



May 15, 2019

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

From: Holly LeMasurier, Homeward 2020 Director

Re: Homeward 2020 Update; *Housing First Initiative*, 2019 Q1 Report; FUSE Initiative

The recent **Q1 2019 Housing First Initiative (HFI) quarterly report is attached**. HFI obtains and shares up-to-date, actionable data and project developments 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 Fort Collins context. HFI and Homeward 2020 provide quarterly reports and updates to City Council since launching the program in [Fall 2017](#). All reports provided to Council, City Leaders and the community are posted on the [Homeward 2020 HFI website page](#).

The accessible [HFI interactive data dashboard](#) tracks local data on long-term homelessness in Fort Collins.

2019 Q1 HFI Data highlights

- **432** people are experiencing long-term homelessness (6 months+) in Fort Collins today.
- **62** new people entered long-term homelessness in Q1 alone. *This data point is particularly concerning due to the growing number of underserved people not resolving their homelessness more rapidly, pointing to current gaps in system capacity.
- Persistent community challenges for this group continue to be 1) a lack of adequate investment in flexible, client-centered, intensive case management, and 2) a shortage of the most deeply affordable housing units (0-30% AMI), and 3) in the interim, access to existing housing units in the community.
- **23** HFI participants were placed in supportive housing this quarter.

The next HFI report to the community is a Year 2 Annual Report expected in July 2019.

The Fort Collins FUSE Initiative (Frequent Utilizer System Engagement)

Homeward 2020 and partners are working on a multi-year project targeting individuals who are chronically homeless *and* frequent utilizers of emergency and crisis services (shelters, 911, jail, detox, court, emergency room, outreach, etc.). **Fort Collins is implementing an initial small-scale demonstration project of a national, evidence-based intervention model for homeless frequent utilizers, called a [FUSE Initiative](#)**. Housing, justice and healthcare providers will coordinate housing placement, supportive services and housing retention for 20 individuals. Colorado State University Social Work Research Center will conduct an evaluation of pre- and post-intervention data, service and cost impacts, and housing and health outcomes of individuals after supportive interventions are applied. The FUSE demonstration project launches in June 2019 and the report is expected in summer 2020.

Philip Mangano Community Meetings

In April, Homeward 2020 hosted Philip Mangano, a United States expert on place-based community solutions to homelessness. Four intimate community meetings, including over sixty different participants from different sectors across the region were held. Mangano's key messages centered around outcomes-based approaches, data-driven decision making, and bringing local work to greater scale to realize community impact. Mangano praised Fort Collins for applying diverse best practices and having only a few key gaps to fill, and assessed our

greatest homeless challenge as one of scaling: while we recognize the excellent work happening, it is not at the scale needed to meet the inevitable growing need. He urged our community to get ahead of the problem before further overwhelmed by the forces driving people into homelessness and do not have capacity to respond, further frustrating our community and deepening tensions and polarization around the issue.

Looking Ahead to 2020

In 2020, Following completion of the final phase of **Fort Collins 10 Year Plan to make Homelessness Rare, Short-Lived and Non-Recurring in Fort Collins** (which includes two years of implementation of the Housing First Initiative and one year of the FUSE demonstration projects above) Homeward 2020 will capitalize on the organization's decade of research and system development, application of key evidence-based models, data collection, consultation with national experts, and ongoing, collaborative community work to develop a comprehensive status report and final recommendations for a **Community Action Strategy**. This Strategy will include quantified and monetized solutions to end homelessness in Fort Collins based on performance targets, the status of existing assets and persistent gaps, prioritized next steps, and opportunities for funding and resources to leverage and layer towards the effort. The goal is to secure a sustainable and effective system response to homelessness across the entire continuum of care in Fort Collins.

Homeward 2020 Website

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

Council Work Session October 8

The annual Homeward 2020 Work Session with City Council on homelessness is scheduled for October 8. Please contact me with any specific questions and content you would like to see addressed or discussed.

For more information contact:

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