



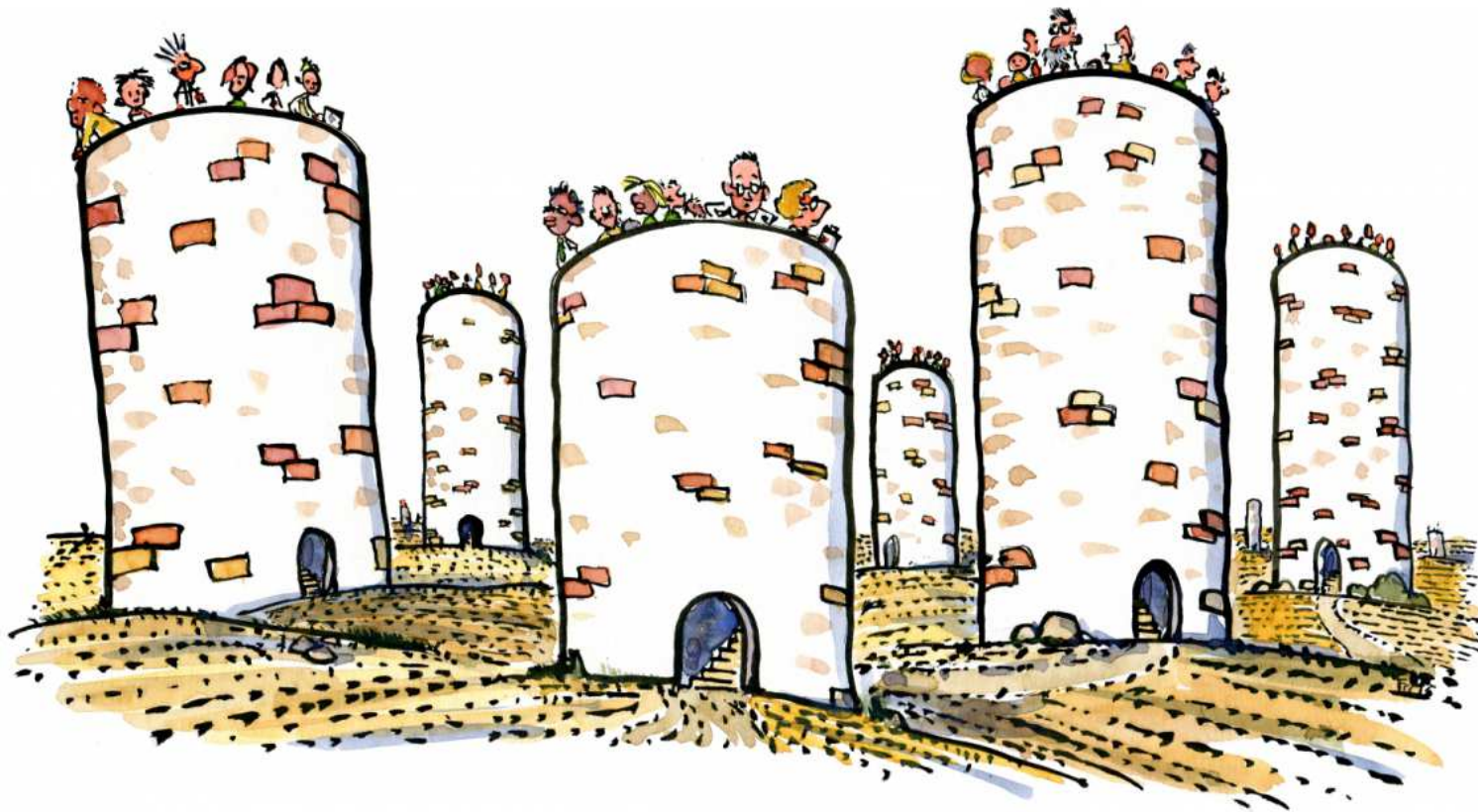
# Collaboration Works:

## Examples of Homeless Programs, CoCs, School Systems and other Education Service Providers working together

National Alliance to End Homelessness - February 19, 2016

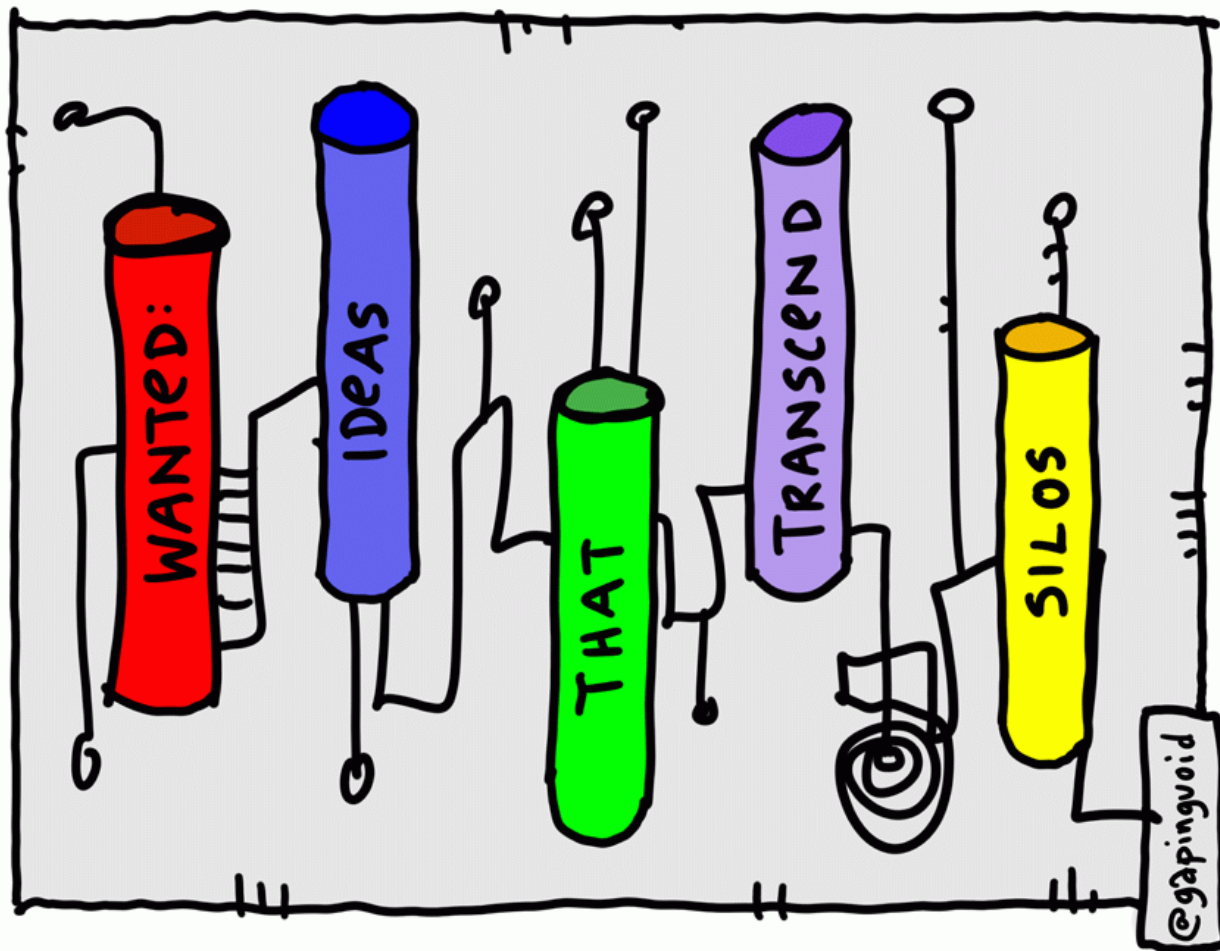
Sharon Price  
The Cloudburst Group

# What is common practice?



Frits Ahlefeldt

# How do we get past the silos to best assist students and their families?!



# Federal Emphasis on Collaboration

- ❑ *Opening Doors: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness* includes major emphasis on collaboration
- ❑ Departments of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Education (ED), and Health and Human Services (HHS) are focusing on ways to encourage cross-systems collaboration in addressing families and students, both in policy and practice
  - Educational Assurances in HEARTH Act and CoC NOFA
  - Education of Homeless Children and Youth Program (EHCY) provides funding to States for Homeless Education Liaisons
  - Head Start/Child Care Development Block Grant policy emphasizing inclusion of children from homeless families

# Ed for Homeless Children and Youth

Homeless Education Liaison required regardless of funds

Students have the right to:

- ☐ Receive a free, appropriate public education
- ☐ Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents  
Enroll in and attend school while the school gathers documents
- ☐ Enroll in the local area school or continue attending school of origin (= school they attended when permanently housed or school where last enrolled)
- ☐ Receive transportation to and from the school of origin
- ☐ Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students (tied to needs)

# HEARTH Act Education Assurances

## CoC applicants must:

1. **Establish policies and practices** that are consistent with, and do not restrict the exercise of rights provided relating to the provision of educational and related services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness
2. **Designate a staff person** to be responsible for ensuring that children being served in the program are enrolled in school and connected to appropriate services in the community
3. **Place families with children as close as possible to their school of origin** so as not to disrupt their education
4. Collaborate with local education authorities to **assist in the identification of individuals and families** who become or remain homeless and are informed of their eligibility for services



# Benefits of Local Collaboration



# Why Collaborate?

- ❑ Collaboration directly and indirectly benefits families, children, and youth experiencing homelessness
- ❑ Collaboration leverages the strengths of partnering agencies and programs
- ❑ Collaboration enhances the efficacy and impact of systems and programs



# Benefits for Students and Families: Access to Services

- ❑ Collaboration can enhance access and/or *ease of referral and coordinated entry*
- ❑ Increased cross-systems communication supports development and delivery of *most appropriate and responsive services* for homeless children, youth, and families
- ❑ Cross-systems collaboration supports *more robust and comprehensive problem solutions*

# Benefits for Students and Families: Linkage of Housing and Education

- ❑ Children and youth in families with stable housing:
  - Attend school more consistently
  - Perform better academically
  - Experience less disruptive stress/mental health trauma
  - Are less likely to be disruptive in the school setting
- ❑ Conversely, high degree of residential mobility can lead to decreased academic achievement
- ❑ When children are in high quality early childhood or elementary & secondary education programs, parents can focus more effectively on job and housing search and stability

# Benefits for Service Systems: Increasing Efficacy and Impact

- ❑ Collaboration increases efficacy and impact of services
  - Builds on partnering systems' strengths and capacities
  - Allows each partner to “do what it's best at”
  - Streamlines process (e.g. coordinated entry—no wrong door)

# Benefits for Service Systems: Sharing Information

## □ Sharing of information across systems helps in:

- Identifying and responding to pressing systems-wide problems
- Informing planning/evaluation of programs
- Monitoring/measuring systems impact and goals achievement
- Informing responsive policy and practice
- Advocating and making the case for systems change

# Case Studies

Collaborations between school systems and CoCs/housing and service providers

# Case Study: Delaware County, PA

- ❑ CoC-funded Recreation Therapy Program critical investment in cross-systems cooperation. “The glue” that insures that every student is assessed and enrolled in school or early intervention as appropriate and is central to the CoC’s success
- ❑ The RTP gives the CoC a unique ability to advocate for the needs of homeless children’s and youth. Positive reputation with the school district liaisons facilitates the success of community case managers in working with the schools, especially regarding transportation, for children and youth experiencing homelessness.
- ❑ The long-term collaboration of the County CoC and schools has helped to solidify the partnership's importance and strengthen its ability to effectively advocate



# Case Study: Waco, TX

- ❑ Collaboration highlights importance of data in describing extent of homelessness, better access to housing & services, increases public awareness
- ❑ LEA requires Homeless Education Liaisons to enter data on homeless students into HMIS
- ❑ Avoids “cookie cutter” approach to HMIS—be flexible
- ❑ Broadening partner involvement—local university
- ❑ Leadership roles—CoC and WISD leaders key
- ❑ HPRP seen as joint opportunity to address students’ families needs

# Case Study: Pinellas County, FL

- ❑ HEAT Team—Educational Alternative Services—25 year
- ❑ connects students and families to housing and services through CoC
- ❑ PIT connected to school count, includes doubled-up
- ❑ Schools included in Coordinated Entry system
- ❑ Reconcile data streams—five categories
- ❑ One door in approach, schools part of CE, utilize 211
- ❑ Importance of long-standing relationships—Provider Council
- ❑ State tax set-aside for Navigators to assist families

# Case Study: Washington, DC

- ❑ The OSSE's Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLED)
- ❑ comprehensive repository of student and education-related data that gathers information across systems in DC.
- ❑ provides extensive educational data to schools, the District of Columbia, and the CoC.
- ❑ The system enables better planning, trend analysis, performance projections, program evaluation, and stakeholder empowerment, while helping improve educational and services outcomes.
- ❑ Use MOU to support collaboration, data privacy key
- ❑ Local resources support community focused response
- ❑ Need flexibility to make it work

# Strategies for Increasing Collaboration:

## *Cross-Systems Planning*

- ❑ Institutionalize partnerships in cross-systems planning committees
- ❑ Include appropriate representation from partner systems in the design of respective policies, protocols, and priorities

# Strategies for Increasing Collaboration:

## *Cross-Systems Communications*

- ❑ Develop informal trainings or networking opportunities that connect homeless services and educational services providers
- ❑ Develop and disseminate information that advances shared understanding of common program goals and commitments
- ❑ Clearly articulate and share recognition for “win-win” results
- ❑ Document and disseminate examples illustrating “promising practices” and their mutual benefits and achievements

# Strategies for Increasing Collaboration:

## *Cross-Systems Facilitation*

- ❑ Identify key systems partners and “champions” -- with specific responsibilities for facilitating and maintaining cross-systems contact
- ❑ Designate staff in homeless programs to facilitate school enrollment and connect homeless children and families to educational services for which they are eligible
- ❑ Build relationships between CoCs, State/Local Homeless Education Liaisons, and State Head Start Collaboration Coordinators



# Strategies for Promoting Collaboration:

## *Data Sharing*

- ❑ Promote active participation of educational systems in PIT counts
- ❑ Establish written MOUs that support shared access to data
  - Establish a functionary with access to both sets of data
  - Develop a collaborative Release of Information (ROI)
  - Clarify FERPA rules (which allow data to be shared)
- ❑ Increase understanding of the overlap in eligibility for services across systems

# Strategies for Increasing Collaboration:

## *Early Childhood Care*

- ❑ Develop protocols that promote more active response by shelter settings to needs of Pre-K kids and their families
- ❑ Promote more active outreach by Head Start and early childhood education providers into homeless services settings
- ❑ Actively partner with local Head Start/Child Care Development Fund programs to facilitate inclusion of homeless children as a priority target

# Related Resources to Explore

- ❑ [Strategies for Implementing HUD Homeless Assistance Requirements to Collaborate with Schools \(NAEHCY\)](#)
- ❑ [Housing and Education Collaborations to Serve Homeless Children, Youth, and Families \(NCHE\)](#)
- ❑ [Homelessness and Education Cross-System Collaboration: Applied Research Summary and Tools \(NCHE/AIR\)](#)
- ❑ [Strategies for Increasing ECE Services for Homeless Children \(HHS/ACF\)](#)
- ❑ [Policies/Resources for Expanding ECE Services for Homeless Children & Families \(HHS/ACF\)](#)
- ❑ [Interagency Data Disclosure: A Tip Sheet on Interagency Collaboration \(Ed\)](#)
- ❑ [Strategies for Integrating Education and Housing Services \(USICH\)](#)

# Related Resources to Explore

## **McKinney-Vento 101: School Access and Stability under the McKinney-Vento Act**

Friday, March 18, 2016 | 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT

Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4595808342705897218>

## **McKinney-Vento 102: Support for School Success and Special Populations**

Thursday, March 31, 2016 | 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT

Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8038890522179501570>

## **NCHE Coffee Break: Understanding Doubled-Up**

Tuesday, March 8, 2016 | 2:00 PM - 2:45 PM EDT

Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2330596686184772354>

# Contact Information

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# V: 5.09 – Working with Schools to Combat Homelessness





# Working with Schools to Combat Family Homelessness

**Goal:** Describe Hamilton's partnership with the SFUSD to combat family homelessness using a housing first model and encourage other communities to replicate

## **Agenda:**

- Introduction
- Family homelessness in San Francisco
- Detail of the partnership
- Outcomes
- Next Steps/Lessons Learned
- Q&A

# Thanks!

Funding for this pilot program provided by:



Funding to disseminate info provided by:




**Mission Statement.** Hamilton Family Center's mission is to end family homelessness in the San Francisco Bay Area

# Hamilton Family Center

- Homelessness Prevention
- Rapid Rehousing
- Temporary Shelter
- Transitional Housing
- Children and Youth Services

# Hamilton Family Center

A man in a dark suit, light blue shirt, and patterned tie is holding a large white rectangular sign with both hands. The sign contains text about homelessness statistics.

Over 80% of the  
homeless families who  
came through our doors  
found housing

# San Francisco Unified School District

The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) is the seventh largest school district in California, educating over 57,000 students every year



# San Francisco Unified School District

SFUSD is considered one of the most innovative school districts in the country for addressing the socio-economic and the socio-emotional needs of its students.

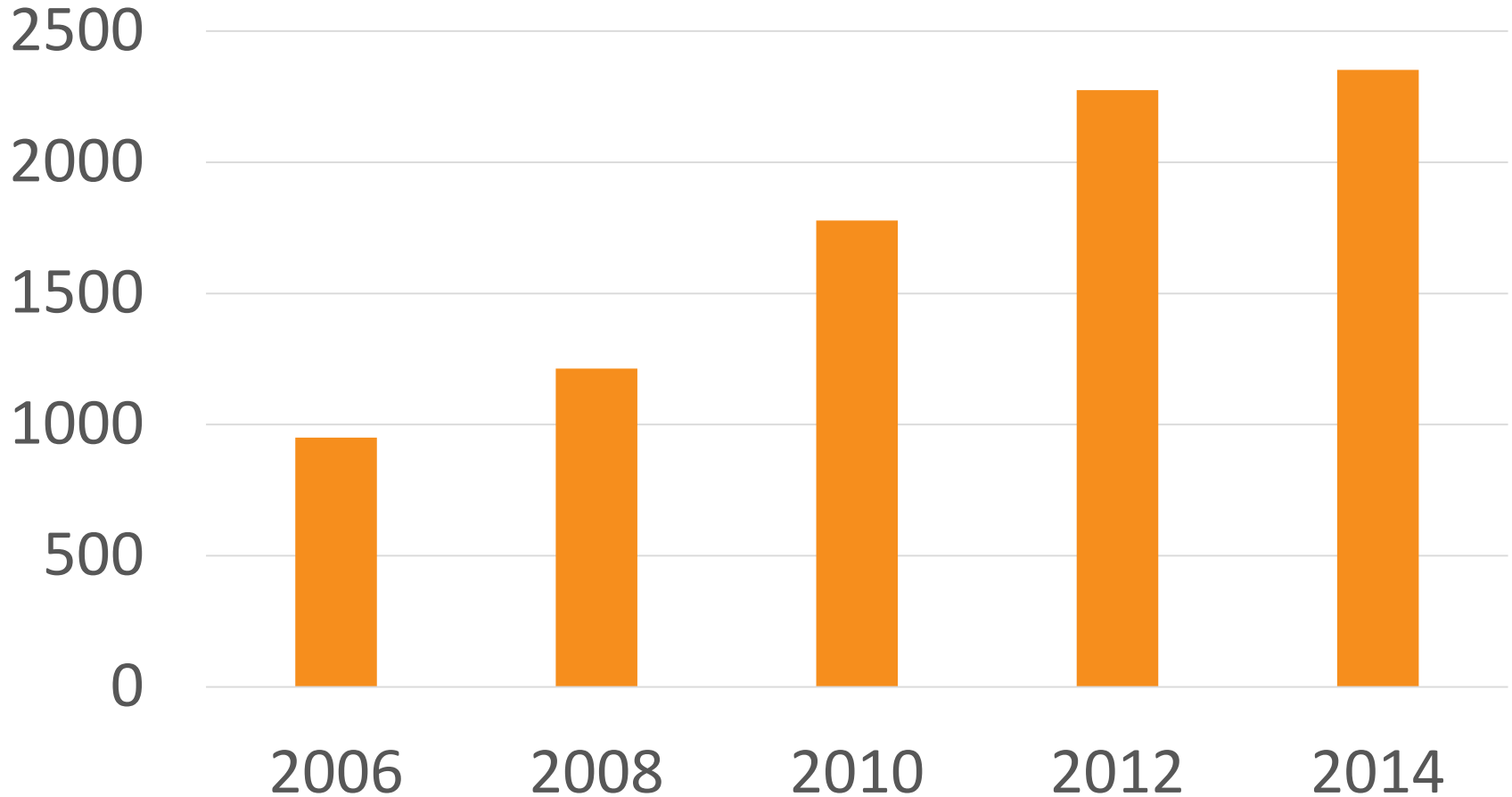
# San Francisco Unified School District

## **Services for homeless students**

- Subsidized transportation
- Provide school uniforms, backpacks, and school supplies
- Special tutoring
- Advocate enrollment, educational, and other disputes
- Make referrals to other agencies

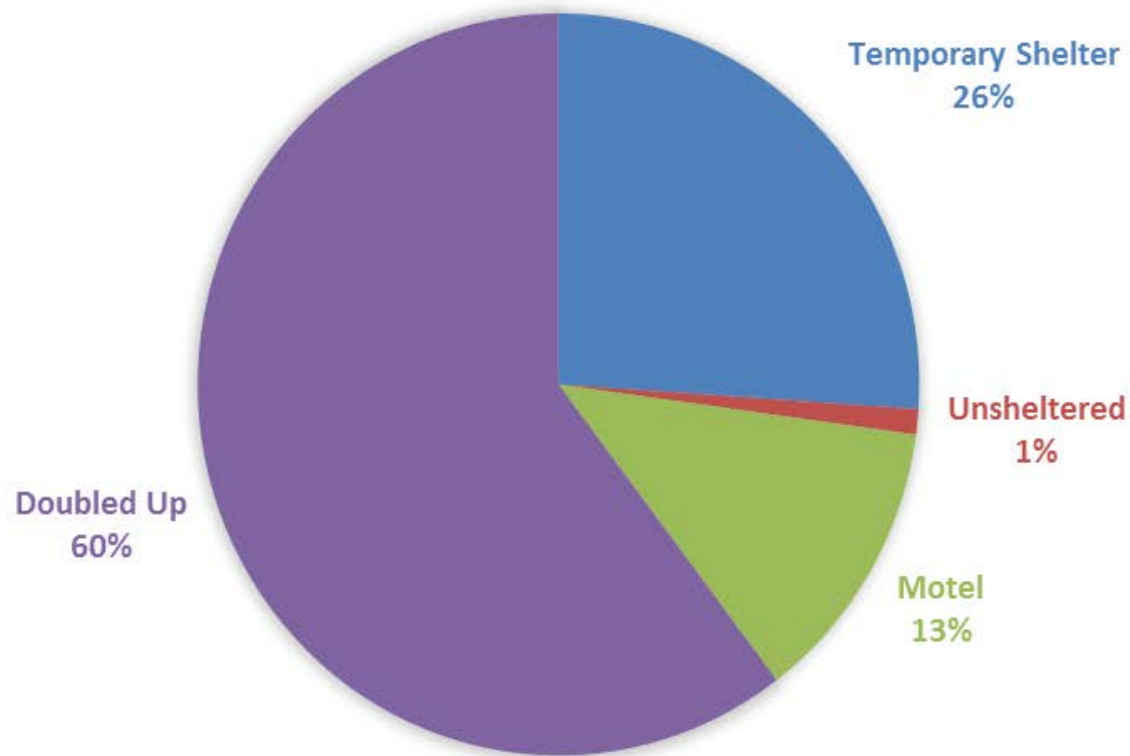


# Homeless Students in San Francisco

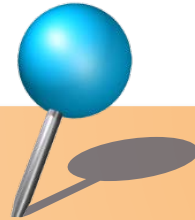


# Homeless Students in San Francisco

## Where do Homeless Families Sleep?

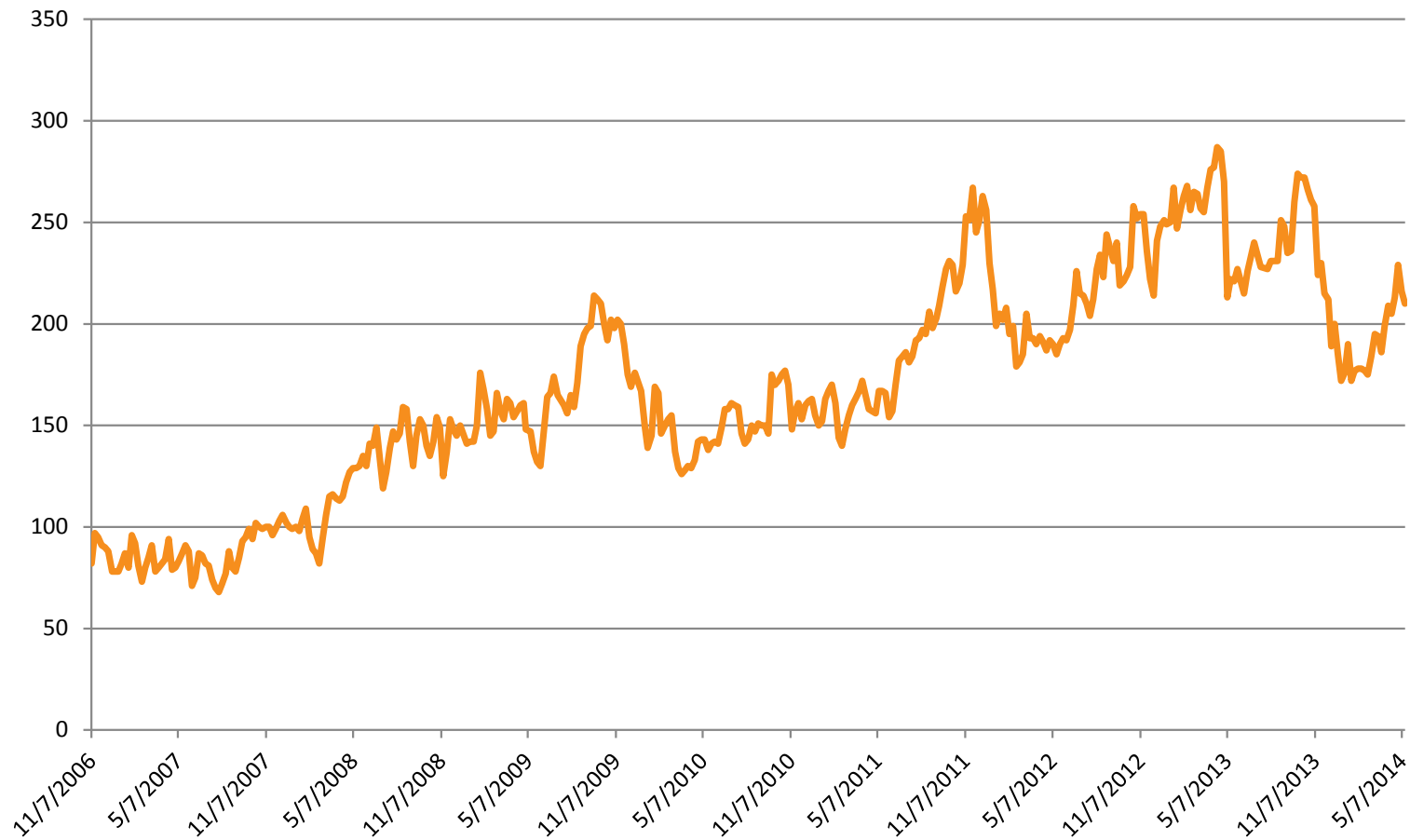


# Homeless Students in San Francisco



**Nearly 1 in every 25  
SFUSD students is  
homeless**

# Waitlist for Family Shelter in San Francisco



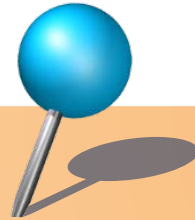
# Waitlist for Family Shelter in San Francisco

## Family Shelter Waiting List System

- Waiting period for a family shelter was 9 months in 2014
- While waiting, families often stay in emergency shelters, in their car, or couch surf
- Average length of time families were homeless was over one year in 2014



# Impact of Homelessness on Children



**Children who  
experience long term  
homelessness are five  
times more likely to  
become homeless  
as adults**



# Hamilton - SFUSD Partnership

- As part of an initiative to end family homelessness by 2019, Hamilton pursued a partnership with SFUSD to reach homeless families more quickly and effectively
- Google provided a \$1 million grant to find a pilot program addressing student homelessness; City general fund dollars were also used to support this work
- In November 2015 Hamilton and SFUSD launched this partnership

# Hamilton – SFUSD Partnership

## **SFUSD's Role:**

- Contact Hamilton as soon as a family is identified as homeless or at-risk
- Allow Hamilton access to school facilities for meetings with families as appropriate
- Arrange for Hamilton to train school social workers, nurses, and counselors
- Help Hamilton disseminate information to SFUSD staff

# Hamilton – SFUSD Partnership

## **Hamilton Family Center's role:**

- Train SFUSD staff on how to identify and assist families who are homeless or at-risk
- Operate a hotline for SFUSD faculty and staff
- Visit a school within 3 business days after called by SFUSD to meet with a families
- Enroll SFUSD families in the appropriate programs

# Hamilton SFUSD Partnership



Hamilton's **Homelessness Prevention Program** provides families facing homelessness with counseling, financial support and other assistance so they can keep their housing

# Hamilton SFUSD Partnership



Hamilton's **Rapid Re-housing Program** provides families who are homeless with a temporary rent subsidy, move-in assistance and other support.







# Hamilton - SFUSD Partnership

## Goals of the Pilot Program:

- Prevent homelessness for 50 families by Oct. 2016
- House 50 homeless families by Oct. 2016
- Test the effectiveness of this partnership

# Outcomes: November 2014 – October 2015

- Received 151 phone calls/emails on the SFUSD hotline from 52 different schools
- Of the 150 contacts, 62 were consultations with SFUSD staff and 89 families were referred to HFC services

# Outcomes: November 2014 – October 2015

Of the 89 families referred to HFC for services:

- 29 evictions prevented
- 22 families re-housed
- 14 families were searching for housing
- 24 families referred to other programs

# Outcomes: November 2015 – October 2015

- The waitlist for family shelter was reduced from a high of 287 families to a low of 122 families
- Reduced the length of stay in shelters by 30%
- 86% of families served exited to permanent housing, an increase of 6% over the previous year
- 96% of families have remain stably housed

# Outcomes: November 2014 – October 2015

Average length of time families were homeless prior to being served:

- Other referral sources: 14.7 months
- SFUSD referrals: 6.5 months

**This is an 8.2 month reduction in the length of homelessness!**



# Keys to Success

- Providing a “value add” to the school system
- Finding a “champion” among SFUSD leadership
- Staff training
- Designing the program to leverage school staff’s ability to quickly reach families

# Lessons Learned

- Staff turnover and competing priorities necessitates more consistent training
- The homeless student liaison ratio of 1:2000 students is not acceptable
- Better data collection and sharing would make the project even more successful



# Next Steps

- Success of this program led the City & County of San Francisco to fund a \$5mm initiative to end homelessness in the elementary schools
- Local companies supplementing Title I funding for homeless students through a school sponsorship program
- Selecting 3-5 schools for targeted outreach
- Developed a report on the first year of the project

# Next Steps

- Developing the scope for a research project on the impact this working is having on educational outcomes
- Exploring ways to assist schools with educational issues
- Addressing discrepancies in HUD definitions and regulations related to family homelessness



# For More information

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# For More information

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# Questions, Concerns or Comments?

