



# Heartland HOUSED: Springfield & Sangamon County's Strategic Plan to Address Homelessness

## Vision:

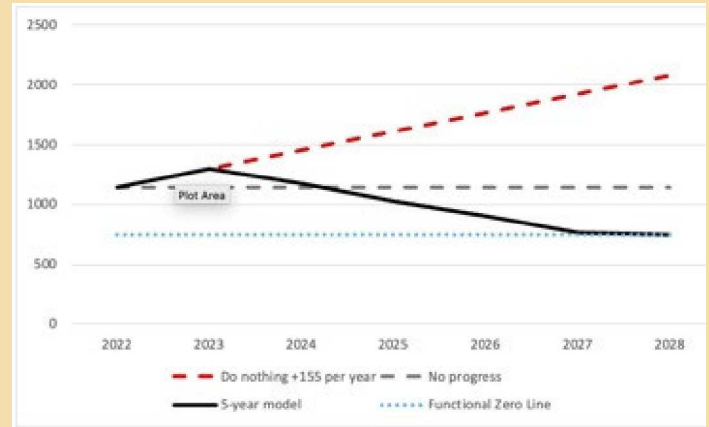
Create a collaborative, unified system that provides people experiencing homelessness an equitable, trauma-informed, and coordinated community system where all can access the housing and support services that each person needs to thrive.

## Goals:

1. Reduce homelessness to **functional zero** by 2028

2. Reach functional zero for **chronic homelessness**

3. End **unsheltered homelessness** across the community



## Strategies & Key Action Steps

### Strategy 1: Work Together to Address Homelessness

- Create a representative **Strategy Board** and **increase staffing** to guide plan implementation
- Improve the **collection and use of data** to reduce inequities and improve the system and create a **two-way community communications strategy**
- **Respond to citizen concerns** about homelessness and siting housing through information sharing and community engagement.
- Create a **Lived Experience Advisory Board** to ensure the voice of people with lived experience of homelessness is heard and incorporated

### Strategy 2: Create Safe, Effective Housing Opportunities

- Create a cross-sector Housing Task Force to oversee and advocate for housing funding, and implement a **housing pipeline**
- Create **more permanent housing** opportunities for people experiencing homelessness
- **Build capacity in the community** to build, rehabilitate, and provide housing to homeless and at-risk populations
- Ensure full and **stable funding** for permanent housing projects

### Strategy 3: Improve the Effectiveness of the Homeless System

- Identify and link **unsheltered Sangamon County residents** to crisis and permanent housing and other needed resources.
- Build **diversion strategies** and resources to support returning households to housing immediately
- Create stable, effective, **community-wide crisis housing** that serves all people experiencing homelessness.

### Strategy 4: Increase Cross-System Coordination

- Build and improve systems for **cross-system collaboration** with healthcare, public safety, and workforce development partners.
- **Improve access to treatment** and services system-wide by restructuring access and program requirements to reduce barriers (including transportation), implement best practices, and ensure welcoming, culturally-specific, trauma-informed services.
- Create a **bridge housing pilot program** for those discharged from hospitals and treatment facilities.

