

PRESS RELEASE

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Rapid Re-Housing Best Available Solution for Homeless Families

WASHINGTON – A second round of results of a study released today by [the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#), confirm that rapid re-housing is the most effective intervention available to end homelessness for families. It is at least as effective as other crisis interventions studied (shelter and transitional housing) and costs far less.

According to the [Family Options Study: Three-year Impacts of Housing and Services Interventions for Homeless Families](#), **rapid re-housing had the lowest cost and helped families get back on their feet more quickly** than other crisis interventions. Transitional housing, a model based on using services to improve family outcomes, was the most expensive by a considerable magnitude, but it had no better outcomes than the other crisis interventions.

The only longer-term intervention studied, housing vouchers, had even better outcomes including less school mobility and psychological distress, and fewer returns to homelessness. However, it is rarely available to homeless families because of lack of funding.

“This validates what earlier data from this study showed, and what we see on the ground -- rapid re-housing is easy to implement, low cost, and gets families quickly back into housing,” said Nan Roman, President and CEO of the National Alliance to End Homelessness. “Because it’s a crisis intervention, it doesn’t have the same long-term positive impacts of a housing voucher, and we need more of those. But until we get them, communities should focus on rapid re-housing to end families’ homelessness faster and cheaper.”

HUD’s [proposed Fiscal Year 2017 budget](#) includes a request for \$11 billion over the next ten years to enable HUD to rapidly rehouse nearly 550,000 families with children through targeted, evidence-based interventions.

About the Study

The [Family Options Study](#) is a multi-site random assignment experiment designed to study the impact of various housing and services interventions for homeless families. This report is based on 37 months of data (an earlier report was based on 18 months of data). HUD launched the *Family Options Study* in 2008 in response to Congressional direction and with the goal of learning more about the effects of different housing and services interventions for homeless families.

The Alliance draws the following conclusions from the study:

- **Rapid Re-Housing Is The Most Promising Of The Crisis Intervention Methods:** According to the study, rapid re-housing stands out as the program capable of helping the greatest number of families exit homelessness in the shortest time possible. It’s also the least expensive.

- **Dollars Tied To Transitional Housing Need To Be Reconsidered:** According to the study, crisis intervention methods like rapid re-housing perform as well as transitional housing, but at a significantly lower cost.
- **Affordable Housing Is Key To Ending Homelessness:** The study lends further evidence to the critical need for programs that make housing affordable by citing evidence that housing subsidies are the most effective long-term solution to ending homelessness. Therefore, communities, states and the federal government should urgently prioritize the investment in affordable housing programs.

For insight into the implications of this study and the nation's progress toward the goal of ending homelessness, please contact [Keri Buscaglia](#), Director of Communications, 202-942-8254.

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The National Alliance to End Homelessness is a nonprofit, non-partisan, organization committed to preventing and ending homelessness in the United States. As a leading voice on the issue of homelessness, the Alliance analyzes policy and develops pragmatic, cost-effective policy solutions; works collaboratively with the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to build state and local capacity; and provides data and research to policymakers and elected officials in order to inform policy debates and educate the public and opinion leaders nationwide.