

Providing Affirming and Welcoming Services to LGBTQ Youth

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Presenters

- **Matthew Doherty, USICH (San Diego)**
- **Claudia Powell, Southwest Institute for Research on Women, University of Arizona (Tucson)**
- **Lesley McMillan, Eva's Initiatives (Toronto)**
- **Jama Shelton, True Colors Fund (New York)**

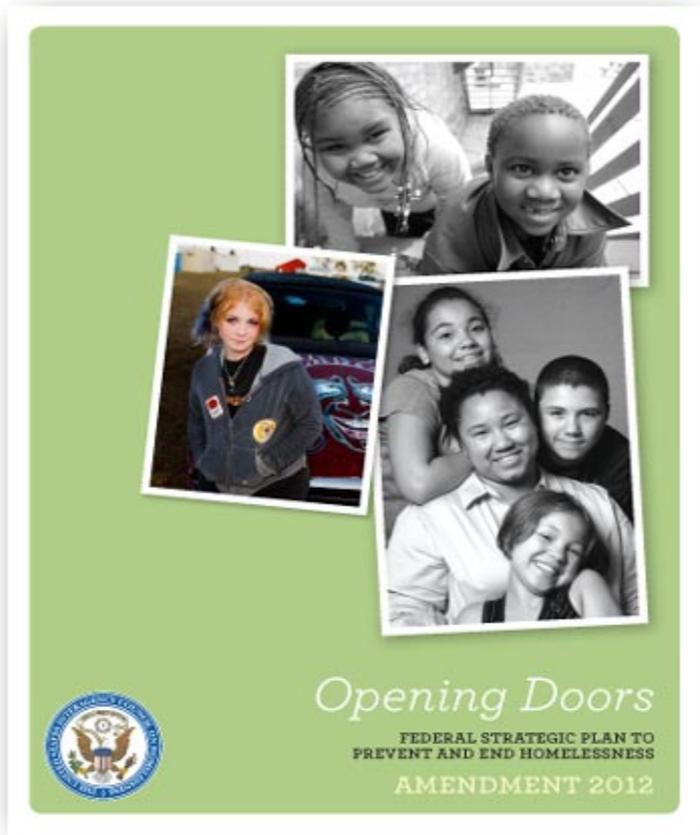


Opening Doors' Four Goals

1. Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness by **2016**
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



Opening Doors Amendment 2012



*With this amendment, we are specifically addressing what is needed to **improve the educational outcomes of children experiencing homelessness** and adding specific steps that must be taken to **prevent and end homelessness for unaccompanied youth.***

- *Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services and 2012 USICH Chair*



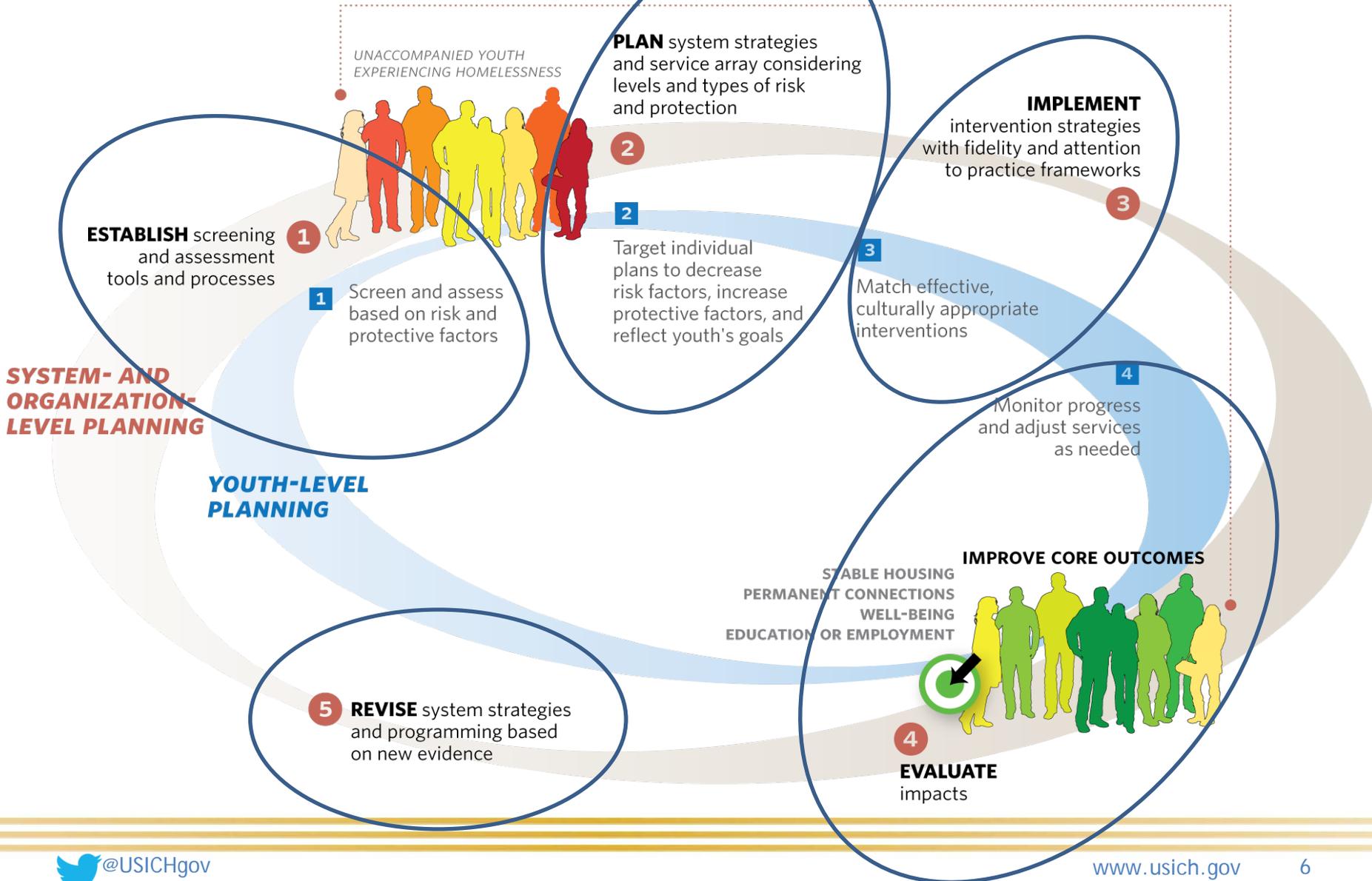
Why a Youth Intervention Model?

- Provides a consistent, collaborative approach to ending youth homelessness
- Shifts the focus from individual programs to coordinated systems
- Allows for flexibility to local context and circumstances
- Shifts the focus from outputs to outcomes

Unaccompanied Youth Intervention Model

FOCUS BASED ON RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS





Key Points About the Model

- Centered on risk and protective factors to encourage targeted intervention strategies
- Illustrates multiple areas of risk, protection and outcomes. This reinforces the need for contribution and coordination among multiple services and systems

Risk and Protective Factors

1 SYSTEM- AND ORGANIZATION-LEVEL CONSIDERATIONS

LIKELIHOOD OF RISK

Time Experiencing Homelessness and Disconnection



LOWER RISK
HIGHER PROTECTION

HIGHER RISK
LOWER PROTECTION

RISK AND PROTECTION GROUPS

RISKY

High risk factors, low protective factors



AT-RISK

High risk factors, some protective factors



LOWER RISK

Low-to-medium risk factors, high protective factors



2 TARGETING PLANS TO FACTORS

RISK FACTORS

Problematic symptoms, behaviors, associations

- Trauma
- Emotional distress
- Sexual risk behavior
- Family problems
- Criminal or delinquent behavior
- Substance abuse

PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Positive skills, attitudes, behaviors, associations

- Family cohesion and support
- School engagement or employment
- Survival skills
- Positive connections
- Positive future expectations
- Decision-making skills
- Self-esteem and self-efficacy
- Health

3 IMPLEMENT

INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

- Housing
- Treatment
- School and community programs
- Family supports

PRACTICE FRAMEWORKS

- Positive youth development
- Trauma-informed



Key Points About the Model

- **Research-informed—i.e., its contents are informed by existing, empirical research involving youth experiencing homelessness**
- **Preliminary—further data should inform better, updated intervention models**
- **Driven by outcomes**

Unaccompanied Youth Intervention Model

FOCUS BASED ON RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Core Outcomes

- Stable Housing
- Permanent Connections
- Well-Being
- Education and/or Employment

IMPLEMENT
intervention strategies
with fidelity and attention
to practice frameworks

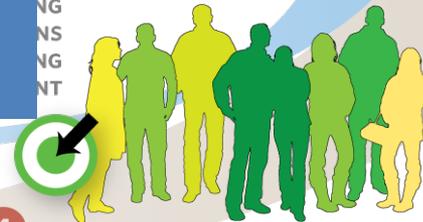
3

Effective,
appropriate
options

4

Monitor progress
and adjust services
as needed

IMPROVE CORE OUTCOMES



4

EVALUATE
impacts

5 **REVISE** system strategies
and programming based
on new evidence



Vulnerable Subpopulations

Foster Care Youth

LGBTQ Youth

Juvenile Justice Youth

**Pregnant/
Parenting Youth**

Implications for Culturally-Appropriate, Effective Interventions

- Higher levels of risk and trauma on average
- Evidence-based interventions are available to:
 - Treat substance abuse and mental health issues
 - Promote healing and recovery from trauma
 - Build key skills and capacities in youth
- Increase the capacity of service providers to:
 - Accurately identify service needs
 - Match those needs to appropriate interventions



Advancing the Framework: Getting to Better Data

- **A confident estimate of youth homelessness**
- **Data coordination**
- **Youth PIT strategy**
- **Household survey**



Advancing the Framework: Building Capacity

- A research-informed intervention model
- Review research apply to intervention strategies
- Increased evidence of effective interventions
- Identify and scale-up evidence-based practices and increase rigorous evaluation
- Gaps analysis
- Investigate funding and capacity needs of programs



For More Information

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