Planning to End Homelessness - A New Vision

You Are Formerly Invited!

The Van Buren County Continuum of Care (VBC CoC), a working subgroup of the Van Buren Human Services Collaborative Council (HSCC) seeks your participation in a stakeholder visioning session.

The VBC CoC is a community-based organization of concerned individuals, agencies, and organizations operating within VBC that is responsible for identifying and addressing the short and long-term housing needs in the county. We know that you share our concern; we recognize that your perspective is needed, and we want your input.

On **April 19, 2006** please join us in a work session aimed at establishing a countywide vision for ending homelessness in our area.

Time: 8:00-10:30 a.m.
Location: VBISD Conference Center
490 S. Paw Paw Street
Lawrence, MI

Why should you attend? Did you know that…

- Nationally most households are 2 paychecks away from homelessness?
- In January 2005, when a homeless census was conducted in VBC, it was discovered that a family of 5 was living in their car?
- In order to afford a 2 bedroom Fair Market Rent unit in VBC, a single mom earning minimum wage would have to work 2.3 full-time jobs?

These are just a fraction of the housing issues that confront our community. Homelessness is *not* just an urban issue.

This session will provide participants with a common understanding of housing issues and concerns in VBC, begin to identify the root causes of housing barriers, and assist the CoC in developing a strategy that will eliminate the barriers to safe, decent, affordable housing in VBC.

This session is a kick-off to the development of a 10-year plan, supported by a $10,000 grant from MSHDA and DCH, for ending homelessness in Van Buren County. We hope that you leave with an increased knowledge about the VBC CoC, housing, and homelessness, and a desire to participate further in this valuable community effort.

There is no fee for this session, but registration is recommended. Continental breakfast will be provided. Plan on attending and being a part of this exciting collaboration.

RSVP to Jerri Pursley at the VBC MSU Extension, by email or phone no later than April 12, 2006

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Thank you