



# NEWS

U. S. Interagency Council on Homelessness  
Veterans Affairs Secretary, Anthony Principi, Chairman  
Philip Mangano, Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Administration Provides Progress Report on Ending Chronic Homelessness: Agencies Announce Over \$160 Million in Homelessness Intervention and Prevention**

WASHINGTON - Today, the Bush Administration announced more than \$160 million in additional federal resources targeted to preventing and ending chronic homelessness. The announcement came at a meeting of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, chaired by Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony Principi. The new investments reinforce the Administration's commitment to end chronic homelessness in the next decade.

### **News from the Interagency Council Meeting**

- The Bush Administration's multi-agency \$70 million Samaritan Initiative, a new, comprehensive, results-oriented HUD/HHS/VA housing and services grant program to be administered by HUD and targeted to reducing homelessness on the streets of our communities was introduced in the U.S. Senate last week by Colorado Senator Wayne Allard and North Carolina Senator Elizabeth Dole. The number of sponsors in the House of Representatives has risen to 28.
- *Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary and Council Chair Anthony Principi* announced \$31 million in new resources to serve homeless veterans, including \$18 million to 39 organizations in 17 states and DC for Special Needs Grants (including assistance to people with chronic mental illness, frail, elderly and women veterans), and additional investments in technical assistance, and fire and safety improvements to facilities for homeless veterans.
- *Department of Labor Secretary and Council Vice Chair Elaine Chao* announced new funding of \$2 million to five states to help teens aging out of foster care to become employed and self sufficient, thus reducing their risk of homelessness, and \$1.5 million to provide three years of intensive employment-related technical assistance to grantees under the HUD-DOL Ending Chronic Homelessness through Employment and Housing Initiative, which is part of the President's New Freedom Initiative and advances the goal of ending chronic homelessness.
- *Department of Health and Human Services Secretary and former Council Chair Tommy Thompson* announced 34 grant awards for the Treatment for the Homeless Projects program, totaling \$67.6 million over five years in awards to 34 grantees. Each grantee will receive up to \$400,000 annually over a five-year period in this competitive grant program awarded to community providers to enable communities to expand and strengthen their treatment services for homeless individuals with substance abuse disorders, mental illness, or with co-occurring substance abuse disorders and mental illness. In addition, HHS will be funding over \$400,000 in new research projects on homelessness this year.
- *Department of Education Secretary Rod Paige* announced a total of \$58.5 million to state educational agencies to assist with school enrollment and retention of homeless students. The funding will come through the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth program. The Secretary also announced a new partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services in the planned 2005 federal Policy Academies on family homelessness.

"The continuing commitment of this Administration to the most vulnerable and disabled Americans is evidenced in the interagency investments announced today," indicated Philip Mangano, Executive Director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. "Children, young adults, disabled individuals, and homeless veterans are all targeted with resources to prevent and end their homelessness."