
2021 ANNUAL CoC PLAN

Lakeland, Winter Haven/Polk County
Continuum of Care
Homeless Coalition of Polk County
Lead Agency
328 W Highland Drive
Lakeland, FL 33813

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Lakeland, Winter Haven/Polk County Continuum of Care Annual CoC Plan is to document the strategies to achieve the CoC's vision to end homelessness in the geographical area for the coming year. Ending homelessness means preventing homelessness whenever possible, and when that is not possible, the homeless experience is rare, non-recurring, and short lived. The strategies in this plan support long-term major goals established and approved by the CoC.

GOALS AND STRATEGIES

MAJOR POLICY GOAL 1: Prevent Homelessness Whenever Possible

Strategies:

- Improve targeting of prevention resources;
- Prioritize project models that emphasize preventing returns to homelessness.

MAJOR POLICY GOAL 2: End Homelessness Quickly When It Occurs

Strategies:

- Continue funding and supporting Rapid Rehousing projects;
- Increase the use and availability of Permanent Supportive Housing;
- Advocate for increased development of affordable housing within the local community.

MAJOR POLICY GOAL 3: Focus on Resources for Priority Populations

Strategies:

- Prioritize veterans for non-VA resources when VA resources are not available;
- Prioritize resources for victims of domestic violence;
- Increase outreach resources focused on the chronically homeless.

MAJOR POLICY GOAL 4: Operate an Effective and Efficient Homeless System

Strategies:

- Regularly monitor projects performance in ending homelessness;
- Monitor and update needs and gaps in housing and services, as needed;
- Ensure adequate ongoing support for Coordinated Entry and HMIS;
- Increase the use of quality diversion strategies and measure their effectiveness.