

ABOUT THE NATIONAL HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS COUNCIL

FACT SHEET

JANUARY 2010

Statement of Principles & Mission

We recognize and believe that:

- Homelessness is unacceptable.
- Every person has the right to adequate food, housing, clothing and health care.
- All people have the right to participate in the decisions affecting their lives.
- Contemporary homelessness is the product of conscious social and economic policy decisions that have retreated from a commitment to insuring basic life necessities for all people.
- The struggle to end homelessness and alleviate its consequences takes many forms, including efforts to insure adequate housing, health care and access to meaningful work.

How your gift supports our work

Proceeds from this event go to support the Council's *advocacy work* and *operating expenses*, helping fulfill our mission to end homelessness. The Council works locally and nationally in collaboration with others who share our mission:

- **Medical Respite Care.** For homeless people leaving the hospital, frequently there is no safe and appropriate place to recover. Through our Respite Care Providers' Network, the Council vigorously supports the development of medical respite care facilities and advocates for reliable funding for respite programs like Nashville's **Room In the Inn**.
- **Health insurance coverage for homeless children.** The Council works directly with family and domestic violence shelters and other agencies across Tennessee to enroll homeless children in **TennCare**. Together, we ensure that children receive check-ups and needed treatment during their shelter stay.
- **Downtown Clinic's Consumer Advisory Board (CAB).** With technical assistance from the Council, homeless people help govern Nashville's **Downtown Clinic**, which is part of **United Neighborhood Health Services**. This CAB—among others nationwide—is an important aspect of our ongoing research on homeless people's experience of violence.
- **Health care reform.** The Council articulates the health care interests of people without homes to help shape effective, progressive public policy. In Washington, D.C., our advocates are *the* recognized authorities on homelessness and health. Our top policy priority is **single payer, universal health insurance** to help break the connection between poor health and homelessness.

Other National Council Activities

- Developing clinical guidelines for treating homeless patients
- Sponsoring the National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day
- Supporting practice-based research
- Hosting the National Health Care for the Homeless Conference & Policy Symposium
- Publishing & distributing policy papers to inform the field, influence opinion & affect change



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INFORMATION

> www.nhchc.org

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Health Care and Housing Are Human Rights

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