

TANF's Role in Ending Family Homelessness

2013 ACF Region IX State and Territory TANF
Technical Assistance Meeting
September 10, 2013





Overview

- The Interagency Council and *Opening Doors*
- Current progress on Family goal
- The Federal family framework
- Five key strategy areas
- The role of TANF
 - Housing
 - Employment and other services
 - Coordination
- Questions and discussion



U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

- Nineteen member agencies, including HHS, HUD, DOL, ED, VA, and 14 others
- Our mission: to coordinate the Federal response to homelessness and create a national partnership to reduce and end homelessness
- Activities guided by *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*



Opening Doors

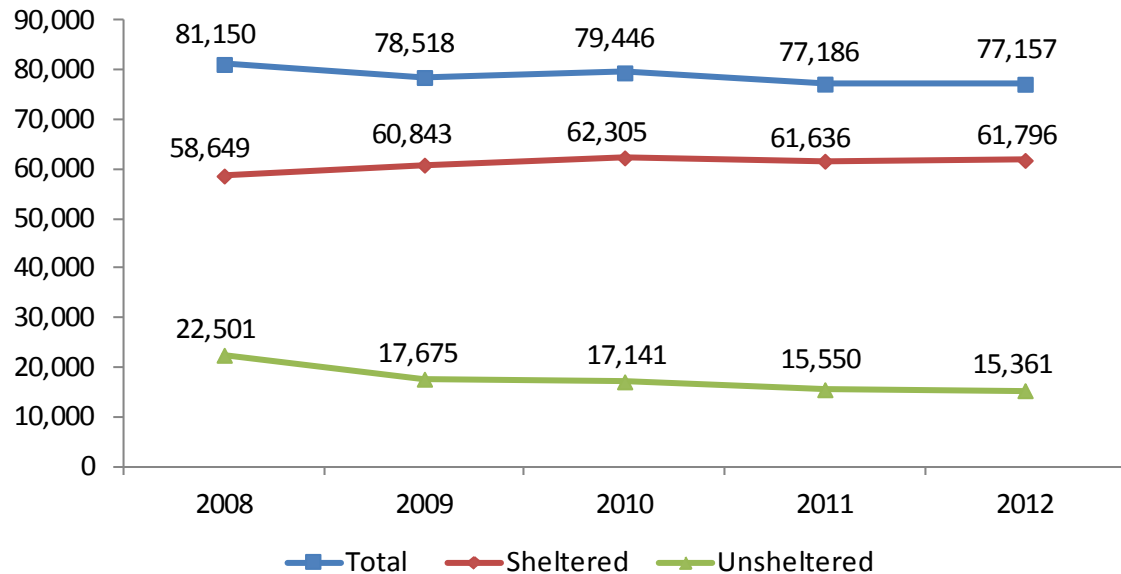
- **Four bold and ambitious goals:**
 1. Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness by 2015
 2. Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans by 2015
 3. Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children by 2020
 4. Set a path to ending all types of homelessness
- **Adopted by the Council in 2010**
- **Progress against goals measured through annual Point-in-Time counts**



Ending Family Homelessness

HUD Point-in-time Count of Sheltered and Unsheltered Families: 2008-2012

Annual Point-in-Time Count Trends for Homeless Family Households



Source: HUD's Annual Point-in-Time Count, <http://www.hudhre.info>



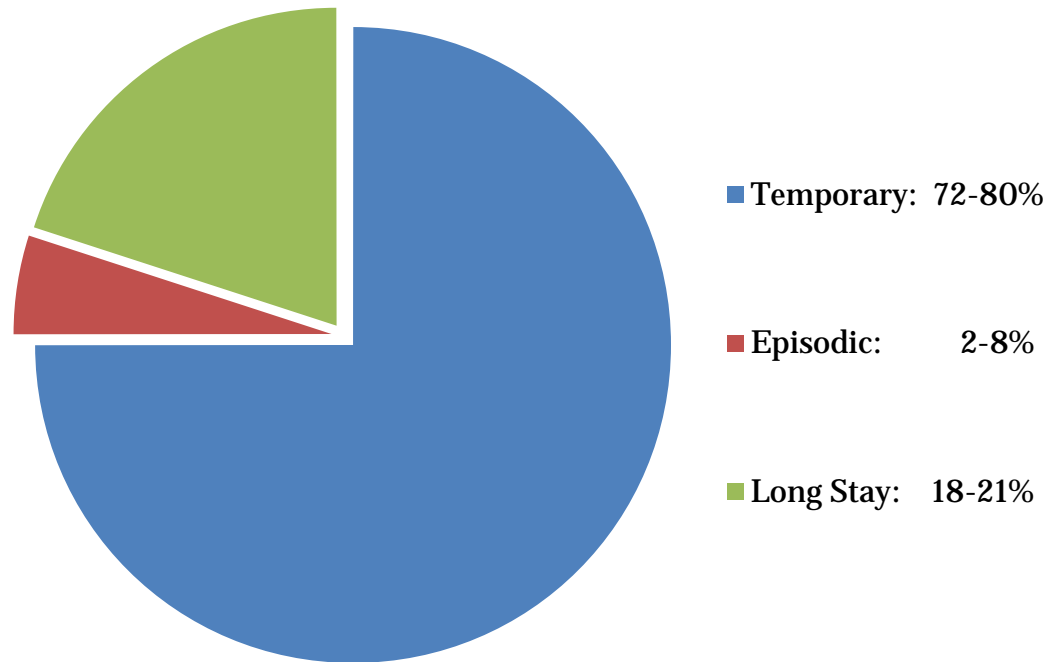
Ending Homelessness for Families by 2020

- In December 2012, the Council charged a working group to create a framework to end family homelessness. Co-chaired by ACF.
- Preliminary report offered in July, emphasizing importance of innovative, cost-effective responses, particularly rapid rehousing.
- Council assigned additional tasks to agencies, targeting completion by December 2013.



Ending Family Homelessness

Percent of Families with Temporary, Long Stay and Episodic stays in Shelters



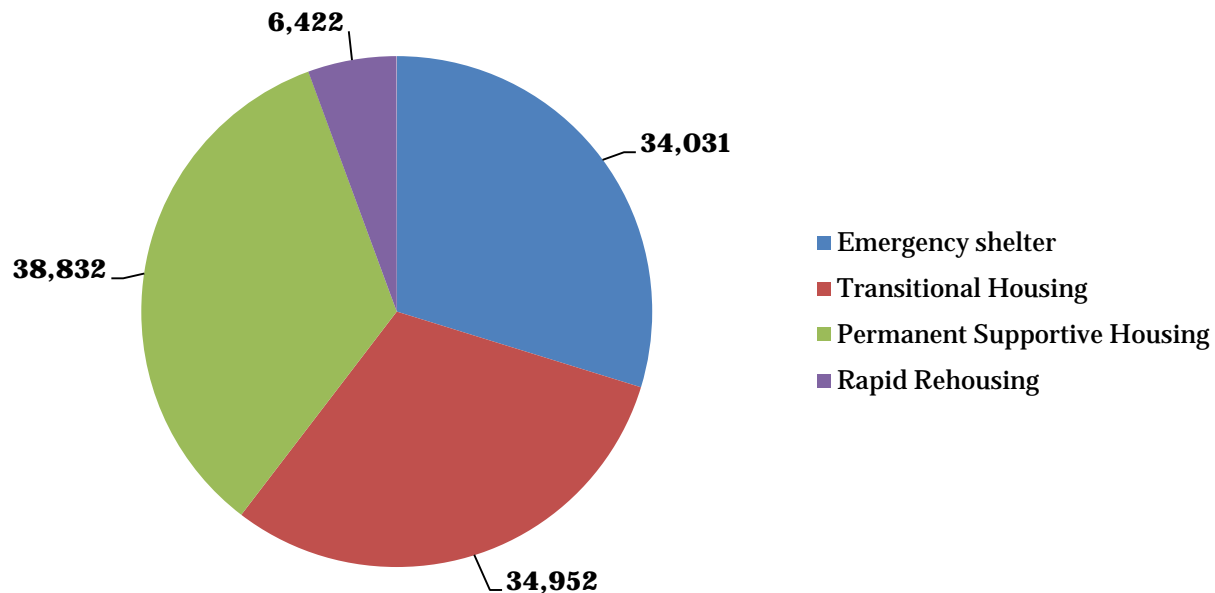
Source: Chart prepared by Dr. Marybeth Shinn based on cluster analysis of family shelter stays in Philadelphia, New York City, Columbus OH, and MA (Culhane, et al., 2007)



Ending Family Homelessness

2012 Housing Inventory Count of Dedicated Family Units

2012 Housing Inventory Count Family Units



Source: 2012 Housing Inventory Chart Report

http://www.hudhre.info/CoC_Reports/2012_national_bed_inventory.pdf



An End to Family Homelessness

Working together within and across Federal agencies, and with our partners at the state and local level to strengthen the local crisis response systems, we will:

- Ensure that no families are living unsheltered
- Shorten episodes of family homelessness by safely re-housing families experiencing homelessness within 30 days
- Link families to the benefits, supports, and community-based services they need to achieve and maintain housing stability
- Identify and implement effective prevention methods to help families avoid homelessness



Defining an Effective Local Crisis Response System

Centralized or Coordinated Assessment and access to shelter

Targeted prevention assistance

Housing

- **Rapid re-housing**
- **Well-targeted permanent supportive housing**
- **Limited transitional housing**
- **Partnerships with affordable housing**

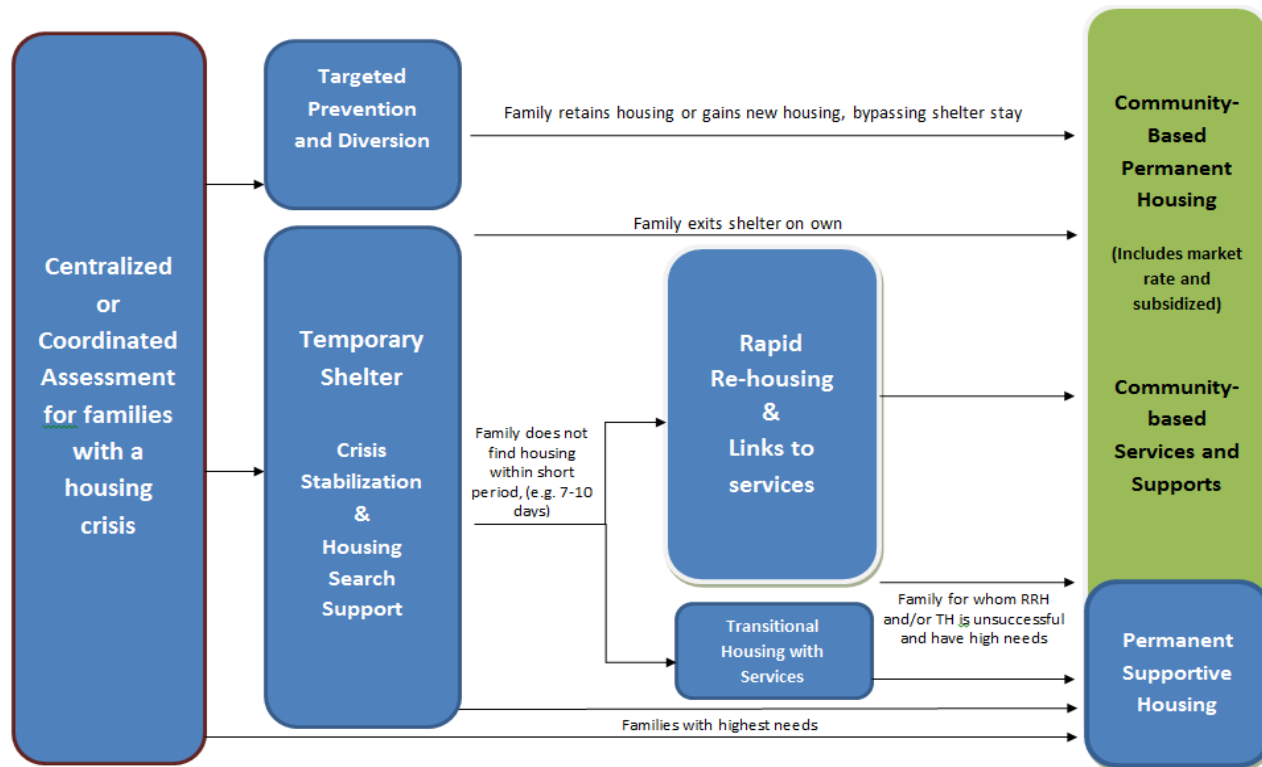
Links to benefits, employment, and services

- **Assistance gaining cash and non-cash benefits;**
- **Employment-focused services for parents;**
- **Children's supports and services including access to early childhood care and learning opportunities, and school-age resources; and**
- **Health care, counseling, emotional support and other services as needed.**



Ending Family Homelessness

Diagram of Coordinated Crisis Response System for Families





Five Key Strategy Areas

1. Help communities develop a centralized or coordinated assessment system, with the capacity to connect families to targeted prevention assistance where possible, and temporary shelter as needed.
2. Target Federal resources to provide rapid re-housing assistance to the majority of families that are experiencing homelessness, increase access to affordable housing, and help communities target resources so that longer and more service-intensive housing interventions are directed to the highest-need households.



Five Key Strategy Areas

3. Help communities connect families to benefits, employment, and services they need to achieve and sustain housing.
4. Better communicate coordinated Federal approach to stakeholders.
5. Develop and strengthen evidence-based strategies for serving families experiencing and at-risk of experiencing homelessness.



The Role of TANF

[TANF-ACF-IM-2013-01: Use of TANF Funds to Serve Homeless Families and Families at Risk of Experiencing Homelessness](#) (published February 20, 2013)



Allowable Uses of TANF and MOE Funds

TANF agencies use federal TANF funds and state Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funds to provide a wide range of benefits and services for needy families with a child (or a pregnant woman):

- **Assistance** – payments to cover basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter.
- **Non-assistance** – e.g., supportive services, work subsidies, programs that aim to prevent and reduce out-of-wedlock pregnancies or encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.



Addressing Housing Needs

Basic assistance:

- Federal TANF and MOE funds may be used to address the housing-related needs of families who are homeless or precariously housed, consistent with TANF rules on providing benefits and services to needy or eligible families.

Non-recurrent, short-term (NRST) benefits and services:

- Designed to extend no longer than four months; and
- Must address a specific crisis situation rather than meet ongoing needs.

TANF funds can be used in coordination with other targeted homeless assistance grants programs to maximize resource impact. (For example, TANF can be used to pay for rental assistance while the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program is used to pay for supportive services to help a family remain housed)



Housing Supports: Examples

Short-term rental or mortgage assistance (to prevent eviction or help a homeless family secure housing);

Security and utility payments;

Moving assistance;

Motel and hotel vouchers;

Case management services;

Financial and credit counseling;

Legal services;

Etc.



Supportive Services

Federal TANF and MOE Funds can be used for a wide variety of other supportive services, such as mental health or non-medical substance abuse treatment, and various employment services, that may be critically needed by homeless families.

Employment services may include education, job training, job placement, and subsidized employment services.

Federal TANF funds and commingled funds (a blend of federal TANF and MOE funds) cannot be used for medical services whereas segregated and separate MOE funds can.



Coordinating Services with Other Organizations

TANF agencies, or community-based organizations they contract with, can offer comprehensive approaches that include multiple programs and supports, such as combining a housing benefit with transportation, childcare, and/or job placement services.

TANF agencies can also partner with local homeless providers to coordinate and streamline services delivered across the two service systems.



Questions and Discussion



Stay Connected



United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

No one should experience homelessness. No one should be without a safe, stable place to call home.

An Energizing Council Meeting & New Ideas on Ending Homelessness Among Families

July 17, 2013

Cabinet Secretaries Advance Efforts to End Family Homelessness

On July 9th, the Obama Administration convened a meeting to push forward its agenda to end homelessness.

USICH Chair, VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki, and Vice Chair, HUD Secretary Shaun

Donovan, met with other Council leaders including ED Secretary Arne Duncan and DOL Acting Secretary Seth Harris, USICH Executive Director Barbara J. Poppe, Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service Wendy Spencer, Director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships Melissa Rogers, and representatives from 11 other member agencies. The group discussed ways to leverage opportunities created by the Affordable Care Act and ways to better serve families who are experiencing homelessness. Donna Seymour, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Warrior Care Policy at the Department of Defense, also updated the Council on DoD's efforts since the last Council meeting to coordinate transitions from active service to Veteran status for our



FROM THE SOLUTIONS DATABASE

Home Free is a program of the Volunteers of America - Oregon designed to expand access to services among survivors of domestic violence facing housing instability.

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