Being Smart and Strategic with Emergency Housing Vouchers

June 30, 2021

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WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS
AN EFFECTIVE HOMELESS RESPONSE SYSTEM

That ends homelessness…
Effective Homeless Response System:

GOAL

**House** people as quickly as possible and **divert** people from imminent homelessness whenever possible
Effective Homeless Response System: APPROACH

Use a systemic approach to align interventions and resources across programs in a coordinated way around this common goal.
Effective Homeless Response System: ENDGAME

Homelessness is rare, brief, and one-time

- People in a housing crisis have access to immediate help, including a safe place to go.
- People are not unsheltered.
- People do not spend long periods of time homeless.
- People exit homelessness quickly and do not quickly cycle back into homelessness.
Effective Homeless Response System: PERFORMANCE

**Establish systemic performance measures**

- Reduce in-flow into homelessness
- Increase exits to permanent housing
- Decrease average length of homelessness
- Decrease returns to homelessness
An Effective Homeless Response System:
PRACTICE

Practice Standards Across all Programs

• **Equity as the Foundation** to ensure that the homeless response system is a system where all who are served have a safe, stable home.
• **Housing First** approach across all interventions within the system
• **Diversion** from imminent homeless system when safe and appropriate
• **Rapid identification and engagement of people** experiencing unsheltered homelessness to connect them to crisis services and housing assistance.
An Effective Homeless Response System: PRACTICE

Practice Standards Across all Programs

• Quick, accessible, low-barrier pathways to shelter and other crisis services with short stays in shelter

• Rapid connection to permanent housing for all sheltered and unsheltered people, whether or not they are matched to a housing resource through coordinated entry
CONSIDERATIONS FOR EHV PRIORITIZATION
Maximize the Impact of Historic Funding

1. Reduce the number of people experiencing literal homeless.
2. Help people with the highest needs.
3. Reduce racial disproportionality and disparities.
4. Create and strengthen partnerships between CoC’s, PHA’s, HOME Participating Jurisdictions, and Health Care entities.
5. Act with urgency.

Source: Kingsnorth Church Of England Primary School
Smart EHV Strategy Considerations

• Be clear as to the impact you the want the EHV’s to have. (Hint: end homelessness)
• Understand how the EHV’s can support the impact you’re trying to achieve.
• Supporting resourced and meaningful partnerships.
Smart EHV Strategy Considerations Continued

- Considerations for prioritization
  - System Measures
  - Moving on from PSH
  - System Flow
  - Long stayers
  - Ending unsheltered/chronic homelessness
Considerations: Using EHV’s for literal homelessness & utilizing “buckets” to prioritize

• People who are unsheltered
• People who are chronically homeless
• Long-term shelter stayers
• People over 55
• Families with children under six
• People who are high on your existing priority list
• Move-on from PSH
Considerations: Lowest priority (little effect on homelessness)

- Those in rapid rehousing, UNLESS they were explicitly placed in RRH while waiting for PSH. **This will not reduce homelessness.**

- People who’ve been staying in hotels/motels UNLESS they are very high need.
Considerations: Do Not Use EHV/HOME CV to Prevent Homelessness

• Instead use:
  • Emergency Rental Assistance Program funds
  • Coronavirus Relief Funds
  • American Rescue Plan Act utility assistance
  • TANF Emergency Assistance
  • Other funds
RECOMMENDATIONS

Act with URGENCY
Create solid partnerships between Continuums of Care (CoCs) and Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) (and healthcare!)

- What role does each entity play?
  - Identify gifts, talents, skills, and relationships.
  - Experience be brought to the table (e.g., ability to leverage landlords and service partners)
- Identify who does what.
  - Housing navigation role
  - Services, connections to services
- Address concerns.
  - Losing landlords
  - Ability to a connect to services
  - Employing best practice housing navigation
- Leveraging health care partnerships
Do it and Do it fast!

Ensure your partnerships are supported with a structure and process that:
• Makes sure prioritized households are ready to go.
• Assist in getting households leased up quickly.
• Create partnerships and strengthen those with service providers, especially healthcare.
EHV IN ACTION!
Facilitated Discussion with Richmond, VA
Questions?

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