# Opening Doors: Ending Veteran, Chronic & Family Homelessness

National Association of Counties February 22, 2015



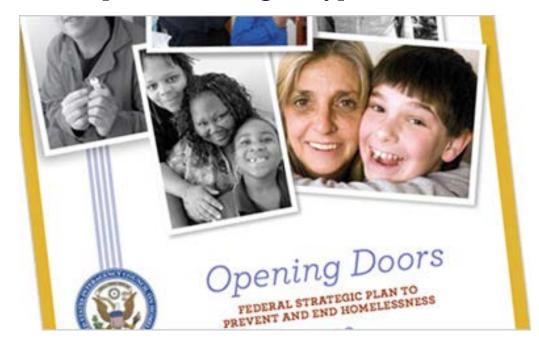


# US Interagency Council on Homelessness What we do

- ✓ Coordinate the Federal response to homelessness
- ✓ **Maximize** the effectiveness of 19 Federal agency partners
- **✓ Share** best practices
- **✓ Drive** collaborative solutions



- End homelessness among veterans in 2015
- End chronic homelessness in 2017
- End homelessness among families, youth, & children by 2020
- Set a path to ending all types of homelessness





# **Opening Doors**Five themes and 10 Objectives

- Increase leadership, collaboration, and civic engagement
- 2. Increase access to stable and affordable housing
- 3. Increase economic security
- 4. Improve health and stability
- 5. Retool the homeless crisis response system

#### UNITED STATES INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

#### Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

vision No one should experience homelessness no one should be without a safe, stable place to call home.

GOALS Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness in 5 years

- Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children in 10 years
- Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in 5 years
- Set a path to ending all types of homelessness

#### THEMES Increase Leadership, Collaboration, and Civic Engagement

OBJECTIVE 1: Provide and promote collaborative leadership at all levels of government and across all sectors to inspire and energize Americans to commit to preventing and ending homelessness

OBJECTIVE 2: Strengthen the capacity of public and private organizations by increasing knowledge about collaboration, homelessness, and successful interventions to prevent and end homelessness

#### Increase Access to Stable and Affordable Housing

OBJECTIVE 3: Provide affordable housing to people experiencing or most at risk of homelessness

OBJECTIVE 4: Provide permanent supportive housing to prevent and end chronic homelessness

#### Increase Economic Security

OBJECTIVE 5: Increase meaningful and sustainable employment for people experiencing or most at risk of homelessness

OBJECTIVE 6: Improve access to mainstream programs and services to reduce people's financial vulnerability to homelessness

#### Improve Health and Stability

OBJECTIVE 7: Integrate primary and behavioral health care services with homeless assistance programs and housing to reduce people's vulnerability to and the impacts of homelessness.

OBJECTIVE 8: Advance health and housing stability for youth aging out of systems such as foster care and juvenile justice

OBJECTIVE 9: Advance health and housing stability for people experiencing homelessness who have frequent contact with hospitals and criminal justice

#### Retool the Homeless Crisis Response System

OBJECTIVE 10: Transform homeless services to crisis response systems that prevent homelessness and rapidly return people who experience homelessness to stable housing

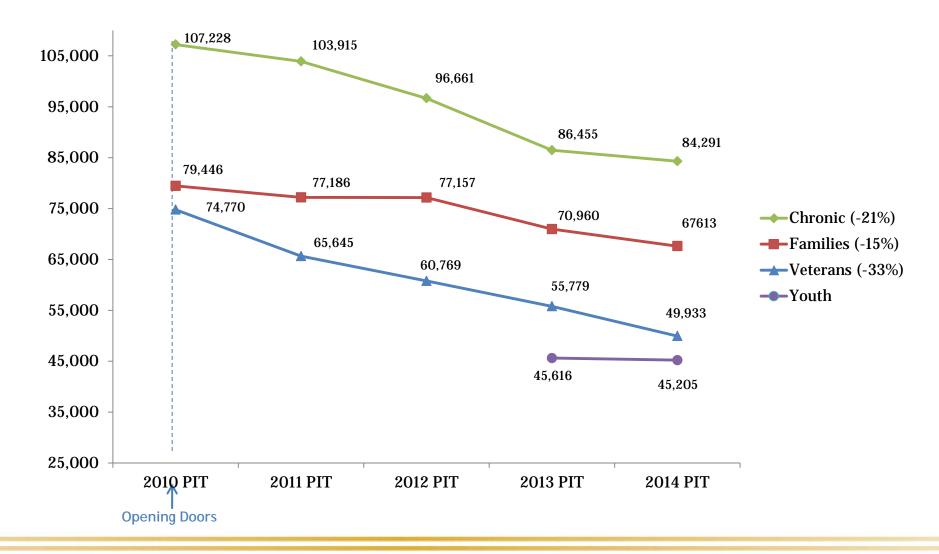
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### Progress with *Opening Doors*

Since the launch of Opening Doors, we have changed the trajectory of homelessness.



Source: HUD 2014 AHAR www.usich.gov

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## **Ending Veteran Homelessness**

The goal is within reach

- Support communities through Mayors Challenge and technical assistance
- Deploy and fully utilize HUD-VASH and SSVF
- Fully leverage non-targeted Federal resources approach to identify, engage, and provide housing to Veterans
- Assist ineligible Veterans through legislative change and non-VA programs





### **Ending Veteran Homelessness**

10 strategies to accelerate local efforts

- 1. Strengthen Local leadership & commitment
- 2. Create list of all Veterans experiencing homelessness
- 3. Implement Housing First
- 4. Set and meet short-term housing placement goals
- 5. Collaborative outreach & engagement

- 6. Coordinated entry systems
- 7. Deploy HUD-VASH & SSVF effectively
- 8. Improve transitional housing
- 9. Increase connections to employment
- 10. Solve legal barriers to housing

bit.ly/Strategies10





## The Mayors Challenge

To End Veteran Homelessness in 2015

- 6/4/14: First Lady Michelle Obama called on mayors, county leaders, and governors to commit to ending Veteran homelessness by the end of 2015.
- Since then, 349 mayors, 7 governors, and 112 county officials have signed on to the challenge.
- 1/7/15: New Orleans becomes the 1st major city to effectively end Veteran homelessness.
- Other cities making progress towards goal.

bit.ly/mayorschallenge







## **Ending Chronic Homelessness**

Increasing availability & access to permanent supportive housing

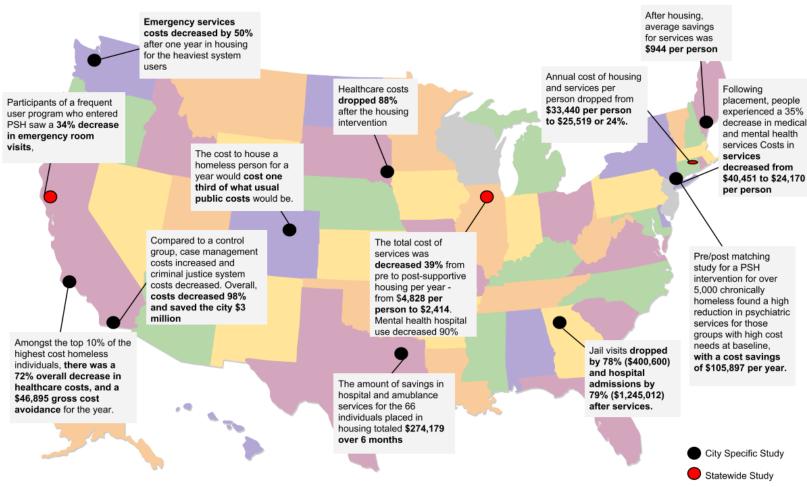
- Improve targeting and prioritization in existing units
- Encourage reallocation of HUD CoC Program funds towards supportive housing
- Leverage Housing Choice Vouchers, Medicaid, and behavioral health funding
- Promote Housing First and collaborative approaches to outreach and engagement



The President's FY 2016 Budget calls for 25,500 new units of permanent supportive housing.

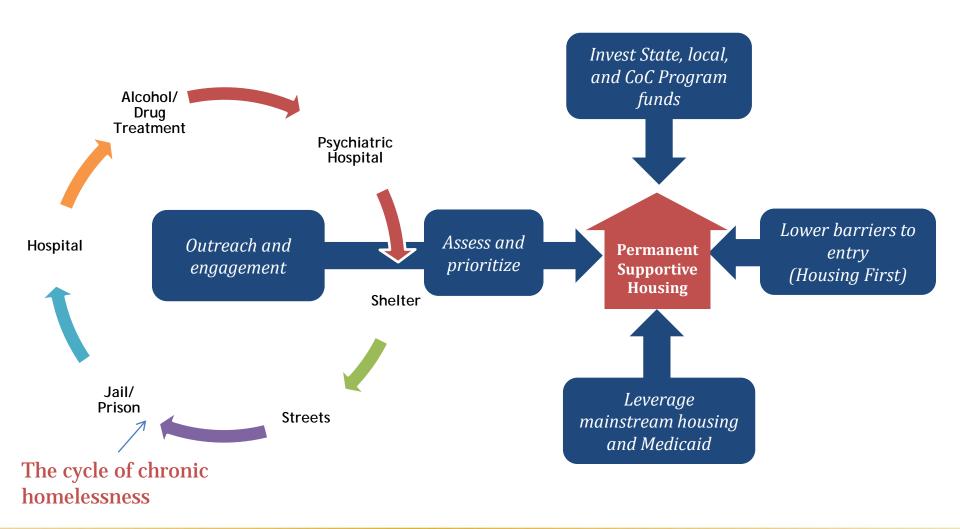
### The Evidence is Clear

### Health Cost Savings Studies - Permanent Supportive Housing



## **Ending Chronic Homelessness**

Using a systems approach





## **Ending Chronic Homelessness**

Using Medicaid to Finance Supportive Services

- Expansion of Medicaid increases coverage of people experiencing chronic homelessness
- States can choose to cover tenancy supports, pretenancy supports, and move-in supports under Medicaid
- States compelled by evidence of supportive housing's impact on health care costs







## **Ending Family Homelessness**

- Encouraging retooling of existing programs towards evidenceinformed housing interventions
- Supporting coordinated assessment/entry systems
- Leveraging mainstream housing and services resources (Housing Choice Vouchers, Multifamily, TANF, Head Start, workforce systems)
- Adoption of evidence-based practices to improve children and family outcomes
- Determining resource needs to achieve goal

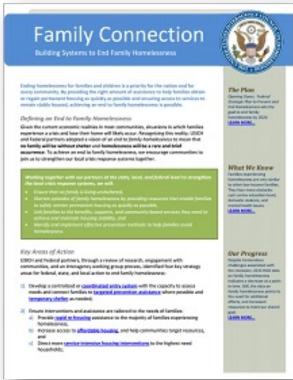




### **Working together to:**

- Ensure that no families are living unsheltered.
- Shorten episodes homelessness by providing resources to safely reenter permanent housing quickly.
- Link families to the benefits, supports, and community-based services they need.
- Identify and implement effective prevention methods to help families avoid homelessness.

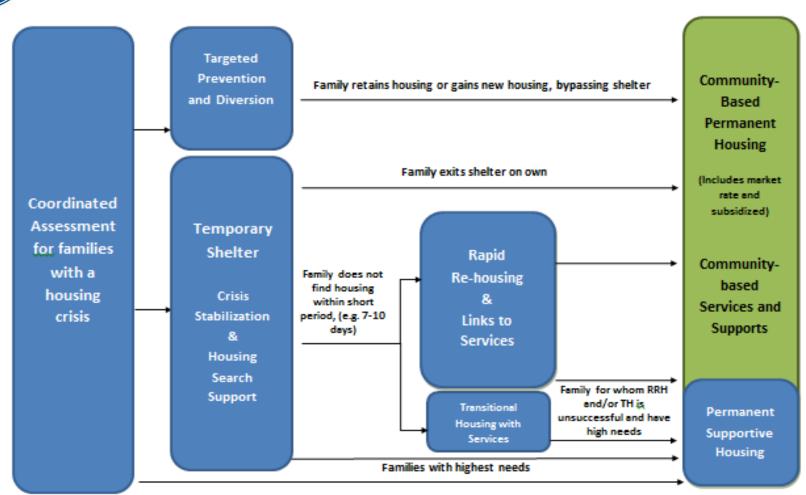
bit.ly/FamConnection





### Crisis Response System for Families

Rapidly return people who experience homelessness to stable housing





### Key Mainstream Resources

Leverage mainstream resources & system to end homelessness

### HUD

- Housing Choice Vouchers & public housing
- Multifamily housing

### <u>Labor</u>

Workforce systems

### **Education**

LEAs and schools

### **SSA**

SSI/SSDI

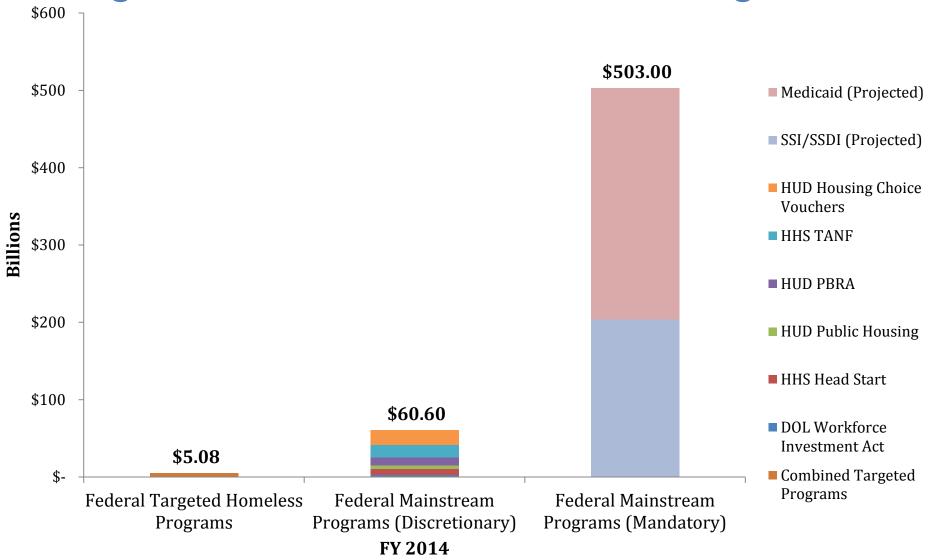
### **HHS**

- Medicaid
- TANF
- Head Start
- Community Services Block Grants
- Social Services Block Grants
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse Block Grants
- Health centers



The Budget calls for 67,000 new Housing Choice Vouchers to support low-income households.

## Targeted and Mainstream Programs





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