

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 92

WHEREAS, New Jersey faces the problem of insufficient shelter for a growing number of homeless individuals and families, including seniors, people with disabilities, children, and veterans; and

WHEREAS, housing is one of the basic needs of all individuals and families within the State of New Jersey and across the nation; and

WHEREAS, homelessness creates barriers to safety, health, education, and full productive participation in the community; and

WHEREAS, each year, individuals and families lose their housing and become homeless due to assorted unforeseen circumstances and often through no fault of their own; and

WHEREAS, there is no single, simple solution to the problems of homelessness because of the different sub-populations of the homeless, the different causes of and reasons for homelessness, and the different needs of homeless individuals and families; and

WHEREAS, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, created in 1987 pursuant to what is now known as the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § 11311 et seq., supports the creation of national partnerships at every level of government and with the private sector to prevent and reduce homelessness in the nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRIS CHRISTIE, Governor of the State of New Jersey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the

Constitution and by the Statutes of this State, do hereby ORDER and DIRECT:

1. There is hereby established in the Department of Human Services ("DHS") an Interagency Council on Homelessness (the "Council").

2. The membership of the Council shall be comprised of the following: (i) the Commissioners of the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Community Affairs ("DCA"), the Department of Corrections, the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Senior Services, the Department of Human Services, and the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the Executive Director of the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, the Chair of the State Parole Board, the Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, and a representative of the Office of the Governor, each of whom shall serve ex officio and may appoint a designee; and (ii) fifteen (15) public members appointed by the Governor.

3. The Commissioners of DHS and DCA, or their designees, shall act as co-chairpersons of the Council.

4. The public members of the Council shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor and without compensation.

5. The Council shall meet on a regular basis as determined by the co-chairpersons.

6. The Council shall:

a. Consider the Interim Report issued by the Council on Preventing and Reducing Homelessness;

b. Identify statutory and regulatory impediments to the effective provision of services to homeless individuals and families and recommend changes to relevant laws, regulations, programs, and policies in order to better address the use of State funds directed to homelessness and homelessness prevention;

c. Prepare an annual report to the Governor by or before December 31st of each year through the term of the Council detailing the work of the Council over the previous twelve months; and

d. Utilizing the aforementioned reports and building upon the interim findings and recommendations of the Council, prepare a comprehensive ten-year plan to prevent and end homelessness in New Jersey.

7. The Council shall organize and meet as soon as practicable after the appointment of a majority of its members.

8. Staffing for the Council shall be undertaken and coordinated by DHS and DCA.

9. The Council is authorized to call upon any department, division, office, or agency of State government to provide such information, resources, or other assistance deemed necessary to discharge its responsibilities under this Order. Each department, division, office, and agency of this State is hereby required, to the extent not inconsistent with law, to cooperate with the Council and to furnish it with such information, personnel, and assistance as is necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Order.

10. The Council shall operate until December 31, 2014.

11. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this
18th day of April,
Two Thousand and Twelve,
and of the Independence of
the United States, the Two
Hundred and Thirty-Sixth.

[seal]

/s/ Chris Christie

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Charles B. McKenna

Chief Counsel to the Governor

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