Barriers to Affordable Housing: Homeless Individuals and Families

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Top 3 Reasons for Homelessness

• Conflict with Friends or Family
• Domestic Violence
• Rent Problems
Contributing Factors

• IPV (Interpersonal Violence), is the leading cause of homelessness, particularly among US families.
• 40% of CT adults in families said domestic violence contributed to their homelessness.
• Only 15% of homeless people report that their homelessness was caused by eviction but the vast majority report that rent problems caused homelessness.
Quotes from Focus Groups

• “I was homeless when I was five. I lived in a hotel and took a cab to school. The kids would make fun of me.”

• “Government is responsible for the homeless situation. I helped serve this country as a veteran and risked my life and all I can get is food stamps.”

• “There’s dysfunction, every town has different programs when they need to be on one accord.”
Problems Within Housing: Homeless Client Perspective

• Landlords are hesitant to take tenants with subsidies, and if they do, then they do not offer those tenants the same services as those who pay market rate.
• Landlords do not know the rules, regulations and/or the guidelines of many housing programs.
• There is great concern and stress caused to those who know there is a time limit to their housing situation and this applies to all housing options including but not limited to, shelters, transitional programs, and/or the rapid re-housing program.
Homeless Families in Connecticut

- Part of longer period of housing instability, and doubling up
- For every homeless family, 5 more may be doubled up
- NAEH estimates that almost 40,000 people are doubled up in CT
- Family separations common

Living Situation prior to Entry into Shelter or Transitional Housing

- Homeless situation, 36%
- Doubled Up, 42%
- Own housing, 14%
- Institutional setting, 7%
- Other, 12%

Source: CT HMIS, FFY 2010 (10.1.09-9.30.10)
Top Income Sources of Connecticut Shelter Clients

- TANF: 4%
- SAGA: 5%
- Unemployment Compensation: 6%
- Earned/Employed Income: 11%
- SSI/SSDI: 15%
- No Financial Resources: 57%

Percent of the 4,783 ES clients who had income information. N for year = 11,294.

Source: Connecticut Emergency Homeless Shelter Demographic Report, FFY 2011, prepared by CCEH for the CT Department of Social Services
Crisis Response: Shelter

• CT spends $5.8 million on emergency shelter
• State-funded shelters provide more than 2,189 beds per night
• 11,700 emergency shelter users in FFY 2010, including more than 1,500 children
Homeless Families in Connecticut

Among homeless families, young, single-parent women of color are overrepresented.

Figure III. Families in Emergency Shelters with at Least One Child under 6 FFY 2010

- Female Single Parent: 558 (85%)
- Two Parent Family: 13 (2%)
- Other/Unidentified: 21 (3%)
- Male Single Parent: 64 (10%)

Source: CT HMIS
Crisis Response: Transitional Housing

• 75 transitional programs, 13 for families; 47 for single adults; 15 for mixed populations
• Served 2,248 adults and children
• Almost $9 million federal and state on transitional housing
Retool the Crisis Response System

- Housing-centered solutions
- Use data to better target services to those most in need
- Create central intake and universal screening systems
- Community based not shelter/TLP based services
- Improve planning for people exiting criminal justice facilities and foster care
- Integrate trauma informed services and DV system with homeless crisis response system