



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Heartland Continuum of Care Announces Springfield & Sangamon County's 2022-2028 Strategic Plan to Address Homelessness

SPRINGFIELD – The Heartland Continuum of Care (HCoC) partnered with Homebase, LathanHarris, Inc. and a steering committee made up of local stakeholders to complete Springfield & Sangamon County's 2022-2028 Strategic Plan to Address Homelessness.

The goal of the plan is to reduce homelessness to functional zero in five years. Functional zero is a term that means a community has the housing and service resources necessary to help all people who experience homelessness end that experience within 30 days. The result would be a community where homelessness is rare, brief, and nonrecurring.

Funding for the strategic planning process provided by the City of Springfield, Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln, Memorial Medical Center, HSHS St. John's Hospital, Sangamon County, Springfield Housing Authority, SIU School of Medicine, and United Way of Central Illinois.

“We know that homelessness is solvable and we have seen communities similar to ours drastically change how they approach the challenge. This plan gives our community an opportunity to create an effective system to address homelessness in Springfield and Sangamon County. There is no quick fix but with community support and new investment in solutions that have proven to help people end their experience of homelessness, we can reach the ambitious goal of functional zero by 2028,” said HCoC Coordinator Josh Sabo. “The outcome will be a healthier community for all.”

The plan strategies include creating more housing opportunities, improving the homeless system, coordinating with other systems to reduce homelessness, and developing the backbone organization necessary to help our community work together to end homelessness.

Springfield & Sangamon County's 2022-2028 Strategic Plan to Address is connected to many ongoing efforts improve our community. The plan is a priority project of The Next 10, a community visioning project sponsored by the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln. Addressing homelessness is a key priority in the 2021 Community Health Needs Assessment conducted by Springfield Memorial Hospital, HSHS St. John's Hospital, and the Sangamon County Department of Public Health.

The strategic plan and additional resources are available on the [Heartland Continuum of Care's website](#).

Heartland Continuum of Care serves as the primary U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development designated body to develop, coordinate and implement long-range plans meeting the needs of homeless persons in the greater Springfield, Illinois community. To learn more, visit www.heartlandcontinuum.com.

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