

Being Smart and Strategic with Emergency Housing Vouchers

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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](https://www.kingsnorthchurchofenglandprimaryschool.co.uk/)

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.



From: [Razan/ThinkStock](#)

Considerations: Do Not Use EHV's/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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