



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COHHIO STATEMENT ON DECREASING HOMELESSNESS IN OHIO

The Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio touted a recent federal report showing a 17 percent decline in overall homelessness in Ohio since 2010.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's annual [Homeless Assessment Report to Congress](#) found even more dramatic decreases in certain categories of homelessness between 2010 and 2016:

- a 29 percent and 23 percent reduction among homeless families in Ohio and the U.S. respectively,
- a 39 percent and 47 percent drop in veteran homelessness in Ohio and the U.S. respectively, and
- a 65 percent 27 percent decline in individuals experiencing chronic homelessness in Ohio and the U.S. respectively.

Ohio's decreasing rate of homelessness parallels a national trend since 2010, the year the Obama Administration launched Opening Doors, the nation's first comprehensive strategy to prevent and end homelessness. In fact, Ohio's progress was better than the national reductions in 3 of the 4 categories measured. The figures are based on the Point in Time Count, which tallies the number of individuals experiencing homelessness on a single day in January every year.

COHHIO Executive Director Bill Faith said the decreasing rate of homelessness was the result of a deliberate, well-concerted effort to address the problem at the federal, state and local levels.

"These results show that the problem of homelessness is solvable, and that's cause for celebration. But we can't take our eyes off the prize until every Ohioan has a safe, decent place to call home," he said.

"More and more communities in Ohio are embracing proven methods for fighting homelessness, like Housing First, which we've known for years is highly effective in permanently housing people suffering long-term homelessness. We've also seen an influx of federal funding for veteran homelessness, while local agencies funded by the Ohio Housing Trust Fund are forging partnerships that are effectively housing the most vulnerable Ohioans," Faith added.

Changes in rates of homelessness varied significantly among Ohio's nine regional homeless planning regions called "Continua of Care." See the attached chart for local homelessness data.