Decreasing Family Homelessness: Lessons Learned
Poverty and Severe Housing Needs

Low-income people with severe housing needs
8.3 million

Homeless people
Worst Case Housing Needs

• 8.3 million households with worst case housing needs (2015) – an increase from 7.7 million in 2013
  – Higher income renters occupy growing share of housing units affordable to low income people
  – Modest income increases offset by rental increases
  – Increase of 700,000 in # of households who lack housing assistance, explaining almost 2/3 of increase in worst case housing needs

• So: 62 units of affordable and available units per 100 very low income households that need them.

• For typical low income household with worst case housing needs – earnings consume most, if not all, of income - households pay a median of $1,000/month
Worst Case Housing Needs

• 51.6% extremely low income renters have worst case housing needs
  – For this group, there are only 33 rental units affordable, available and adequate to the needs of every 100 households.
    • Northeast: 36 units per 100 households
    • Midwest: 35 units per 100 households
    • South: 34 units per 100 households
    • West: 27 units per 100 households
Poverty and Doubling Up

Low-income people
doubling up with others
4.9 million

Homeless people
National Numbers

• Nearly 200,000 people (194,716) in 61,265 families were identified on a single night living in a homeless shelter/transitional housing program or in unsheltered location.
  – Just over 19,000 (about 1 in 10) were identified in a place not intended for human habitation.

• Annual prevalence of families sheltered/served by homeless providers: 502,521 individuals in 154,380 families.

• 1.3 million school age children identified as living in shelters, homeless service programs, unsheltered locations, motels, or in doubled up situations during the school year (2014/2015).
  – 990,000 doubled up; 186,000 in shelter programs, 80,000 motels/hotels, and 42,000 unsheltered.
Changing Homeless Services/Policy

- Diversion vs. Prevention
- Increasing Reliance on Rapid Re-Housing
- Downsizing & Reallocating TH Resources/Strategic Re-use of Transitional Housing Resources
- Permanent Supportive Housing/Other Permanent Housing Resources Strictly Targeted to Maximize Impact
Core Components of Rapid Re-Housing

- Housing Identification
- Rent and Move-In Assistance (Financial)
- Rapid Re-housing Case Management and Services
Research/Observational Findings

• Primary Benefits:
  – Few households assisted with rapid re-housing have a subsequent homeless episode.
  – Reduced lengths of stays – means shelter resources turns over, reducing declines for shelter while also minimizing homeless episodes.
  – Lower costs relative to other approaches means more households can be served.
Research Findings/Family Options

- Housing subsidies have profound lasting benefits for families across multiple dimensions

- Rapid Re-housing vs. Usual Care:
  - Some improvements in self sufficiency measures (income, food security) and children’s school attendance
  - Decrease in initial stay (about 2 weeks); Little difference at 20 mos. over families receiving usual care, including in risk of doubling up or experiencing a subsequent homeless episode

- Impact of RRH Receipt vs. Non-receipt
  - Less likely to have shelter stay 7-18 mos. (23% vs. 33%); More likely to be in own house/apartment at follow-up (68% vs. 53%); spend significantly less time in emergency shelter (2.0 mos. vs. 5.2 mos.) initially.

- Cost - $6,600 per household
USICH Crisis System Framework

- **Coordination Assessment for Households with a Housing Crisis**
  - Targeted Prevention and Diversion
  - Temporary Shelter
    - Crisis Stabilization and Housing Search Support
  - Household retains housing or gains new housing, bypassing shelter
  - Household exits shelter on own
  - Household does not find housing within short period (e.g., 7-10 days)
  - Rapid Re-Housing and Links to Services
    - Transitional Housing with Services
    - Households for whom rapid re-housing and/or transitional housing is unsuccessful and has high needs
  - Household with highest needs
  - Community-Based Permanent Housing (Including Market Rate and Subsidized)
  - Community-Based Services and Supports
  - Permanent Supportive Housing
Coordinated Entry: Goals

• A consistent, streamlined and transparent system of access to homeless services and **housing**
• Client-centered approach
• Ensures that the highest need, most vulnerable households in the community are prioritized for services and housing
• Ensures fair and equal access to crisis response services and housing
• Provides a system with data that can be used for more effective system and project planning and resource allocation
• Ensure quick matching to **permanent housing**
Coordinated Entry: System Outcomes

- Reduce average length of homelessness
- Increase exits to permanent housing
- Decrease returns to homelessness
Coordinated Entry: Before
Coordinated Entry: After

OUTREACH

STREET

JAILS, HOSPITALS, OTHER

COORDINATED ENTRY:
PRIORITYIATION, ASSESSMENT, AND PROGRAM REFERRAL

NO

DOES HOUSEHOLD NEED A SHELTER BED?

YES

ENTRY TO EMERGENCY SHELTER

CAN HOUSEHOLD BE DIVERTED TO SAFE AND APPROPRIATE HOUSING?

HOMELNESS

ONE OR MORE TIMES

RAPID RE-HOUSING

DIVERSION

CHRONICALLY HOUSLESS?

YES

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

CAN HOUSEHOLD SELF-RESOLVE IN 7-14 DAYS?

HOMELESS

NO

RE-HOUSING

NO

HOUSING?

NO

SAFE

AND APPROPRIATE

HOUSING?

NO

SAFE

AND APPROPRIATE

HOUSING?
2014 Snapshot (Spokane)

Housing Inventory by Permanent and Temporary Housing Type

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<tr>
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<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<tr>
<td>Permanent</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>44%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporary</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>56%</td>
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Point In Time Total Households with Children

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<td>275</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>121</td>
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</table>

Total Households Served in Temporary Housing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>631</td>
<td>908</td>
<td>1175</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
New Orleans-Jefferson Parish 2017
Homeless Point-in-Time Count
Annual Counts of Homeless People in Orleans and Jefferson Parish

Homelessness is down:
• 20 percent since 2016
• 89 percent since 2007
Coordinated Intake and RRH........ (Cuyahoga)

1. **ASSESSMENT:** Can the family be diverted? If not, fill out HMIS data points, Housing Barrier Form as a **DESCRIPTIVE** tool, not a **PRESCRIPTIVE** tool.

2. **Families → Shelter**
   * All families referred for RRH within 7 days
   * RRH provider assigns a Housing Locator within 3 days of referral
   * Goal is to find housing within **30 days**; inspect housing and move out ... **45 days**

3. **RRH: Security Deposit & 4 Months rent; RRH Case Management (ESG Funded)**
   * Bi weekly CM meetings to track stability; assess need for ongoing assistance or alternative housing plan

4. **Additional subsidy – 8 months rent; more intensive CM (CoC funded)**
   * Biweekly meetings to track stability; assess need for PH, PSH, other options...

5. **PH, PSH** - Targeted resources for highest barrier families.
The Work Ahead

• Improving the functioning of the crisis response system
  – Appropriate sizing of interventions; reallocation
  – Improving performance of individual program level outcomes
  – Improving system-level outcomes

• Crafting new partnerships to leverage supports and resources needed
  – Affordable housing
  – TANF/workforce development
  – Child development/child care
  – Child welfare

• Local, state and federal advocacy to reduce families’ vulnerability to homelessness and ensure needed resources are in place
Examples of CAP Agencies Partnering to Prevent & End Homelessness

• Diversion and Eviction prevention assistance
• First time rent/security deposit to homeless people
• Provide or support shelter, RRH, TH, PSH and affordable housing interventions
• Strengthen case management
• Link families to CAP agency resources
• Lead or support community planning effort to address/end homelessness
Role of CSBG Resources

• CSBG can be used as a match for McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Funds
  – Funds must be used for purposes of the CSBG program and for allowable activities based on community needs assessments in accordance with all other requirements.
  – Further OCS encourages collaborative planning between CSBG administering agencies and homeless service providers to offer comprehensive services.

Questions?

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HOW CAN COMMUNITY ACTION HELP END HOMELESSNESS?
Achieving Benchmarks: Reducing Length of Time Homeless

- Identify landlords in the community
- Provide access to their affordable housing units
  - Reduce tenant screening barriers
  - Institute a homeless preference
  - Be willing to negotiate lease terms
- Establish a risk mitigation fund
- Provide incentives to landlords
  - Weatherization or Energy Audits
  - Volunteers to clean up property & improve curb appeal
Achieving Benchmarks: Exits to Permanent Housing

- Work with tenant (& case manager) to address tenancy barriers over the length of the lease
- Provide assistance to landlords after program ends
- Educate tenants & landlords on their respective rights & responsibilities
Achieving Benchmarks: Reduce Returns to Homelessness

• Strengthen the household’s support system
• On-going subsidy
• Eviction prevention financial assistance
• Access to case management to resolve crisis
Community Action Can Support Existing Housing Programs

- **One-time moving costs**
- **Child care**
  - Operation
  - Child care vouchers
- **Education services**
  - Consumer education
  - Health education
  - Substance abuse prevention
  - Literacy
  - ESL
  - GED
- **Employment assistance & job training**
  - Learning skills to secure & retain a job
  - Reasonable stipends to program participants
  - Employment screening, assessment, & testing
  - Structured job skills & job seeking skills
  - Special training & tutoring
  - Books & instructional materials
  - Counseling or job coaching
- **Food**
- **Housing search & counseling**
  - Tenant counseling & education
- **Mediation with property owners**
- **Credit counseling**
- **Rental application fees**
- **Legal services**
  - Charged by a licensed attorney for the purposes of obtaining and retaining housing
- **Life skills training**
  - Budgeting of resources & money management
  - Household management
  - Conflict management
  - Shopping for food & other needed items
  - Nutrition
  - Use of public transportation
  - Parent training
- **Mental health services**
- **Outpatient health services**
- **Substance abuse treatment**
- **Transportation**
  - Cost to provide transportation to/from any of these eligible services
  - Car repairs
- **Utility deposits**
Community Action Involvement in the Broader Homeless Assistance System

- Develop a referral process to ensure ease of access to CAA services
- Get involved in coordinated entry
  - Access point
  - Advertising
- Join the local homeless/housing coalitions
- Participate in the CoC
- Offer assistance with research or data analysis
  - Triennial Needs Assessment
  - Causes of homelessness in your community
  - Effectiveness of current homeless assistance system
    - Are resources being used strategically? Are there gaps?
THE PROMISE OF COMMUNITY ACTION
The Promise of Community Action

• Changing people’s lives
  ▫ Move people out of homelessness into permanent housing as quickly as possible

• Embody the spirit of hope
  ▫ Housing First
  ▫ Believe in a positive outcome for everyone
  ▫ Housing plans focus on stability & no longer needing our assistance

• Improving communities
  ▫ Decreasing homelessness
  ▫ Educational stability for children
  ▫ Increased employment
  ▫ Decreased use of emergency services (ER, crisis line, CPS)
The Promise of Community Action

• Helping people help themselves in achieving self-sufficiency
  ▫ Families are resilient
  ▫ Provide “just enough” assistance

• Helping people help each other
  ▫ The greatest source of referrals is current and former program participants
Additional Resources

• Implementing a Homeless Preference in Multi-Family Housing
Contact Information

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RESOURCES

Blog: [https://lcrcweb.com/](https://lcrcweb.com/)

CSBG T/TA Resource Center: [www.csbgttta.org](http://www.csbgttta.org)
Please be sure to **complete** the evaluation for this session **online**, via the **CAPCON17 Event App**.

Thanks in Advance for your Cooperation!