

February  
2022

# Springfield & Sangamon County Strategic Plan to Address Homelessness Community Update

## Strategic Planning Update

### Held 4 Community Summits

100 Residents of Springfield & Sangamon County Participated

What we learned:

1. You want to know more about **community resources, data, solutions to & causes of homelessness.**
2. Solutions you would support include **rehabbing vacant buildings & properties; more scattered site housing and trying scattered site shelter.**
3. You want a homeless system that is **low-barrier and Housing First.**
4. You want a plan with **neighborhood & community involvement; achievable goals & solutions that work.**

November 2021

December 2021

January 2022

February 2022

Draft Strategic Plan  
Spring 2022

### Drafting Goals & Strategies

Strategic Plan Steering Committee begins drafting goals and strategies for the plan.

### Focus Areas

The Steering Committee identified two focus areas: Behavioral Health and Housing. Two subcommittees were convened of community members to develop goals & strategies in these areas.

### Housing Development Exercise

The Housing Subcommittee begins an exercise in developing housing to test implementation strategies in the strategic plan.

## Get Involved

### Volunteer for the Point in Time Count

The Heartland Continuum of Care is in need of volunteers to conduct the annual Point in Time count.

Volunteers will be deployed in teams throughout Springfield and Sangamon county to look for people experiencing homelessness on the street, in abandoned buildings and other locations to include in the count.

When: February 22nd starting at 8:00 pm

Complete this [form to volunteer](#)

Volunteer training will be held via Zoom on February 15th at 1:30 pm

### What is the Point in Time Count?

The Point in Time count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night usually in January. The U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) requires that communities conduct a count of people experiencing homelessness who are sheltered in emergency shelter or living on the street or other locations not meant for human habitation.

Point in time counts are important because they establish the dimensions of the problem of homelessness and help policymakers and program administrators track progress toward the goal of ending homelessness.

### Community Ambassador Program

Help the Heartland Continuum of Care reach **100** Community Ambassadors. [Take the training today!](#)

## Parting Words

At the Community Summits, we asked participants to share their hopes for what the local homeless system will be in five years. Here are your answers, with more frequent answers appearing in larger font.

