



November 30, 2018

To: Fort Collins Mayor Troxell, City Council, City Leaders

From: Holly LeMasurier, Homeward 2020 Director

Re: *Housing First Initiative Update*, 2018 Quarter 3 Report; July– September 2018

Homeward 2020 is sharing the recent [Q3 2018 Housing First Initiative \(HFI\) quarterly report](#). HFI obtains and shares up-to-date, actionable data and project learning experiences with city leadership, service providers, stakeholders and the community-at-large, as the project explores housing and support solutions for persons experiencing **long-term, chronic homelessness in Fort Collins**. The project identifies trends, gaps and recommendations specific to the local community and Fort Collins context.

2018 Q3 HFI Data highlights

- 375 people are experiencing chronic homelessness in Fort Collins (homeless more than six months).
- 18 HFI participants were housed this quarter.
- 35 new people entered long-term and chronic homelessness this quarter.
- HFI participants housed since the program launch reflect 95% housing retention through this quarter.
- Health and Homelessness: 63% report a disability; 75% are successfully enrolled in Medicaid.
- Income and Homelessness: 240 report having \$0 income at entry. Participants are connected to employment and other resource programs.
- Persistent community services challenges for this group continue to be a lack of adequate investment in flexible, client-centered, intensive case management and nimble housing access.

[Housing First Initiative Annual Report](#) & September 5 Community Stakeholder Event

HFI held a community-wide learning event on September 5 at the Lincoln Center and presented data and recommendations from one year of implementation of the Fort Collins HFI project. All City Council members and City leadership from diverse departments were invited. Over 125 City, County and State leaders working **regionally** to address chronic homelessness were in attendance. Kristin Toombs, Director of State of Colorado Department of Local Affairs Homelessness Solutions Program, provided opening remarks and expressed the state's interest in working closely with communities striving to align resources to leverage with the State. Mayor Troxell provided closing remarks restating the City of Fort Collins' commitment to make homelessness rare, short-lived and non-recurring. A panel of local experts working on healthcare and housing for people experiencing homelessness answered questions from the audience for over an hour. HFI's first annual report, reviewed in detail at the event, is also attached. A short, educational video depicting one man's journey from homelessness to housing, [On My Way Homeward](#), was also unveiled.

Looking Ahead

HFI staff and partnerships will continue working with individuals experiencing long-term, chronic homelessness in Fort Collins, however, the project model and infrastructure will also be leveraged for the **upcoming 2019 Fort Collins FUSE Initiative**. Community service providers will coordinate housing placement, client-centered supportive services and housing retention for 10-12 individuals who are chronically homeless *and* frequent utilizers of emergency and crisis services (shelters, 911, jail, detox, court, emergency room, outreach, etc.)
**More information on the FC FUSE project due to Council under separate cover in early 2019.*

HFI, FUSE, and our community work aligning Housing and Health sector homelessness priorities, are the three, primary 'evidence-to-action' best-practice initiatives Homeward 2020 is focused on.

The next HFI quarterly report and Council and Leadership update is also due in January 2019.

Homeward 2020 Website

Please continue to access and explore the [Homeward 2020 website](#) and the [HFI interactive data dashboard](#) as a resource for you and your interests in local homelessness solutions. **The Homeward 2020 website also shares strategies and resources specifically curated on the website for the Fort Collins community and leaders.**

For more information contact:

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Attachments and links:

[Housing First Annual Report](#)

[Housing First 2018 Q3 Report](#)