

## **Why a ‘Housing Response Plan?’**

Due to a lack of housing options in Highland County for low-income, homeless, at-risk of homelessness, and individuals with multiple barriers, a Housing Response Subcommittee was formed in order to develop a Housing Response Plan to provide Highland County with a coordinated response to housing needs through collaboration and effective use of resources to empower individuals toward self-sufficiency. The Housing Response Plan sets the direction for county-wide reform of the homelessness service system to achieve better outcomes for individuals and families who are homeless, in transition, or at-risk of homelessness.

The HCCoC Housing Response Plan Committee is the local implementation mechanism for Highland County’s *Housing Response Plan (HRP)*. This Committee met multiple times to complete the strategic planning necessary for completion of this plan, including conducting a (SWOT) Analysis – taking a look at the Strengths, Weaknesses, Threats, and Opportunities as related to housing options in Highland County. Although the Region 16 Continuum of Care identified two of four gaps and priorities, the HCCoC has adopted that focus to address two of those strategic directions as our county does not have an income based, supportive housing or transitional housing for its most at-risk citizens.

The HRP is based on two strategic directives:

- 1) Providing Income-Based Supportive Housing
- 2) Providing Project-Based Transitional Housing

Priority Goals are identified as follows (see HRP for entire set of goals, objectives, strategies, and action steps (pages 33-35)

- 1) To be recognized as a leader in addressing housing needs in Highland County;
- 2) Demonstrate an increase in available housing options in Highland County; and
- 3) Create sustainability for a Housing Response Program.

Priority Objectives identified are as follows:

- 1) Create an endorsed Highland County Housing Response Plan;
- 2) Obtain Community Support for the Housing Response Plan; and
- 3) Develop a Profile of Highland County Homelessness.