

Responding to Homelessness in New Orleans

Lessons Learned from Research and Practice



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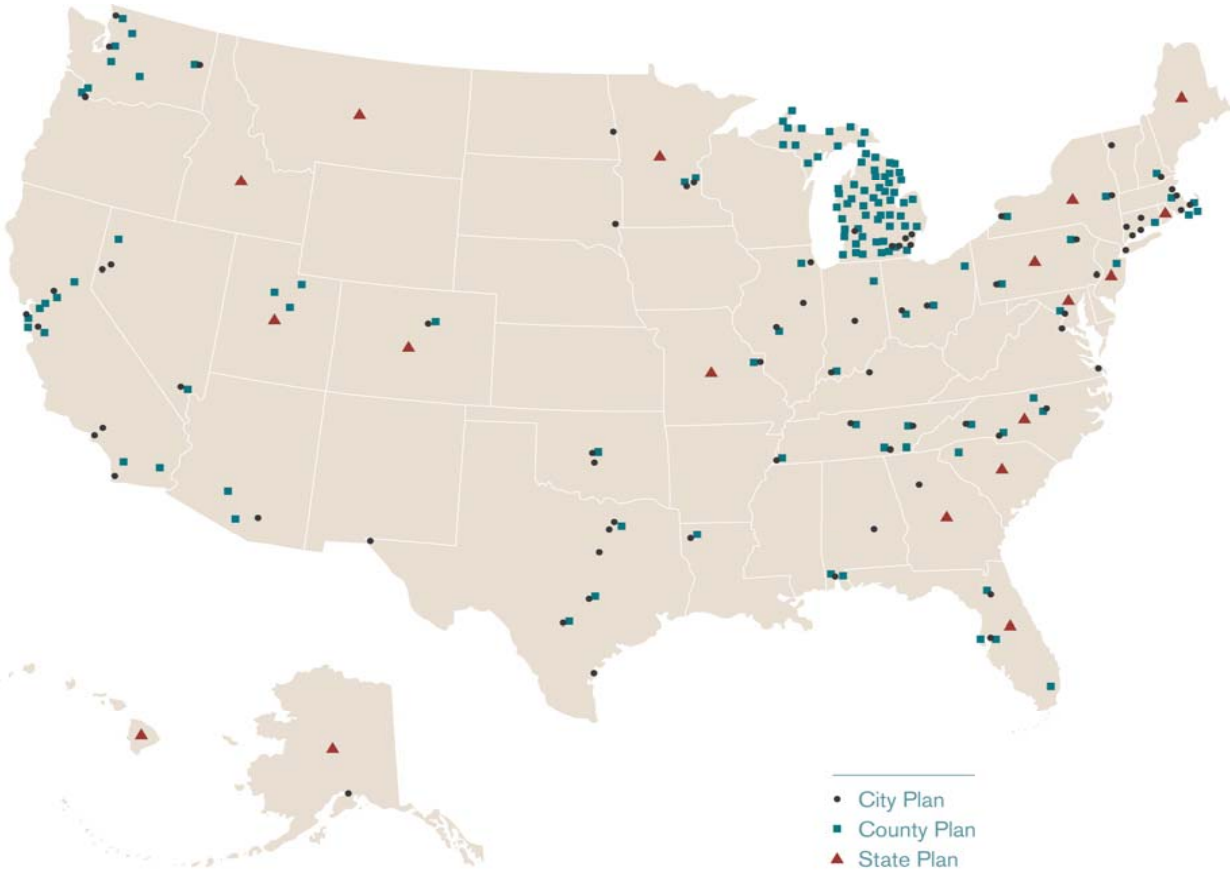
Presentation Roadmap

- **Movement to End Homelessness**
- **Shift to Housing First Approaches**
- **Key Strategies**
 - ❖ **Permanent Supportive Housing**
 - ❖ **Rapid Re-housing for Families**
 - ❖ **Homelessness Prevention**
 - ❖ **Enhancing Existing Housing Subsidy Programs**
- **Key Ingredients for Implementation**

Movement to End Homelessness

- Across the country communities are changing the way they respond to homelessness
- Shift from “housing readiness programs” to Housing First
- Deploying common strategies: emergency and systems prevention, permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing, managing by outcomes
- Showing progress

Hundreds of Community Plans to End Homelessness



Source: National Alliance to End Homelessness www.endhomelessness.org

Communities Making Progress

- Over 300 community plans
- Some communities are decreasing homelessness
 - ❖ Norfolk, VA – 25 percent
 - ❖ Chicago, IL – 12 percent
 - ❖ Denver, CO – 13 percent
 - ❖ Hennepin County, MN – 20 percent
 - ❖ Portland, OR – 39 percent
 - ❖ New York City, NY – 10 percent

Housing First Homeless System

Housing First,
Services Second

Triage and Central
Intake

Harm Reduction
Approaches

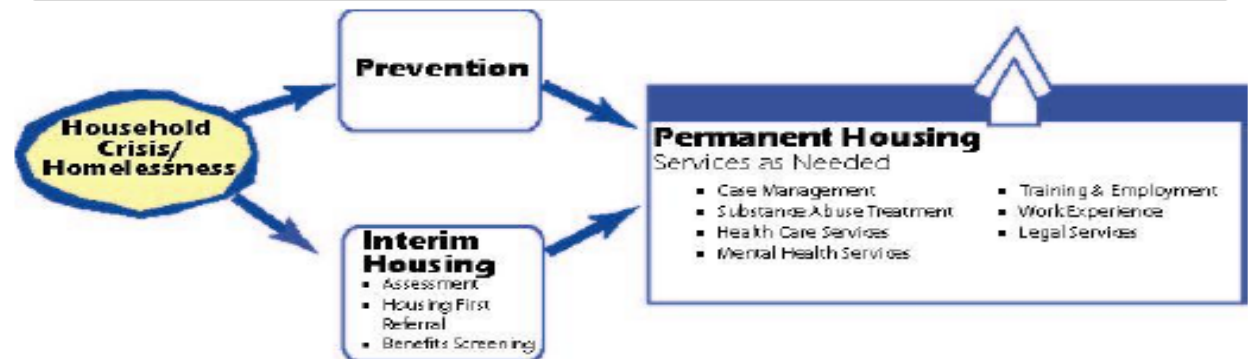
Rapid Re-housing

Permanent Supportive
Housing
with Intensive Services

Figure 1: Current Shelter Model



Figure 2: Getting Housed, Staying Housed Model



Source: Chicago Plan to End Homelessness

Housing First and Permanent Supportive Housing

Research

- 10-20 percent of single adults are chronically homeless
- Chronically homeless adults using 50 percent of the services
- Permanent Supportive Housing
 - ❖ More days housed
 - ❖ Decreases in public services (emergency room visits, jail, and mental health facilities)
 - ❖ Cost offsets
 - ❖ Better health for participants
 - ❖ Improvements in neighborhoods

Community Examples

- Pathways to Housing DC/NYC
- Common Ground NYC
- San Francisco
- NOLA

Targeting is Critical

How do you decide who gets permanent supportive housing?

- Central intake or assessment
- Using assessment and triage to target scarce resources

Community Examples

- Frequent Service Users (NYC)
- Vulnerability Index (NOLA, NYC, DC)
- Downtown Emergency Center (Seattle)
- In-reach Models (Columbus, NYC)

Rapid Re-housing for Families

Research

- Most families enter and exit homelessness quickly
- Mostly economic reasons
- Not all families are the same; must triage and target
 - ❖ Shallow subsidies can protect against homelessness
 - ❖ Vouchers end homelessness for most families
 - ❖ Some families need permanent supportive housing

Community Examples

- Hennepin County Rapid Exit Program
- HUD Rapid Re-housing program \$25 million

Emergency Prevention

Targeting is Difficult

- Multiple reasons for homelessness

Prevention

- Emergency cash assistance for back rent and utility assistance
- Diversion
- Relocation assistance
- Eviction prevention in publically assisted housing

Community Examples

- NYC Homebase
- DC Community Care Grant
- Kentucky Volunteers of America

Systems Prevention

Making Mainstream Systems Accountable

- Corrections
- Mental Health Facilities
- Hospitals
- Foster Care

Community Examples

- Quincy, Massachusetts
- Ohio
- NYC

Enhancing Housing Subsidies

Housing Vouchers Plus

- Housing Search
- Security Deposit Loans or Grants
- Landlord Incentives
- Leveraging Services
- Second Move Assistance

Community Examples

- Chicago CHAC Inc.
- Hennepin County

Key Ingredients for Implementation

Data

- Improves management of programs
- Drives outcomes - performance based contracting
- Improves accountability
- Outcomes build momentum

Leadership and Political Will

- Broader vision
- Someone holding the ball
- Bridging political barriers
- Private, public, and nonprofit partnerships

Reading Room

Rebuilding Affordable Housing in New Orleans: The Challenge of Creating Inclusive Communities

www.urban.org

Chronic Homelessness

www.endhomelessness.org

New Vision: What's in Community Plans to End Homelessness

www.endhomelessness.org

Promising Strategies to End Family Homelessness

www.endhomelessness.org

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