Effective Diversion: A Key Strategy For Ending Homelessness.

Key Takeaways: Diversion has the greatest impact on a community’s response to homelessness

1. Differentiate between diversion, homeless prevention, and eviction prevention.
   a. Diversion is assisting people who have lost their housing avoid entering shelter or unsheltered homelessness by helping them identify alternative places to stay.
   b. Homeless Prevention is helping people at high-risk of homelessness and facing imminent housing loss stay housed (in current or new housing).
   c. Eviction Prevention is helping people who are low income and threatened with eviction or housing loss remain housed (in current or new housing).

2. Why is shelter diversion an effective strategy?
   a. Diversion reduces shelter stays, reserving shelter space for those without any other options than shelter.
   b. Diversion’s creative problem-solving utilizes less resources than more expensive interventions like shelter, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing, making it a very cost-effective strategy. It also reduces emergency services utilization, which are expensive resources often overutilized by people who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness, by quickly identifying housing alternatives.
   c. Diversion is client-led and therefore empowering, culturally informed, and strengths-based.

3. Increase effectiveness of diversion by coupling solutions-focused, strengths-based problem-solving with flexible financial assistance
   a. Utilize Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for diversion.
   b. Flexible financial assistance can be utilized to support creative solutions to keep people housed or create new housing options.

4. Engage in problem-solving conversations to create a housing stabilization plan
   a. Identify barriers to stable housing.
   b. Identify natural and community resources and develop strategy to connect household to these supports.
   c. Conversations should be person-centered, strengths-based, trauma informed, culturally appropriate, housing-focused and solutions-focused.