



STATE OF TENNESSEE
EXECUTIVE ORDER
BY THE GOVERNOR

No. 21

**AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE GOVERNOR'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL
ON HOMELESSNESS**

WHEREAS, the problem of homelessness has long plagued both our nation and state; and

WHEREAS, the existence of homelessness impacts not only those citizens who do not have access to housing, but also the economic health and quality of life of all Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, many private and public agencies and organizations provide services to the homeless and attempt to address this important societal challenge; and

WHEREAS, effectively addressing homelessness requires collaboration among state agencies, local governments, the private sector, and service provider networks in order to coordinate program development, deliver essential services and provide housing; and

WHEREAS, while many state departments and agencies are impacted by and work to address the challenge of homelessness, there is currently no centralized organization to coordinate and focus the work of those departments and agencies and to ensure state government is coordinating its efforts effectively with the efforts of the federal government, local governments, the private sector, and service provider networks.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Phil Bredesen, Governor of the state of Tennessee, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Tennessee Constitution and law, do hereby order and direct the following:

1. The Governor's Interagency Council on Homelessness ("Council") is hereby established. The Council is charged with coordinating and focusing the state's efforts to effectively address the challenge of homelessness in the state of Tennessee. As a component of this effort, the Council is also charged with working with the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness to develop a long-term plan to effectively address the homelessness challenge in Tennessee.
2. The Council shall take such action as necessary to fulfill its charge. In performing its work, the Council shall focus on a broad range of issues and challenges in combating homelessness and shall serve as a planning and policy development resource for the Governor and the state of Tennessee.
3. The following eleven (11) individuals, or their designees, shall serve on the Council:

- a. The Governor;
 - b. The Commissioner of Children's Services;
 - c. The Commissioner of Correction ;
 - d. The Commissioner of Education;
 - e. The Commissioner of Health;
 - f. The Commissioner of Human Services;
 - g. The Commissioner of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities;
 - h. The Chairman of the Tennessee Board of Probation and Parole;
 - i. The Executive Director of the Tennessee Housing Development Agency;
 - j. The Director of TennCare;
 - k. The Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs;
4. In addition, three (3) representatives of Tennessee's Continuum of Care Agencies shall serve on the Council. These individuals shall be appointed by the Governor and shall properly reflect the racial and geographic diversity of Tennessee. These three board members shall serve renewable two (2) year terms.
 5. The Governor shall appoint a chairperson from the membership of the Council. The Council shall meet at such times and places as determined by the Chairperson.
 6. The Council may call on service providers and other professionals with expertise in the issues surrounding homelessness to assist it in its duties and make recommendations regarding its work. These individuals may include state agency staff, representatives of the state's continuum of care agencies, homelessness advocacy groups and other public and private entities as determined by the Chairperson.
 7. At the end of each fiscal year, the Council shall present the Governor with an annual report of its work.
 8. The Council shall be attached to the Department of Veterans' Affairs for administrative purposes.
 9. Members of the Council shall receive no compensation for their service on the Council but may be reimbursed for those expenses allowed by the provisions of the comprehensive travel regulations as promulgated by the Department of Finance and Administration and approved by the Attorney General and Reporter.
 10. All Executive branch departments, agencies, boards and commissions and any other divisions of the Executive branch of state government shall fully cooperate with the Council and shall provide staff support and any other assistance as requested.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed my signature and caused the Great Seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed this 9th day of December, 2004.


 GOVERNOR _____

ATTEST:


 SECRETARY OF STATE