

## ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

The National Alliance to End Homelessness (the Alliance) is a nonpartisan, mission-driven organization committed to preventing and ending homelessness in the United States. We work collaboratively with the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to build state and local capacity, leading to stronger programs and policies that help communities achieve their goal of ending homelessness. We provide data and research to policymakers in order to inform policy debates and educate the public and opinion leaders nationwide.

Guiding our work is *A Plan, Not a Dream: How to End Homelessness in Ten Years*. The announcement of this plan started a snowball effect that is now felt across the country. The Administration and Congress have adopted significant parts of the Ten Year Plan as policy goals, and over 300 communities are developing or have implemented plans to end homelessness.

In 1983, a group of concerned leaders founded the National Citizens Committee for Food and Shelter to help meet the emergency needs of a growing population of homeless people across the country. By 1987, it was clear that despite the Committee's success, homelessness had taken root for a number of systematic reasons and a "hot and a cot" were not going to end the problem. At that time, the organization became known as the National Alliance to End Homelessness. The Alliance grew from a federation of more than 2,000 providers and public agencies to a current network of over 7,000 partners, making the Alliance the largest partnership dedicated to ending homelessness.

From 2003 to 2007, the Alliance expanded its organizational capacity considerably in the areas of policy, capacity building, education, and research. In 2003, the organization broadened its program and policy focus to include health issues that affect homeless people. In 2004, the Alliance launched the Center for Capacity Building, focused at that time primarily on assisting communities to develop plans to end homelessness. In 2006, the Alliance launched the Homelessness Research Institute, the research and education arm of the organization. Finally, first in 2005 and then 2007, the Alliance expanded its program and policy expertise in the area of youth homelessness.