

# FACT SHEET: Cape and Islands Regional Network on Homelessness

*Barnstable County Department of Human Services  
January 2017*

## **MISSION**

The Cape and Islands Regional Network on Homelessness is a collaborative effort of state, county and local government, social service providers, housing agencies, faith-based organizations, the business community and individuals working together to prevent and end homelessness. Through its broad-based public-private partnership, the Regional Network identifies and implements creative solutions to preventing and ending homelessness on Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket. Created in 2009 out of the former Leadership Council to End Homelessness, the Regional Network provides a forum for regional discussions and planning for better coordination of services aimed at reducing homelessness.

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The Regional Network is comprised of an Executive Committee, a Policy Board, several working groups, and a larger network of interested stakeholders. The Regional Network provides technical assistance and training on a variety of topics, convenes stakeholders to undertake specific initiatives, assists partner organizations with grant writing and leveraged resources, and is the liaison to the Massachusetts Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness. As the regional entity organized to carry out the responsibilities required by the HUD Continuum of Care McKinney-Vento grant for homelessness services and programs, the Regional Network sets policy, implements the Coordinated Entry System, and coordinates the annual Point in Time Count. Barnstable County Department of Human Services is



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## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION** *continued...*

the **convening agency** and the **collaborative applicant** for HUD's Continuum of Care grant and provides staff assistance to the Regional Network.

## **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

The Regional Network created the "Cape and Islands **Regional Plan** to Address Homelessness 2012-2014" which identifies the action areas of education, advocacy and facilitation to: increase access to safe, stable, accessible, and affordable housing; improve health and stability of target populations; and improve economic security. The vision of the Regional Network is that all individuals and families on Cape Cod and the Islands will have safe, affordable housing with supports needed to maintain that housing.

The results of the **2016 Annual Point In Time Count** conducted on January 27, 2016 indicate that the number of homeless families and individuals on the night of the count was **394**, an increase of **38** persons from the 2015 count. The Point in Time count documented an increase in the number of unsheltered and sheltered individuals compared to 2015. Counts are conducted annually in every community, and are required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

**Coordinated Entry System (CES)** was implemented in December 2016 to better identify and work with chronically homeless individuals and families. CES ensures that all people experiencing a housing crisis are quickly identified, assessed and connected to housing and assistance based on their needs.

## **FUNDING**

In 2015, HUD nationally awarded almost \$2 billion for housing and services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness including those who were chronically homeless, disabled veterans, and unaccompanied youth. In March 2016, the Regional Network received \$1.9 million dollars in FY 15 HUD CoC funding to support twelve renewals programs that provide housing to over 145 formerly homeless individuals. This award also supports ten new permanent supportive housing beds, CoC Planning and the Homeless Information Management System (HMIS). The 2016 award was a 12% increase over the previous year's CoC funding.

## **CONTACT**

For information about the Cape and Islands Regional Network on Homelessness, contact Beth Albert, Director, Barnstable County Department of Human Services at [balbert@barnstablecounty.org](mailto:balbert@barnstablecounty.org) or 508-375-6626.