

Family Connection: Building Systems to End Family Homelessness

May 22, 2014

1 – 2 PM EST





Goal for today's discussion

- To support communities' efforts to end homelessness among families
- To describe the state of homelessness among families including demographics, risk factors, and the impact of homelessness on children
- To define an end to homelessness among families
- To review *Family Connection: Building Systems to End Family Homelessness* and the key strategies included



Presenters

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Webinar Format

- Webinar will last 60 minutes
- Approximately 20 minutes have been reserved at the end of the webinar for Q&A
- Audience members who would like to pose a question can do so at any time through the “Question” function found in the “GoToWebinar” toolbar.
- Call audience members are muted due to the high number of participants
- Call will be recorded and posted to the USICH website



Opening Doors

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

The Plan set forth four bold and ambitious goals:

1. Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness by 2015
2. Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans by 2015
3. **Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children by 2020**
4. Set a path to ending all types of homelessness



Laying the groundwork at HUD

- **FY 2013-FY 2014 CoC Program NOFA Policy Priorities focused on ending family homelessness—**
 - Rapid re-housing
 - Removal of barriers
 - Focus on performance
 - Collaboration with local partners and with mainstream programs
- **Pivoting towards 2020 goal of ending family homelessness**



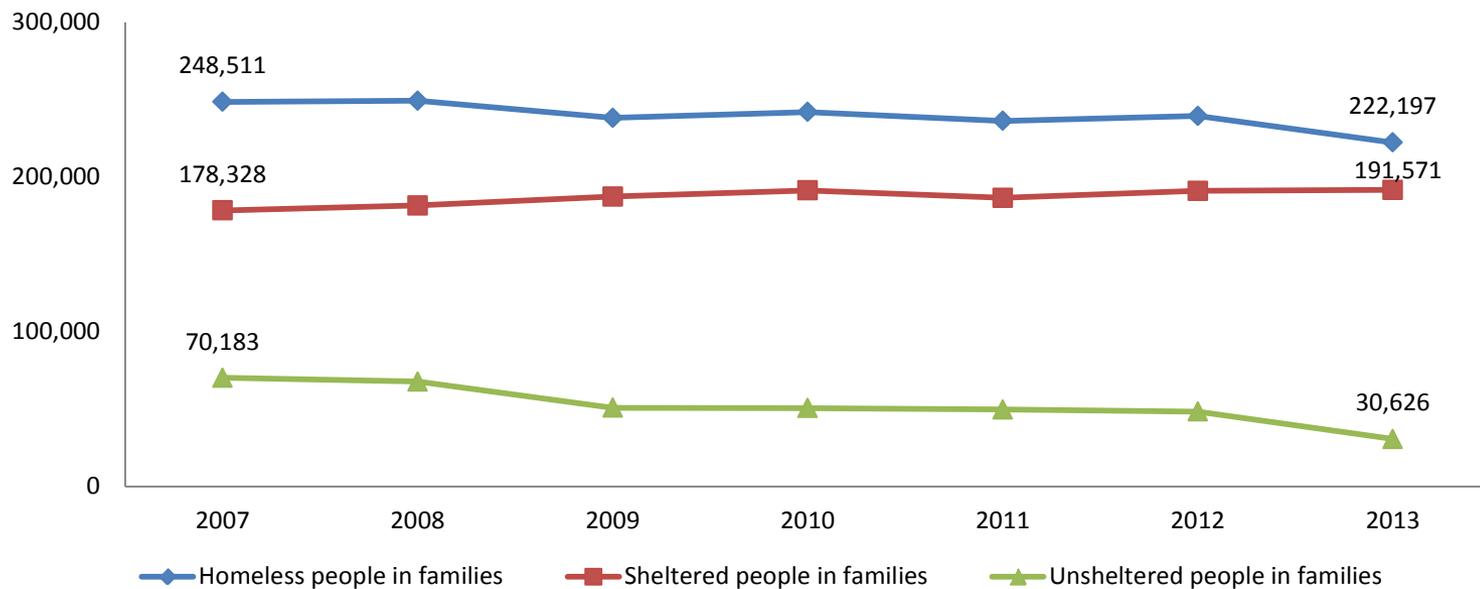
Homelessness among families with children

- No child should ever experience homelessness, the effects of which are devastating to development, well-being, and educational outcomes.
- In 2013, 222,197 people in families—an estimated 70,960 households—were experiencing homelessness on a single night.
- 130,515 children under the age of 18 are living in families experiencing homelessness on any given night over the course of a year.
- Recent data from HUD indicates that approximately 80% of families experiencing homelessness are headed by a single mother.
- 58% of homeless family members are under 18 years of age.



Changes in rates of family homelessness: 2007-2013

Since 2007, the number of people in families experiencing homelessness has declined by 11%, due to a decrease in unsheltered homelessness not sheltered homeless.



Source: AHAR 2013



Demographic characteristics of families experiencing homelessness

Typically headed by a female, in late 20s – early 30s

Average of two children

Most families have at least one child less than 6 years old;
40% have at least one child less than 1 year old

Families of color are over-represented

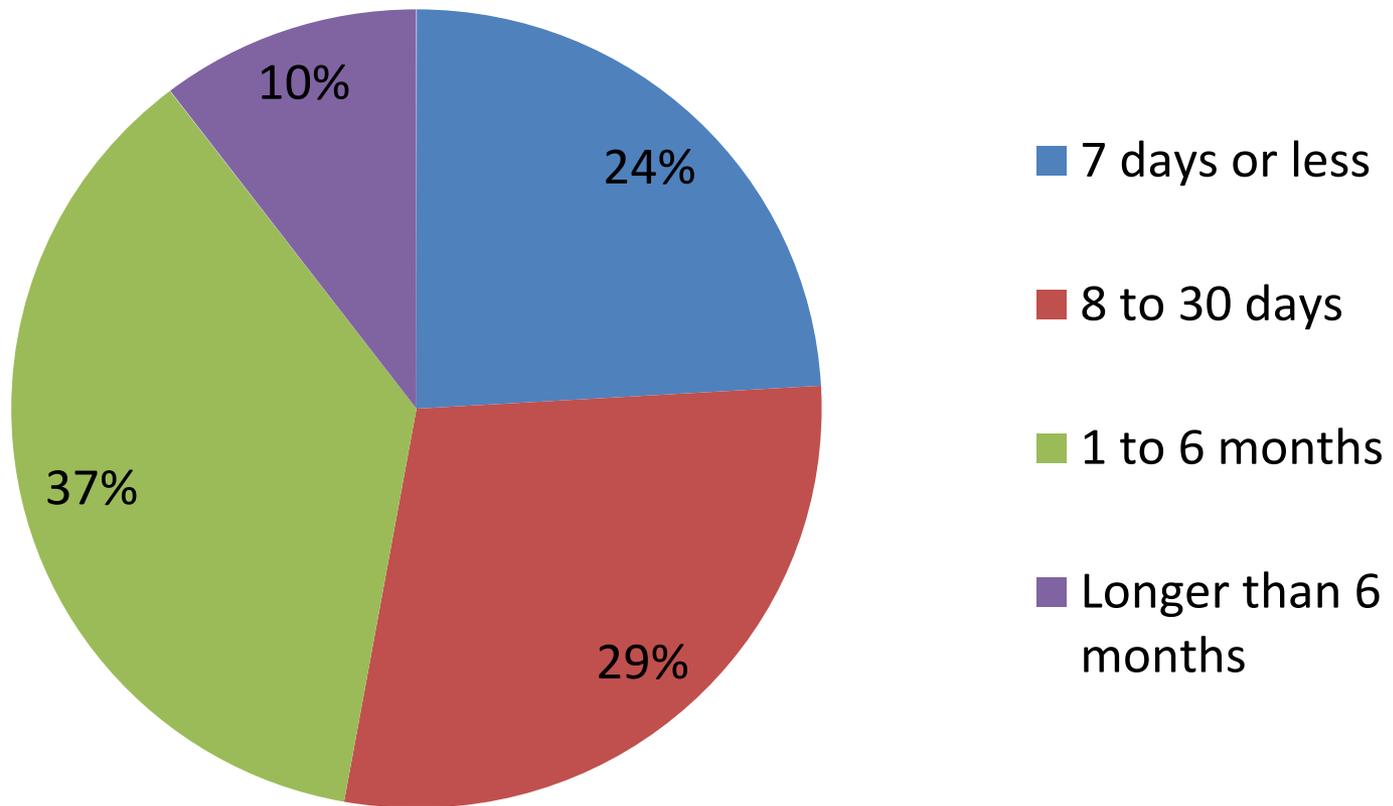
2012	Sheltered families	U.S. families
<i>White, Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino</i>	27.7	54.8
<i>Hispanic/Latino</i>	11.3	14.7
<i>Black or African American</i>	45	13.6
<i>Other Race(s)</i>	16.1	16.9

Sources: AHAR 2012; ACS, 2011



Length of Stay in Shelters

The median length of shelter stay for families is one month; $\frac{1}{4}$ leave in a week or less.





Residential Instability

The most common place families live prior to shelter entry is doubled up with family or friends (AHAR, 2012).

In the year prior to shelter entry, studies find families move an average of every three months (Rog et al., 2012).

40% of recent shelter entrants have experienced homelessness in the past, and 20% in the past two years (Rog et al, 2013).



Needs and problems families experiencing homelessness face

Many of the needs of families experiencing homelessness mirror those faced by low income families.

- Low human capital (low educational attainment, minimal job histories, low incomes)
- Partner violence and childhood abuse
- Health and dental needs (more acute and chronic than general population under 45 years of age)
- Mental health problems (depression, anxiety, PTSD)



Comparison of families experiencing homelessness and other poor families

Majority of differences between families experiencing homelessness and other poor families have to do with resources and life stage.

Families experiencing homelessness compared to low income families:

- Have fewer economic resources
- Have younger heads of households
- Are people of color, especially African-American
- Have slightly higher rates of use of substances
- Have more family separations, especially parent-child separations



Families at risk of homelessness

Factors that place families at risk include:

- Race
- Few resources
- Young children and pregnancy
- Substance abuse



Impact of homelessness on children

Masten (1993) has characterized children on a “continuum of risk”, with children experiencing homelessness typically worse off than other poor children who are worse off than middle class children.

Low income children and children experiencing homelessness look worse on most outcomes compared to children in the general population.

Homelessness *can* have a detrimental effect, but not in all instances.

Homelessness is one of many stressors children living in poverty frequently encounter.



Defining an end to family homelessness

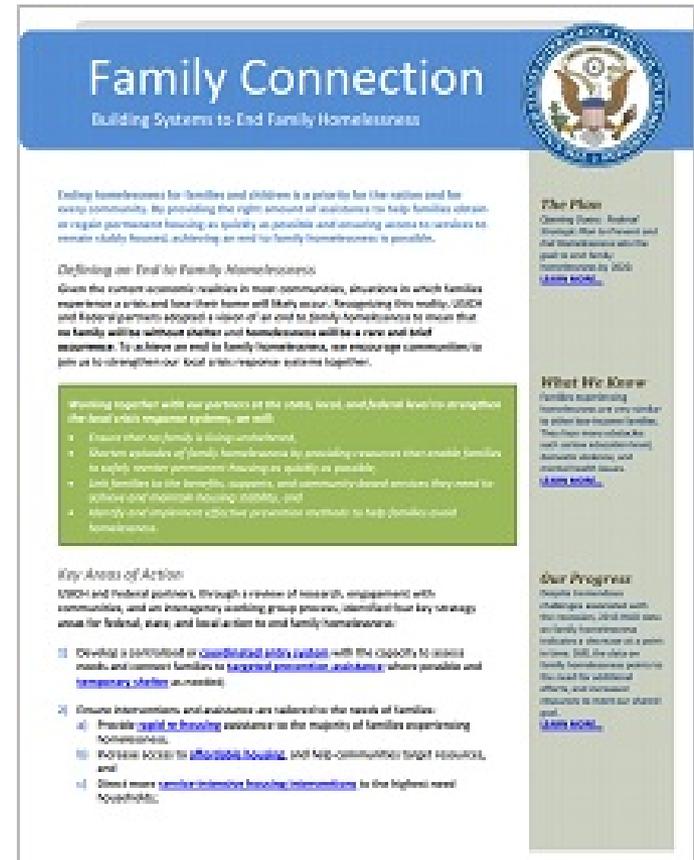
Working together with our partners at the state, local, and federal level to strengthen the local crisis response systems, we will:

- Ensure that no family is living unsheltered;
- Shorten episodes of family homelessness by providing resources that enable families to safely reenter permanent housing as quickly as possible;
- Link families to the benefits, supports, and community-based services they need to achieve and maintain housing stability; and
- Identify and implement effective prevention methods to help families avoid homelessness.



Family Connection: Building Systems to End Family Homelessness

A resource to help communities and stakeholders build and implement an effective housing crisis response system for families.



Family Connection
Building Systems to End Family Homelessness

The Plan
Creating a new Federal strategy that focuses and aligns resources with the goal to end family homelessness by 2020.

What We Know
Families experiencing homelessness are very likely to return to homelessness. This report provides the data and evidence to help us understand why and what we can do to prevent it.

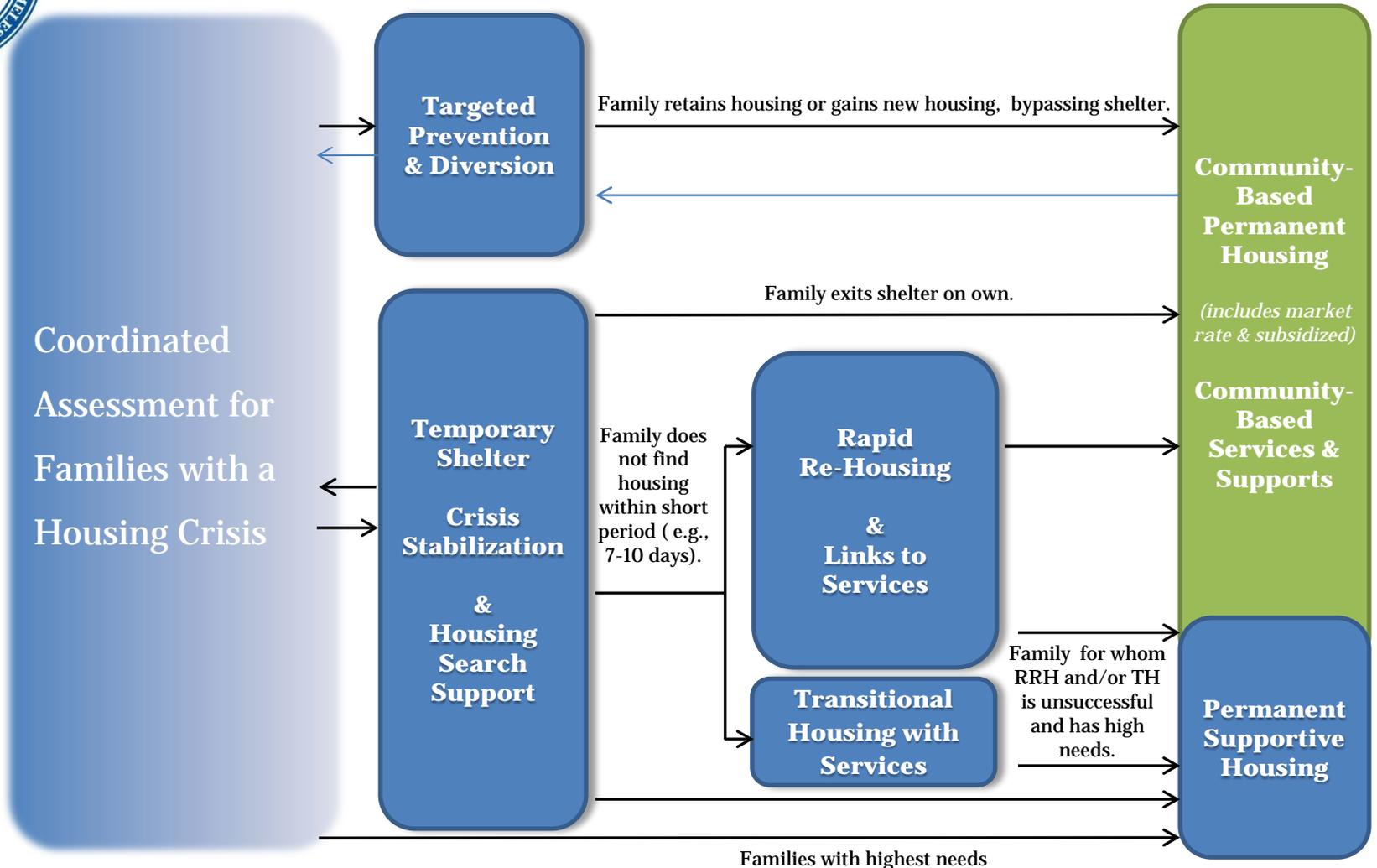
Our Progress
Despite tremendous challenges associated with homelessness, HUD and other Federal agencies have made significant progress in addressing homelessness. This report provides the data and evidence to help us understand why and what we can do to prevent it.

Key Areas of Action
USICH and Federal partners, through a review of research, engagement with communities, and an interagency working group process, identified four key strategy areas for Federal, state, and local action to end family homelessness:

1. Develop a national or coordinated entry system with the capacity to assess needs and connect families to permanent, transitional, or temporary shelter alternatives.
2. Ensure interventions and outcomes are tailored to the needs of families:
 - a) Provide rapid re-housing assistance to the majority of families experiencing homelessness.
 - b) Provide access to affordable housing, and HUD-community target resources, and
 - c) Offer more family-intensive housing interventions to the highest need households.



Crisis Response System





Key Areas of Action

Four key strategy areas for Federal, state, and local action to end family homelessness:

1. Develop a centralized or coordinated assessment system;
2. Ensure interventions and assistance are tailored to meet the needs of families;
3. Improve linkages to local mainstream systems to help families gain access to benefits, employment, and community-based services more quickly;
4. Develop and build upon evidence-based practices for serving families experiencing or at-risk of experiencing homelessness.



Coordinated Assessment

- Provide prevention and diversion assistance including a combination of financial assistance, mediation, housing location and supports.
- Provide temporary shelter with stabilization services. This may include school or early childhood care and learning, benefits, and health insurance.
- Ensure safety for survivors of domestic violence.



Coordinated Assessment

- **Increases and streamlines access to housing for households experiencing homelessness.**
- **Matches the appropriate level of housing and services based on needs in a systematic and coordinated way.**
- **Moves away from first-come-first-serve approach to one that is standardized and coordinated.**
- **Provides the ability for families to be given access to the best options.**



Tailored Intervention and Assistance

- Provide rapid re-housing assistance to the majority of families experiencing homelessness.
- Increase access to affordable housing and help target resources.
- Direct more service-intensive housing interventions like permanent supportive housing and transitional housing to the highest need households.



Tailored Intervention and Assistance

What is Rapid Re-housing?

- Housing search assistance
- Help paying for rent
- Housing-based case management
- Service connections – particularly employment

What are the benefits of Rapid Re-housing?

- Better economic investment: more families served
- Families less likely to become homeless again
- Number of families experiencing homelessness declines
- Number of families in their own home within a month increases



Connection to Mainstream Resources

- Targeted homeless resources are necessary but insufficient; leveraging mainstream resources is key.
- Develop strategies to improve access to and coordination with mainstream housing, schools and early childhood education, workforce programs, and TANF and other non-cash benefits.
- Engage, educate, and assist state and local partners to create better access for people experiencing homelessness.



Evidence Based Practices

- Evidence and data is available on practices that improve the effectiveness of interventions that support families.
- Enhancing services through implementation of evidence-based practice can lead to improved outcomes for parents and children:
 - Trauma informed care
 - Nurse family partnerships
 - Pre-natal and infant care
 - Early childhood education and school partnerships
- We are committed to learning more about successful prevention strategies and what works best for who



Resources for improving a local crisis response

- [Family Connection: Building Systems to End Family Homelessness](#)
- [Core Components of Rapid Re-housing](#)
- [Birth to Five: Watch Me Thrive! A Housing and Shelter Provider's Guide to Developmental and Behavioral Health Screening](#)
- [TANF IM](#)
- [Housing First Checklist](#)



Stay Tuned!

- **Future webinars in this series will include:**
 - **Family Connection: Developing and Implementing Coordinated Assessment**
 - **Family Connection: Tailoring Interventions and Assistance**
 - **Family Connection: Connecting Families to Mainstream Resources**
 - **Family Connection: Developing and Building upon Evidence Based Practices**



We want to hear from you!

To share examples, contact Lindsay Knotts at
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Q & A



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