

Understanding & Responding to the Crisis of Unsheltered Homelessness

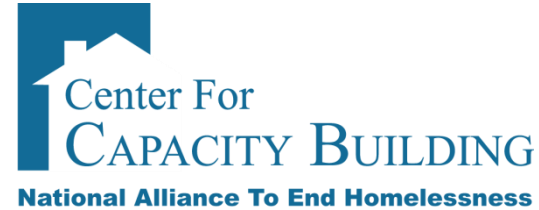
June 24, 2022

HIAC Meeting



INTRODUCTION





The National Alliance to End Homelessness is the leading national voice on the issue of homelessness. The Alliance analyzes policy and develops pragmatic, effective policy solutions. The Alliance works collaboratively with the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to build state and local capacity, leading to stronger programs and policies that help communities achieve their goal of ending homelessness.

The National Alliance to End Homelessness identifies and evaluates hundreds of policy and program strategies and their impact on homelessness. The Alliance's Center for Capacity Building helps communities replicate and customize the best of those strategies. The Center focuses on strategies that are cost effective, data driven, and can be implemented at a scale that can significantly reduce homelessness.

Center for Capacity Building



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BRIEF OVERVIEW OF OVERALL PROJECT



Phase One Approach

Deliverable	Key Milestones	Timeframe
Comprehensive Needs Assessment	Qualitative System & Program Level Analysis	May-August
	Quantitative System & Program Level Analysis	May-August
	Development of Comprehensive Needs Assessment Report	August-October
	Presentation of Needs Assessment findings to Community Stakeholders	October

High Degree of Difficulty/High Potential for Delay:

- Access to data (e.g., quality data), policies, protocols, funding sources
- Credentialing ourselves, building authentic relationships and remaining neutral in our assessment and recommendations

Phase Two Approach

Deliverable	Key Milestones	Timeframe
Solution Definition & Feasibility Study	Identification of Multiple Options/Recommendations based on Needs Assessment	September-October
	Development of well-defined recommendations with accompanying staffing, services, facilities, budget requirements, funding sources, feasibility studies.	October-November
	Development of Findings and Recommendations Report	Nov-Dec
	Presentation of Findings and Recommendations Report to Community Stakeholders	December

**WHAT IS A HOMELESS RESPONSE
SYSTEM THAT IS EFFECTIVE,
EFFICIENT AND EQUITABLE?**



Goal of a Homeless Response System that is Effective, Efficient, and Equitable:

House people as quickly as possible

Divert people from imminent homelessness whenever possible



Homeless Response System: **APPROACH**

Use an equitable systemic approach
to align interventions and resources
across programs in a coordinated
way around this common goal



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 Response System: **ENDGAME**

Establish systemic performance measures

- Reduce in-flow into homelessness
- Increase exits to permanent housing
- Decrease average length of homelessness
- Decrease returns to homelessness



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

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

Homeless Response System that is Effective, Efficient, and Equitable Increase System Flow

System Flow:

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



Poor System Flow: When Your System is Stuck

- Unchanging or increasing number of unsheltered people
- Waitlists for shelter
- Long lengths of stay in shelter (more than 30 days)
- High percentage of exits from shelters to homelessness
- Average length of homelessness is not decreasing
- In-flow into homelessness is steady or increasing
- Long waitlists for Rapid Re-Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing or long Coordinated Entry list
- Significant amount of people aren't getting any kind of assistance

Activity – Think About Asheville’s System

- Take a minute to quietly reflect on what you know about Asheville’s Homeless Response System
- Ask yourselves:
 - Do I know what our homeless housing program inventory includes?
 - Do I know how people enter the system to receive services?
 - What happens after people enter the system? How do they move through it?
 - How do people exit the system and where do they go?
 - How do we measure our success in making homelessness rare, brief, and one-time?

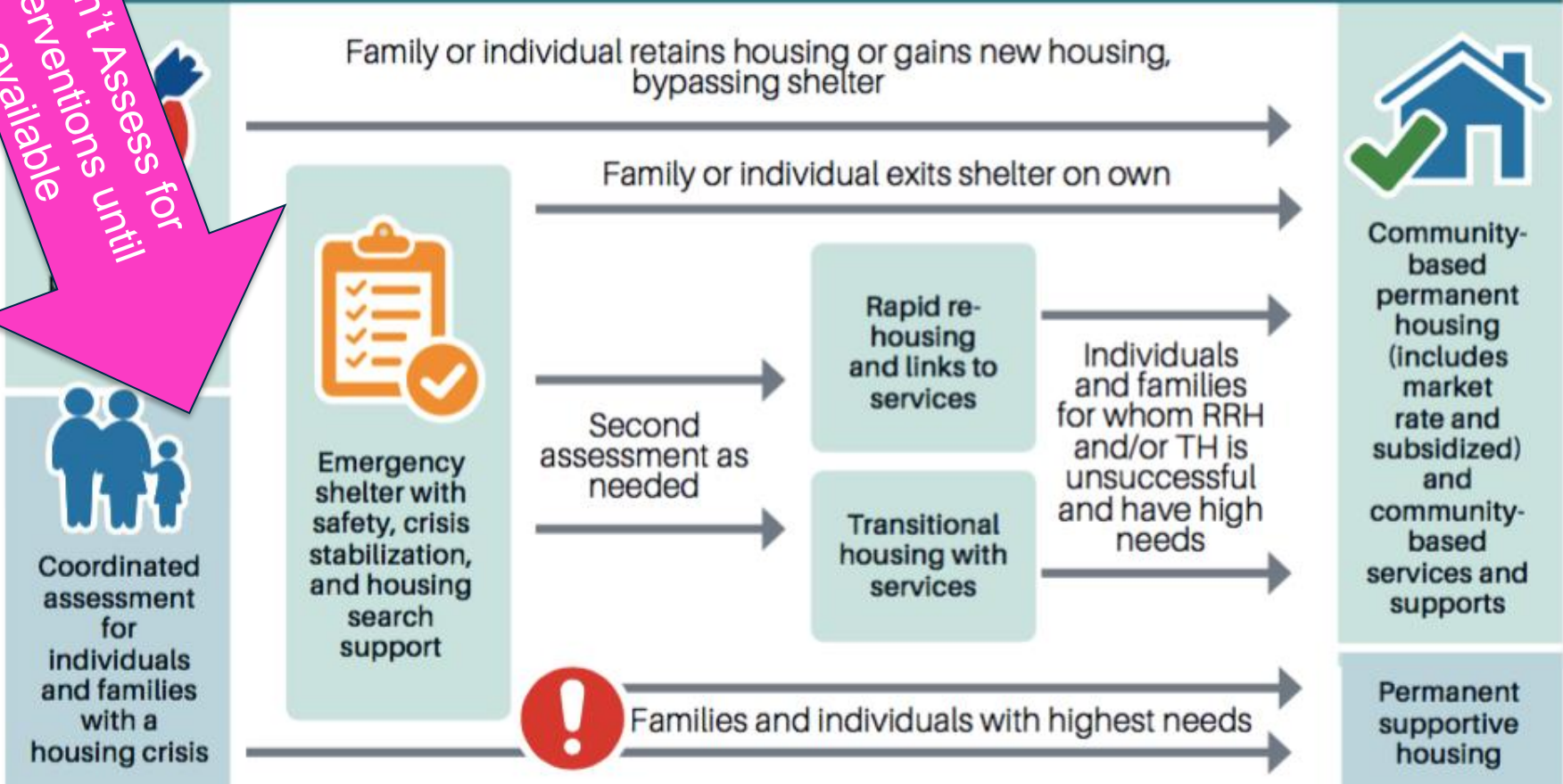
Consider How Current Resources Are Being Utilized ...

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



Homeless Response System

Don't Assess for Interventions until available



NEXT STEPS



What's Next

- Continued Stakeholder interviews, surveys, and focus groups
- Encouraging in your recruitment for six open HIAC seats
- Back in town – Week of August 15th
- Monthly updates on City Project Page
- Monthly HIAC updates/discussion
- Other