

# 2022 National Council for Homeless Veterans Conference

## **Moving the Work Upstream: Homelessness Prevention**

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# Effective Homeless Response System: **GOAL**

**House** people as quickly as possible and

**divert** people from imminent homelessness whenever possible

**End Homelessness =**

**Make homelessness rare, brief and one-time**



# 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



# Homeless Definition

- **Category 1: Literally Homeless** ←
- **Category 2: Imminent Risk of Homelessness**
- **Category 3: Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes**
- **Category 4: Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence**



# 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



# Effective Homeless Response System: Increase System Flow

## System Flow:

An efficient and coordinated process that moves people from homelessness to housing as quickly as possible



# Consider How Current Resources Are Being Utilized ...

- If you make investments without considering how it impacts the system...





# Diversion, Homelessness Prevention, and Eviction Prevention

## IMPACT ON HOMELESSNESS SYSTEM

HIGH

MEDIUM

LOW

### Diversion

**TARGETED TO:**

People who have lost housing and are about to enter shelter or sleep outside

**FUNDED BY:**

- Homelessness system funds

### Homelessness Prevention

**TARGETED TO:**

Extremely vulnerable people who are about to lose their housing

**FUNDED BY:**

- Mainstream “feeder system” funds
- Homelessness systems that have served their entire homeless population

### Eviction Prevention

**TARGETED TO:**

Low income people who have received an eviction notice

**FUNDED BY:**

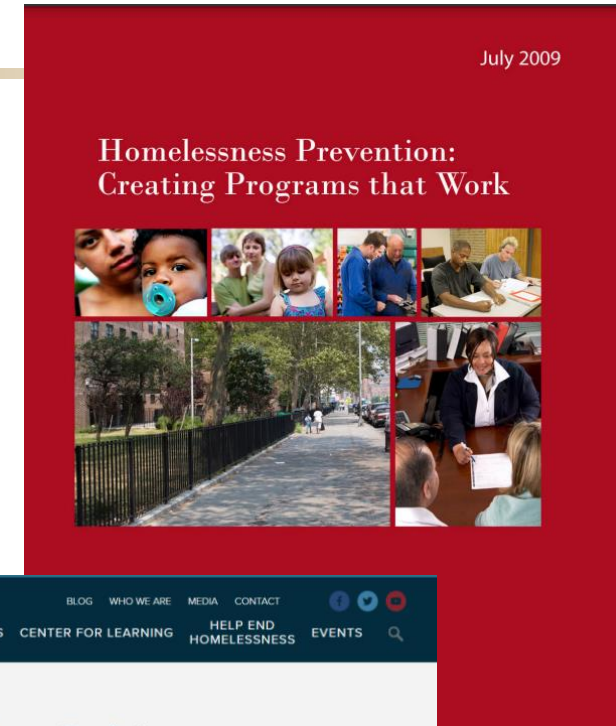
- Federal, state, and local housing funds
- Legal assistance funds

# Distinguishing Diversion and Prevention

Consumer's Housing Situation	Intervention Used	Services Provided (In All Interventions)
<b>AT IMMINENT RISK OF LOSING HOUSING</b> (precariously housed and not yet homeless)	<b>PREVENTION</b>	Housing Search Rental Subsidy Other Financial Assistance Utility Assistance Case Management Mediation Connection to Mainstream Resources Legal Services
<b>REQUESTING SHELTER</b> (at the "front door" or another program/system entry point seeking a place to stay)	<b>DIVERSION</b>	
<b>IN SHELTER</b> (homeless/in the homeless assistance system)	<b>RAPID RE-HOUSING</b>	

# Homelessness Prevention Guide

- Principle 1: Crisis resolution
- Principle 2: Client choice, respect and empowerment
- Principle 3: Provide the minimum assistance necessary for the shortest time possible
- Principle 4: Maximize community resources
- Principle 5: The right resources to the right people at the right time

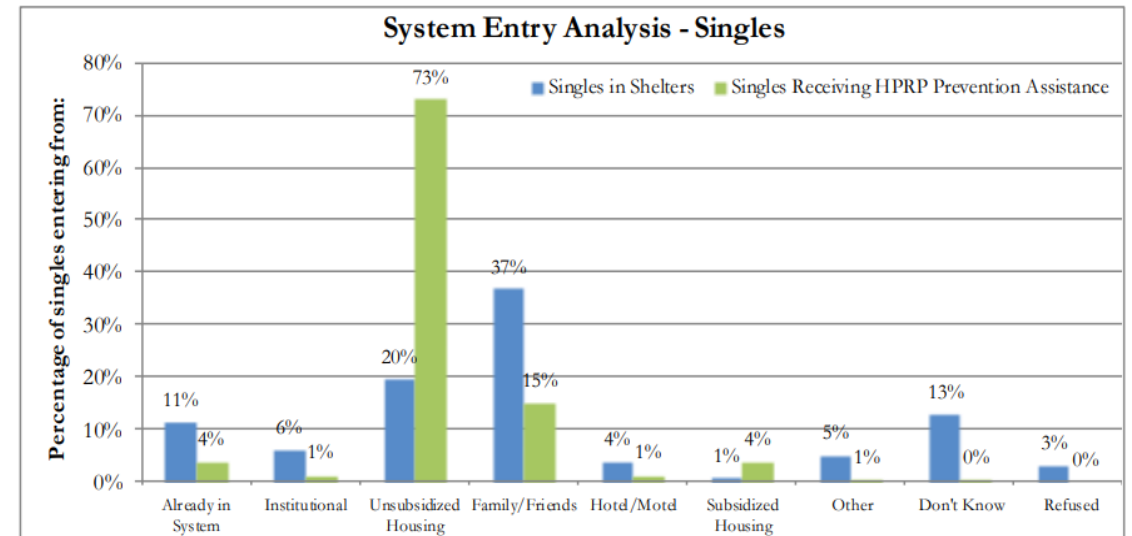


# Targeting Prevention: Understanding Your System

- Use Data on Households in Emergency Shelter to Target Prevention Assistance
  - Household income
  - Disabilities in the household
  - Criminal records
  - Benefits received (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, etc.)
  - Number of and length of previous homeless episodes
  - Living situation prior to coming to the homeless assistance system
- Prioritize Households with the Most Imminent and Intense Housing Crises

**Figure 1: Prior Living Situations for Singles and Families**

Source: Center for Capacity Building HEARTH Academy data



**What challenges have you  
encountered around prevention?**

## Research Highlight: California Policy Lab



One-time cash assistance



**CALIFORNIA  
POLICY  
LAB**



Who needs it most?



Prevention (and fast!)



**USC** University of  
Southern California

## Community Highlight: Montgomery County, PA

# Eviction Prevention Research Project

Your Way Home Montgomery County and HealthSpark Foundation

“As Your Way Home continues to prioritize its commitment to ending literal homelessness, we recognize that we must also develop solutions that will help prevent more families and individuals from losing their housing.”



## Let's Connect!

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