioning sessions in both Huron and Tuscola Counties indicated a need for supportive housing, transitional and/or permanent, for the general homeless population and homeless subpopulations with emphasis on those who are a “challenge to house”, specifically families with children, single males, felons/inmates, and youth under age 18.**

<b>D. Task List</b> (component steps of the activity)	<b>E. Responsibilities</b> (who is assigned to tasks)	<b>F. Timeline</b> (quarter/year)	<b>G. Benchmarks</b> (evidence that that task has been completed)	<b>H. Resource Needs</b> (human, financial, and community resources for task completion)
3. Investigate, plan, prepare, apply, and administer new initiatives for homeless families with children.	-Advisory Board/IST -Other interested parties (DHS, behavioral health, Human Development Commission [HDC], etc.)	-Late 2006 (MSHDA Homeless Families with Children Housing Initiative -April 2008 or 2009 (HUD SHP via Balance of State)	-Apply for funding through MSHDA Homeless Families with Children Housing Initiative -Apply for HUD SHP funding through MSHDA Balance of State to serve homeless families with children when at least one parent is disabled -Administer grant award	-Data to support need -Community buy-in to provide supports and cash/in-kind match -Financial/staffing resources to submit grant -Affordable housing in safe neighborhoods
4. Investigate, plan, prepare, apply, and administer new housing initiatives for offenders.	- Advisory Board/IST -Other interested parties (DHS, behavioral health, HDC, substance abuse providers, Blue Water Center for Independent Living, [BWCIL] etc.)	- 2007 or when available in Huron and Tuscola Counties -	-Apply for funding through the Michigan Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative -Administer grant award -Engage Thumb Area Michigan Works! in determining if pilot funding is available for employment, training, and supports for offenders	-Data to support need -Community buy-in to provide supports and cash/in-kind match -Financial/staffing resources to submit grant -Affordable housing in safe neighborhoods

## Key Activity Work Plan

**A. Keyword Description:** Supportive Housing (continued)

**B. Brief Statement of Activity:** To provide supportive housing programming options (transitional and permanent supportive housing).

**C. Data (findings that drive the activity e.g., concerns, opportunities, planning):** Visioning sessions in both Huron and Tuscola Counties indicated a need for supportive housing, transitional and/or permanent, for the general homeless population and homeless subpopulations with emphasis on those who are a “challenge to house”, specifically families with children, single males, felons/inmates, and youth under age 18.

<b>D. Task List</b> (component steps of the activity)	<b>E. Responsibilities</b> (who is assigned to tasks)	<b>F. Timeline</b> (quarter/year)	<b>G. Benchmarks</b> (evidence that that task has been completed)	<b>H. Resource Needs</b> (human, financial, and community resources for task completion)
5. Support the Thumb Area Continuum of Care’s Youth Homeless committee as it Investigates, plans, prepares, and applies for new supportive housing programs for homeless youth.	-Thumb Area CoC Youth Homeless Committee -Advisory Board/IST -Other interested parties (DHS, ISD, etc.)	-Committee is currently active -Late 2006 (MSHDA Homeless Youth -On-going persistence for other funding opportunities	-Report to Thumb Area CoC planning body on progress -Thumb Area CoC reflect report and progress -Apply for funding through MSHDA Homeless Youth Initiative -Administer grant award	-Thumb Area CoC Youth Homeless Committee -Community buy-in to provide supports and cash/in-kind match -Financial/staffing resources to submit grant -Affordable housing in safe neighborhoods
6. Investigate, plan, prepare, apply, and administer new supportive housing programs for chronically homeless.	-A Door to Open partners -Advisory Board/IST -Other interested parties (DHS, substance abuse providers, etc.)	- Spring/Summer 2007 (anticipated)	-Apply for funding through the Michigan Department of Community Health -Apply for appropriate funding through other available resources -Administer grant award	-Data to support need -Community buy-in to provide supports and cash/in-kind match -Financial/staffing resources to submit grant -Affordable housing in safe neighborhoods
7. Prepare for expansion of HUD/ SHP Transitional Supportive Housing wherein \$0 are available for supports or administration.	-Huron County Homeless Coalition -Tuscola County Housing Alliance	-Fall 2006 or when available	-Apply for HUD/ SHP Transitional Supportive Housing -Administer grant award	-Buy-in from community organizations to submit /administer grant and provide supports w/o cost

## Key Activity Work Plan

**A. Keyword Description:** Supportive Housing: Community Supports

**B. Brief Statement of Activity:** To provide supports for those enrolled in transitional and permanent supportive housing programs.

**C. Data (findings that drive the activity e.g., concerns, opportunities, planning):** Visioning sessions in both Huron and Tuscola Counties indicated the general homeless population and homeless subpopulations need community supports for before, during, and after accessing permanent housing.

<b>D. Task List</b> (component steps of the activity)	<b>E. Responsibilities</b> (who is assigned to tasks)	<b>F. Timeline</b> (quarter/year)	<b>G. Benchmarks</b> (evidence that that task has been completed)	<b>H. Resource Needs</b> (human, financial, and community resources for task completion)
1. Educate on supports available to maintain housing: case management, child care, credit repair, energy education, food assistance, job search/training, money management, parenting, tax preparation, transportation, etc.	-IST -Thumb Area CoC -Housing Resource Coordinator -Case management staff assigned to a particular supportive housing project	2007/2008; on-going maintenance	-Recurrence of homelessness is diminished -Participating individuals and families access supports necessary for housing stability and self-sufficiency	-Financial/staffing resources to provide case management, supports, and advocacy
2. Educate on how to establish beneficial landlord/tenant relationships; educate on rights and responsibilities of both parties.	-BWCIL -Other agencies interested in offering this support	2007/2008; on-going maintenance	-Adults participating in supportive housing programs attend a "Smart Renters" workshop (currently offered by BWCIL)	-Staffing resources for training on landlord/ tenant issues -Financial/staffing resources
3. Create mentoring experiences to assist individuals and families while in supportive housing with varying needs such as paperwork, transportation, independent living skills, etc. Engage the faith-based community in these efforts as well.	-Huron County Homeless Coalition -Tuscola County Housing Alliance -Housing Resource Coordinator	2008/2009; on-going maintenance	-In-service for volunteers/ staff to become housing mentors (agenda, sign-in sheet, materials, etc.) -Roster of volunteers trained as housing mentors	- Financial resources to train volunteer mentors -Background checks for volunteers -Volunteer-base of trained housing mentors

## Key Activity Work Plan

**A. Keyword Description:** Preserve Existing Housing

**B. Brief Statement of Activity:** To provide assistance that sustains existing single-family, owner-occupied housing stock.

**C. Data (findings that drive the activity e.g., concerns, opportunities, planning):** Visioning sessions in both Huron and Tuscola Counties indicated a need to decrease the potential of low-income homeowners becoming homeless (or “at risk” of homelessness) due to unsafe, substandard housing.

<b>D. Task List</b> (component steps of the activity)	<b>E. Responsibilities</b> (who is assigned to tasks)	<b>F. Timeline</b> (quarter/year)	<b>G. Benchmarks</b> (evidence that that task has been completed)	<b>H. Resource Needs</b> (human, financial, and community resources for task completion)
1. Educate the community-at-large and the provider network on financial resources available for home rehab and repair, which may include measures for energy conservation and handicap accessibility.	-Federal/state/local agencies with home rehab/repair funding -Housing Resource Coordinator	-Currently available; on-going promotion	-# of homeowners accessing services -# of single-family, owner-occupied homes preserved	-Cooperation from current providers to document # of customers served -Staffing resources -Thumbresources.org
2. Investigate, plan, prepare, apply, and administer homeowner rehab projects with a particular emphasis on mobile home repair.	-Interested parties seeking rehabilitation funding	2008/2009; on-going maintenance	-Apply for funding through new initiatives/sources -Administer grant award	-Data to support need -Financial/staffing resources to submit grant
3. Investigate, plan, prepare, apply, and administer replacement housing projects when the condition of the family home becomes unsafe and substandard.	-Interested parties seeking replacement housing funding	2009/2010; on-going maintenance	-Apply for funding through new initiatives/sources -Administer grant award	-Data to support need -Financial/staffing resources to submit grant
4. Create awareness in the community-at-large and provider network on available energy education classes to combat high energy burdens.	-Agency(ies) offering classes -Other agencies notifying their consumers	-Currently available; on-going promotion	-# of energy education classes held -# of persons receiving energy education materials	-Cooperation from current providers to document # of customers served -Staffing resources to host classes -Financial resources for class materials

## Key Activity Work Plan

**A. Keyword Description:** Information Sharing/Data Collection

**B. Brief Statement of Activity:** To provide assistance that sustains existing single-family, owner-occupied housing stock.

**C. Data (findings that drive the activity e.g., concerns, opportunities, planning):** Visioning sessions in both Huron and Tuscola Counties indicated a need for reliable, accurate data to demonstrate need and success.

<b>D. Task List</b> (component steps of the activity)	<b>E. Responsibilities</b> (who is assigned to tasks)	<b>F. Timeline</b> (quarter/year)	<b>G. Benchmarks</b> (evidence that that task has been completed)	<b>H. Resource Needs</b> (human, financial, and community resources for task completion)
1. Actively participate by collecting and entering data into the Michigan Statewide Homeless Management Information System.	-Agencies receiving grants to administer homeless/affordable housing projects -HDC as the Thumb Area CoC's MSHMIS Coordinator	-Being undertaken by MSDHA ESG recipients -2007/2008 (other homeless assistance providers)	-Reliable, accurate data are available and shared w/ the community	-Financial resources for hardware/software costs -Training on MSHMIS -Staffing/volunteer time to enter data -Refresher training for new staff/volunteers

## OUTCOMES

Outcome data measure the success of planning grants and report on accompanying projects. Anticipated outcomes of the *Huron/Tuscola County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness* are provided below.

### **For Awareness and Education**

1. Beginning in 2007, the Housing First methodology will be introduced to housing assistance providers, other service groups, and the community-at-large.
2. Beginning in 2006, Housing First information and updates will be disseminated monthly to housing assistance providers, other service groups, and the community-at-large.
3. In 2007, a Housing First resource map will be posted on Thumbresources.org, serving as an easily accessible, electronic service guide for housing assistance providers, other service groups, and the community-at-large.
4. Beginning in 2007, there will be an increased awareness regarding the extent and impact of rural homelessness through the use of local media and websites. Quarterly and annual editorials/news articles published in the county newspapers of record, Huron Daily Tribune and Tuscola County Advertiser, will reach ~15,000 households (based on subscription rates of ~6,200 and ~8,800 respectively).

### **For Preventing Homelessness**

1. In 2007, an in-service on treating people with respect and minimizing associated stigmas will be facilitated by Huron Behavioral Health for the homeless assistance providers and other service groups.
2. Beginning in 2008, an annual survey of homeless assistance providers will report a decrease in the amount of homeless prevention funds requested per episode because households are asking for help sooner as a result of planned educational promotions.
3. Beginning in 2008, homeless assistance providers will report increased knowledge on financial resources and community supports available to prevent homelessness (evaluations from workshops, in-service, etc.).
4. Starting in July 2007, there will be a reallocation of MSHDA Emergency Shelter Grant funds to ensure equitable distribution for Huron and Tuscola Counties.
5. Starting in 2008, an annual survey of homeless assistance providers will report an increase in the amount of homeless prevention funds available as new resources are identified and/or existing resources are reassigned.
6. By 2010, a Huron County Homeless Prevention Endowment Fund will be established at the Huron County Community Foundation. The first grant will be awarded by 2015.
7. By 2010, the Tuscola County Homeless Prevention Endowment Fund, which is established at the Tuscola County Community Foundation, will double its funds available for grant awards.

8. By 2008, a minimum of five (5) volunteers will be trained in landlord/tenant mediation in an effort to prevent episodes of homelessness.

### **For Temporary Sheltering**

1. By 2008/2009, alternative, temporary sheltering (e.g., motel vouchers, faith-based, Rural Homeless Initiative, etc.) will be available in Huron and Tuscola Counties for the unserved/ underserved populations of youth, single men, and two-parent families with children.
2. By 2008/2009, individuals and families with children will be housed in alternative, temporary sheltering for less than 30 days while efforts to obtain permanent housing are carried out. (Exception: Victims of domestic violence who are housed in domestic violence shelters.)
3. By 2008/2009, a minimum of five (5) volunteers per county (ten [10] total) will be trained as Housing First mentors, helping homeless individuals and families with children access safe, affordable housing and other community supports. (Note: The Housing First mentors will serve individuals and families with children who are in alternative, temporary sheltering and supportive housing programs.)

### **For Supportive Housing**

1. By 2008, all existing supportive housing programs and other housing resources will report enrollment at maximum capacity.
2. By 2010, there will be a supportive housing program for homeless families with children in Huron and Tuscola Counties.
3. By 2010, there will be a supportive housing program for homeless youth age 18 and over in Huron and Tuscola Counties.
4. By 2011, there will be a supportive housing program for chronically homeless individuals in Huron and Tuscola Counties.
5. By 2012, there will be a prisoner re-entry initiative (housing and/or community supports) for soon-to-be-released/newly released prisoners who will be/are returning to Huron and Tuscola Counties.

### **For Information Sharing/Data Collection**

1. By 2006/2007, all homeless assistance providers and other service groups receiving HUD, MSHDA, DHS, DCH, and/or DOC funds will entry customer data into the Michigan Statewide Homeless Management Information System (MSHMIS).
2. By 2008/2009, all homeless assistance providers and other service groups not receiving HUD, MSHDA, DHS, DCH, and/or DOC funds (e.g., local homeless coalition) will be asked to enter customer data into the MSHMIS with 50% complying.

## ENDNOTES

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- <sup>i</sup> Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University, State of the Nation's Housing, 2006.
- <sup>ii</sup> National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty: Key Data Concerning Homeless Persons in America, July 2004.
- <sup>iii</sup> Vissing, Yvonne: Out of Sight, Out of Mind: Homeless Children and Families in Small-Town America, 1996.
- <sup>iv</sup> National Coalition for the Homeless, How Many People Experience Homelessness?, Fact Sheet #2, June 2006.
- <sup>v</sup> Fisher, Monica. Why Is U.S. Poverty Higher in Nonmetropolitan than Metropolitan Areas?, 2005.
- <sup>vi</sup> National Coalition for the Homeless, Why Are People Homeless?, Fact Sheet #1, June 2006.
- <sup>vii</sup> National Coalition for the Homeless, Homeless Families with Children, Fact Sheet #12, June 2006.
- <sup>viii</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>ix</sup> National Coalition for the Homeless, Domestic Violence and Homelessness, Fact Sheet #7, June 2006.
- <sup>x</sup> National Coalition for the Homeless, Homeless Veterans, Fact Sheet #14, June 2006.
- <sup>xi</sup> Rosenbeck, Robert. "Homeless Veterans" in Homelessness in America, 1996.
- <sup>xii</sup> Burt, Martha. Homeless Programs and the People They Serve. Urban Institute, 1999.
- <sup>xiii</sup> National Coalition for the Homeless, Addiction Disorders and Homelessness, Fact Sheet #6, June 2006.
- <sup>xiv</sup> Burt, 1999.
- <sup>xv</sup> Center for Law and Social Policy, Leave No Youth Behind: Opportunities for Congress to Reach Disconnected Youth, 2003.
- <sup>xvi</sup> National Coalition for the Homeless, Homeless Youth, Fact Sheet #13, June 2006.

