What do we hope to achieve?
End chronic homelessness, prevent future episodes of homelessness, and ensure that when individuals experience homelessness they are effectively triaged and can quickly access the housing and supports they need to achieve long-term stability, and lead lives of dignity and maximum independence.

What do we know so far?
Promising Trends:
- Over the past ten years as the supply of supportive housing has increased chronic homelessness has declined between 40% and 50% nationwide.
- Federal agencies have joined together to commit resources and strategies to end chronic homelessness.
- Supportive housing has become a main-stream intervention to end chronic homelessness and address rising costs in healthcare and other crisis services for vulnerable individuals.

Problematic Trends:
- Lack of affordable rental units, increasing costs of market housing and relative declines in wages are making it harder for struggling and vulnerable individuals and families to stay out of homelessness.
- Progress to end chronic homelessness is slowing. In 2015, there was a slim 1% decrease from 2014.
- Policymakers have not articulated a plan with resource levels sufficient to sustain the momentum to end and prevent chronic homelessness beyond 2017.

How is CSH making a difference?
Capacity Building: Provide training and technical assistance to help communities assess and rebalance their portfolios to reflect best practice, develop capacity for low-threshold, high quality supportive housing, and convert transitional resources into permanent housing.
Improving System of Care: Develop replicable blueprints, such as Frequent Users of Systems Engagement (FUSE), to build infrastructure to transform housing and services delivery systems to quickly identify and connect the chronically homeless to permanent housing and the supports to keep them housed and healthy.
Increasing housing stock: Engage Public Housing Authorities to provide rental assistance, housing access, and development capacity; expand “Moving On” initiatives to help stable supportive housing tenants access other housing; help housing finance agencies develop production programs that rapidly scale supportive housing; Policy Advocacy: Support mainstreaming housing and healthcare resources, such as Medicaid, to expand supportive housing; ensure communities are prioritizing new and existing supportive housing for people facing the most severe challenges; work to aggressively lower barriers to housing entry.

“I can’t possibly describe how much my life changed after I got a home... everything else I tried failed, but supportive housing gives me hope.”
- Deborah Z.
Federal, State and Local Housing Agencies: Increase coordination to prioritize and screen-in high-need individuals for rental assistance. Align rental assistance with local service supports and housing markets flexibly to fill key gaps and leverage resources.

Public Housing Authorities: Increase the availability of housing vouchers and affordable housing units linked to services for individuals experiencing homelessness; create access to rental assistance and affordable housing units to help people who have stabilized move on from supportive to affordable housing freeing up supportive housing for those with deeper service needs.

Mainstream Services Agencies: Increase collaboration between health, behavioral health, public safety, and emergency assistance systems to identify, triage, and develop service models to address complex involvement.

Calculation of Supportive Housing Need

CSH estimates that 96,921 people identified by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through their annual report to Congress on homelessness at a point in time have needs consistent with supportive housing. CSH developed different need estimates for two subsets of homelessness data:

- CSH estimates that 90% (73,355) of the 81,506 people identified as chronically homeless in HUD’s annual report to Congress have needs consistent with non-time-limited supportive housing. The percent need estimate was developed using a mixture of academic research and reports, eligibility factors of long-term homelessness and disabling conditions as well as CSH’s experience working with local communities to do financial modeling for supportive housing, ranging between 80-100% based on information from local stakeholders.

- CSH estimates that 10% (23,566) of the 235,658 people identified as not chronically homeless in HUD’s annual report to Congress have needs consistent with non-time-limited supportive housing. The percent need estimate was developed using a mixture of academic research and reports as well as CSH’s experience working with local communities to do financial modeling for supportive housing, ranging between 5-35% based on input from local stakeholders.

This is part of a national supportive housing needs assessment prepared by CSH. The goal of this assessment is to use the best data available to make clear and transparent projections of supportive housing need, foster development of national level data, and promote discussion and refinement of this assessment over time. CSH is using a point in time, or average daily census, approach to assemble data across different systems of care. The intention is to show a current snapshot of need in each system and does not represent need over time or annualized need for any single system of care. For further information on our national needs assessment, data and sources, please visit www.csh.org/data.

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- Advancing solutions
- Using housing as a platform for services
- Improving lives of vulnerable people
- Maximizing public resources
- Building healthy communities