

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



Opening Doors

Four Bold & Measurable Goals

- 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

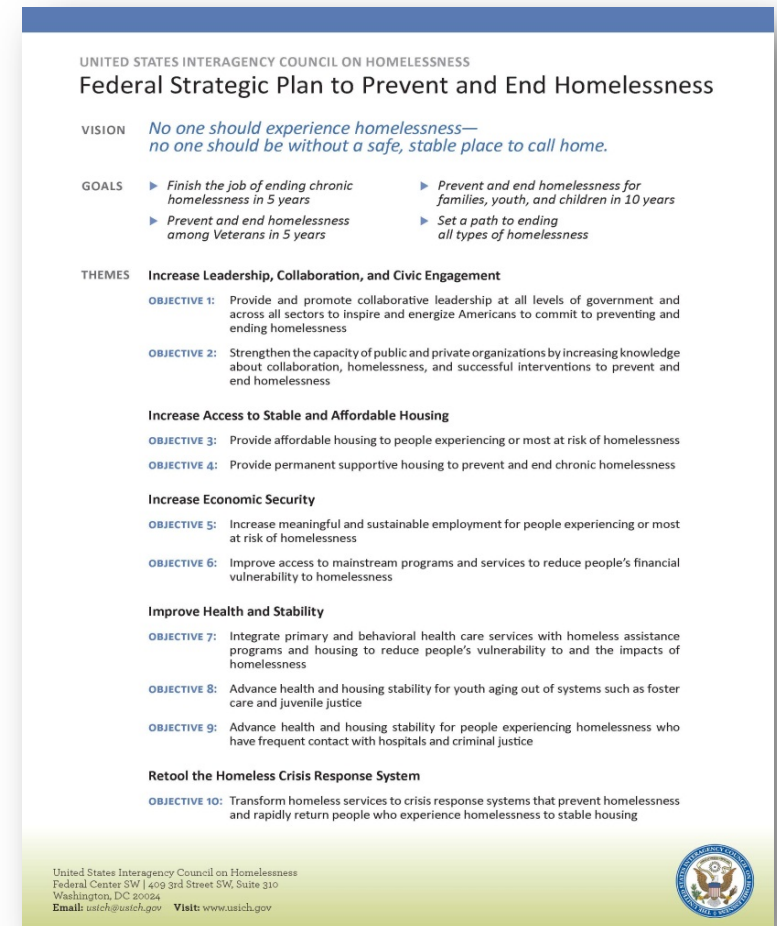




Opening Doors

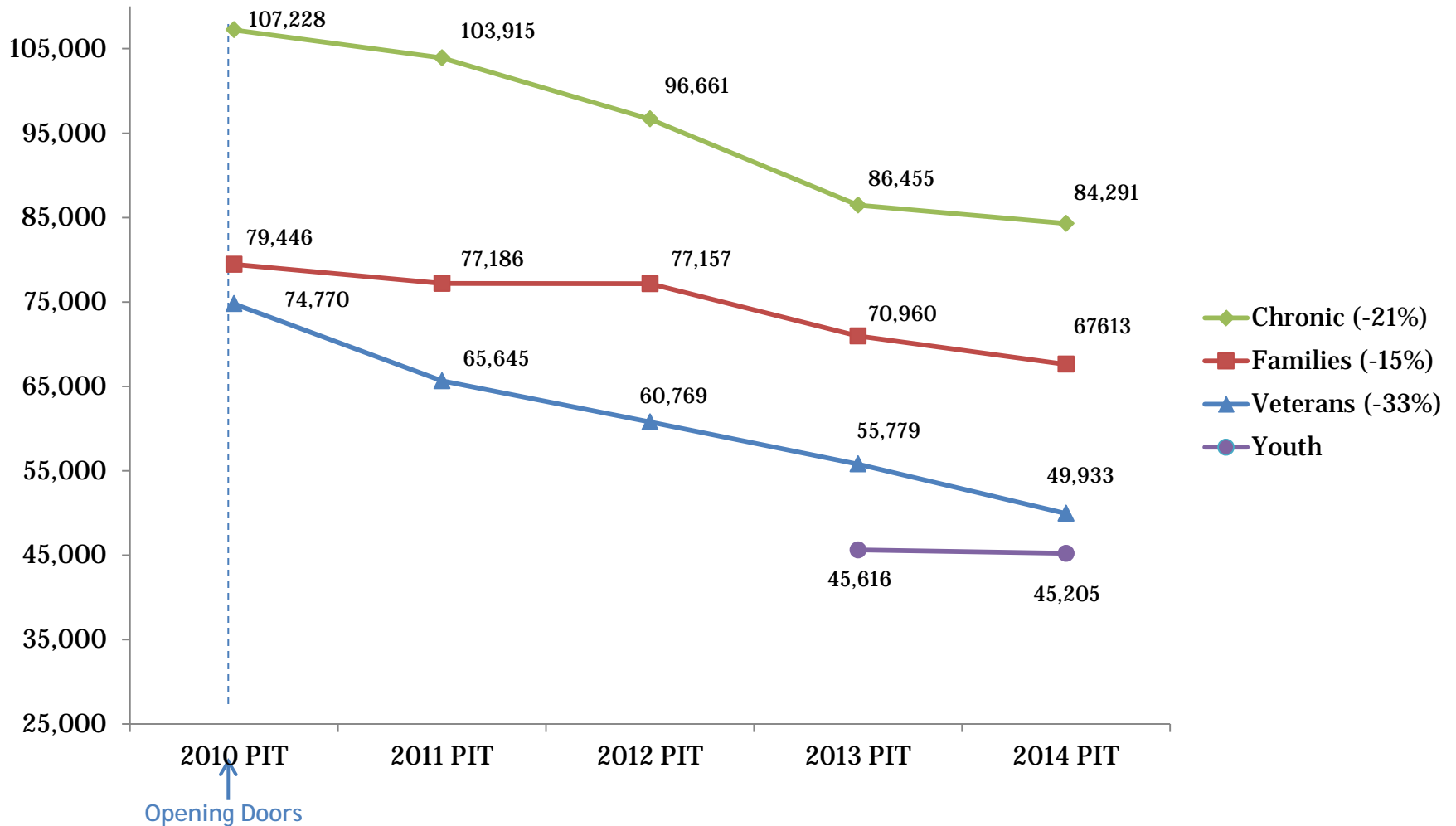
Five themes and 10 Objectives

1. 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



Progress with *Opening Doors*

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

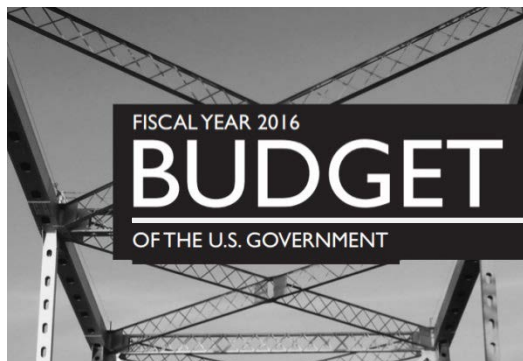




Ending Veteran Homelessness

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



➤ The President's FY 2016 Budget calls for \$300 million for Supportive Services for Veterans Families



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

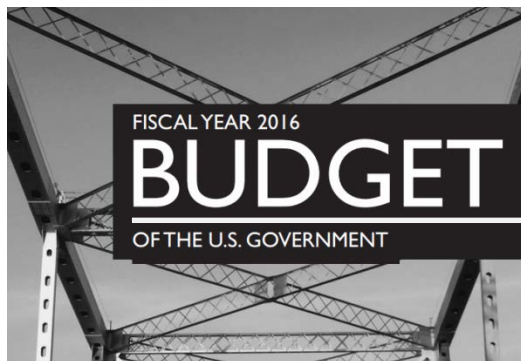




Ending Chronic Homelessness

Increasing availability & access to permanent supportive housing

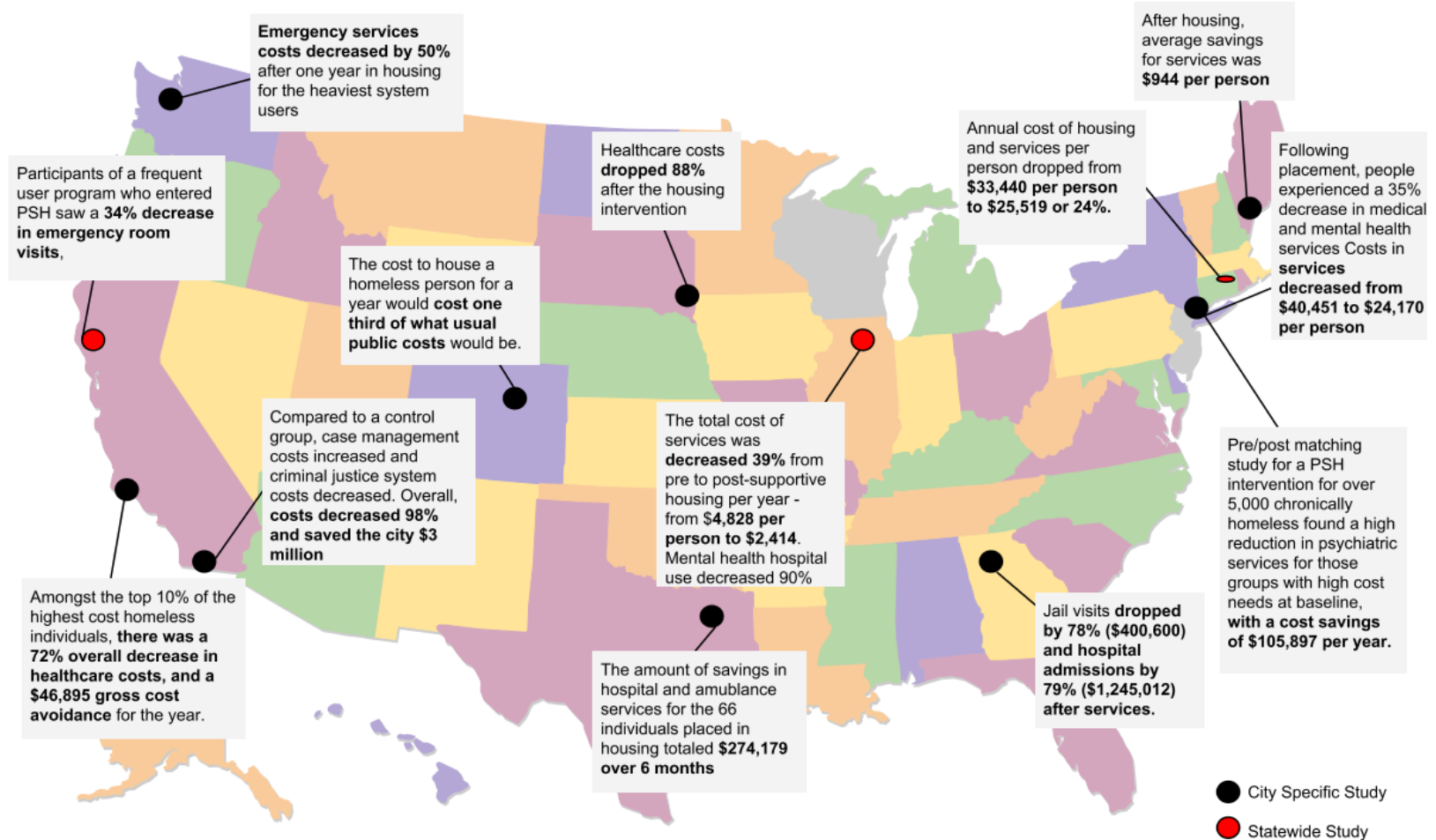
- Improve targeting and prioritization in existing units
- Encourage reallocation of HUD CoC Program funds towards supportive housing
- Leverage Housing Choice Vouchers, Medicaid, and behavioral health funding
- Promote Housing First and collaborative approaches to outreach and engagement



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

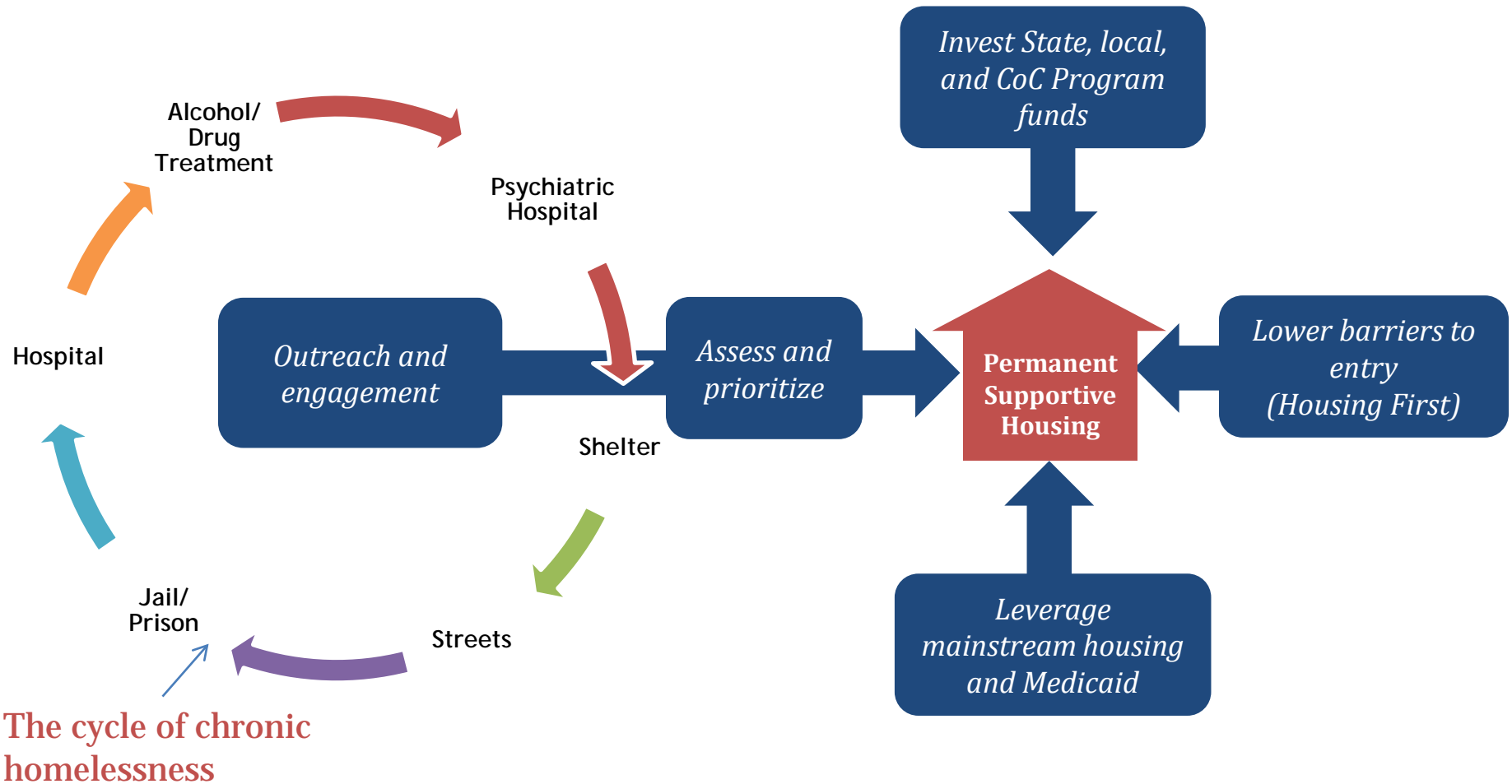
The Evidence is Clear

Health Cost Savings Studies - Permanent Supportive Housing



Ending Chronic Homelessness

Using a systems approach





Ending Chronic Homelessness

Using Medicaid to Finance Supportive Services

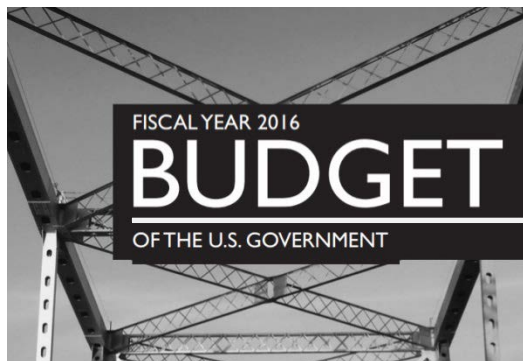
- Expansion of Medicaid increases coverage of people experiencing chronic homelessness
- States can choose to cover **tenancy supports, pre-tenancy supports, and move-in supports** under Medicaid
- States compelled by evidence of supportive housing's impact on health care costs





Ending Family Homelessness

- Encouraging retooling of existing programs towards evidence-informed 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



➤ The Budget calls for new rapid re-housing capacity to prevent and end homelessness for 15,000 families.



Family Connection

Building Systems to End Family Homelessness

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.

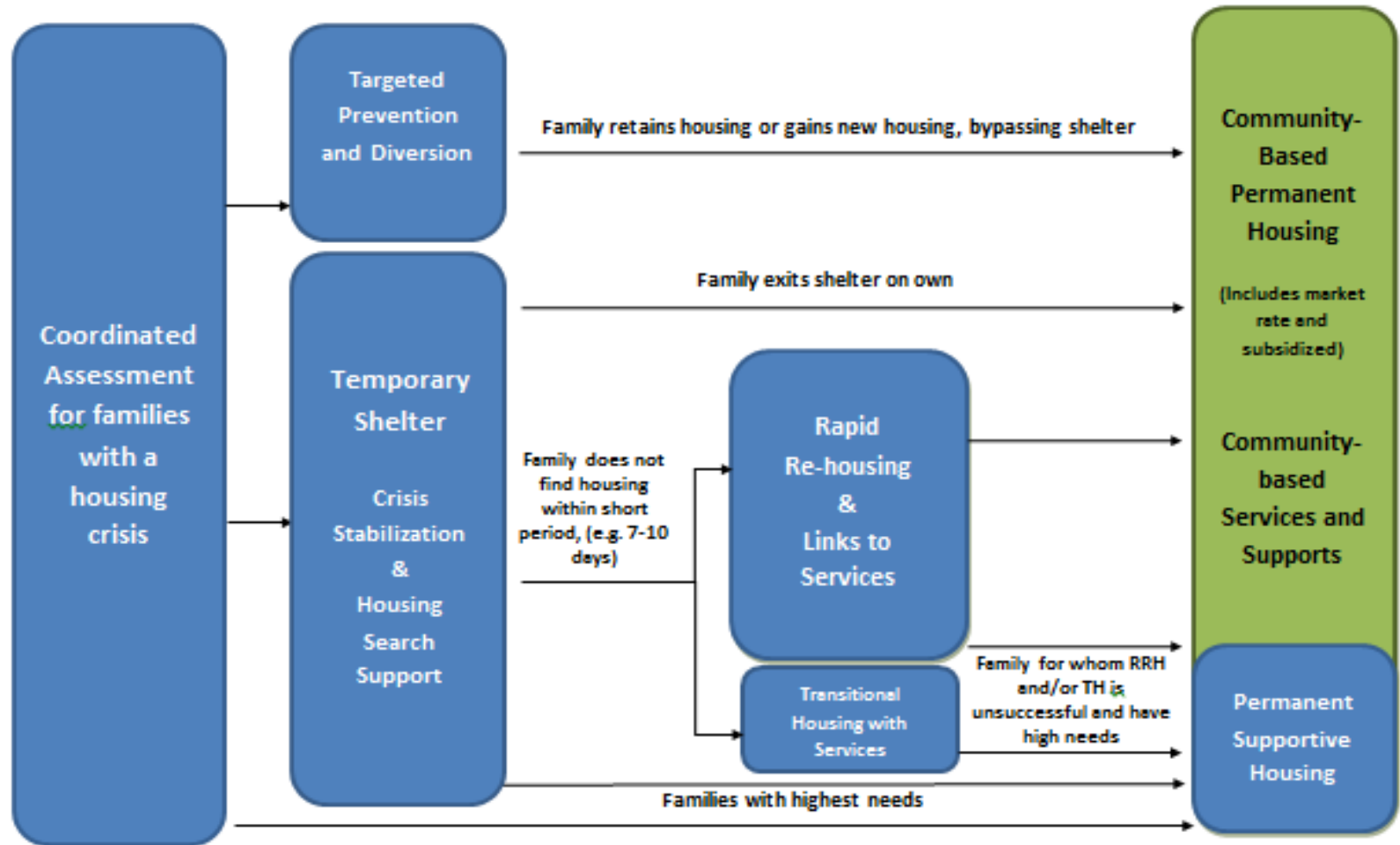
bit.ly/FamConnection





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

Labor

- Workforce systems

Education

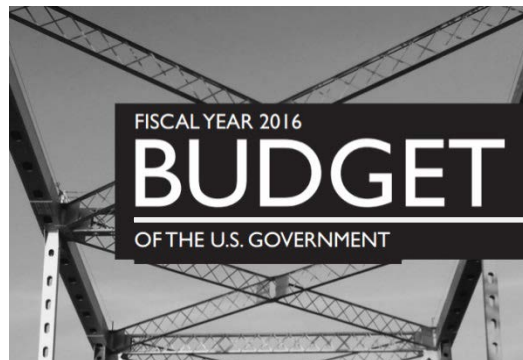
- LEAs and schools

SSA

- SSI/SSDI

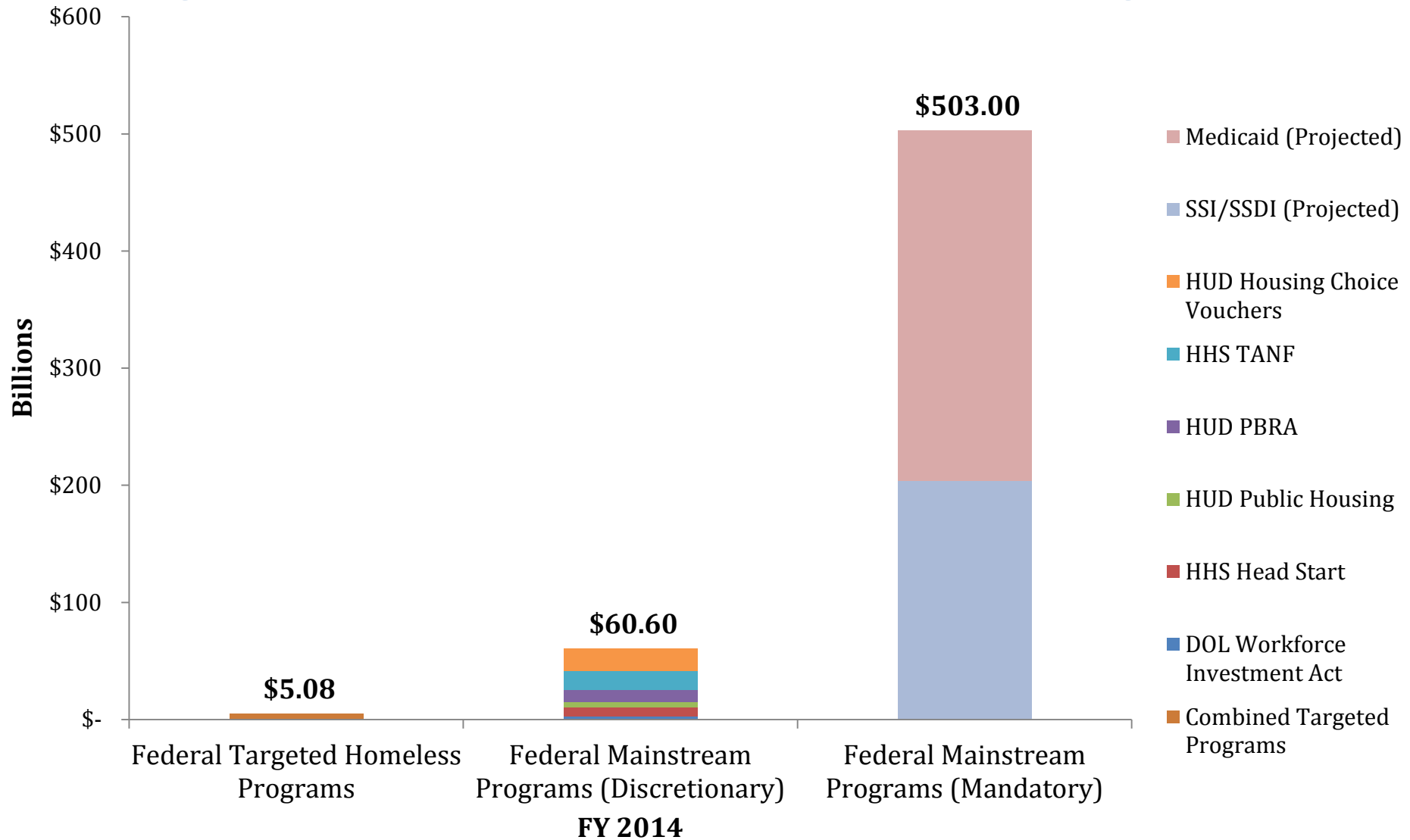
HHS

- 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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