

Going to Scale: Using PHA Resources to End Chronic Homelessness

July 29, 2014



Roles of USICH



Coordinates
the Federal
response to
homelessness



Maximizes
effectiveness of
19 Federal
agency
partners



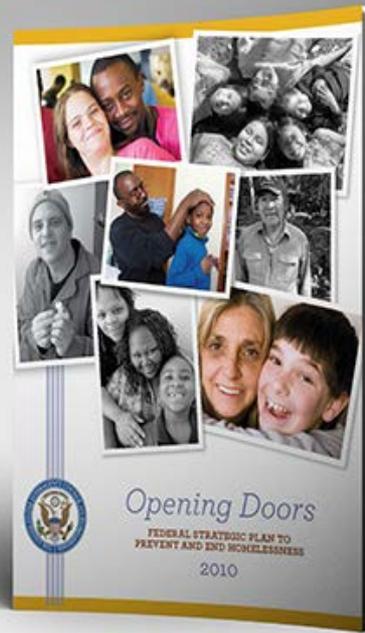
Shares best
practices



Drives
collaborative
solutions

Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

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



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 end all types of homelessness.



Opening Doors

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

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

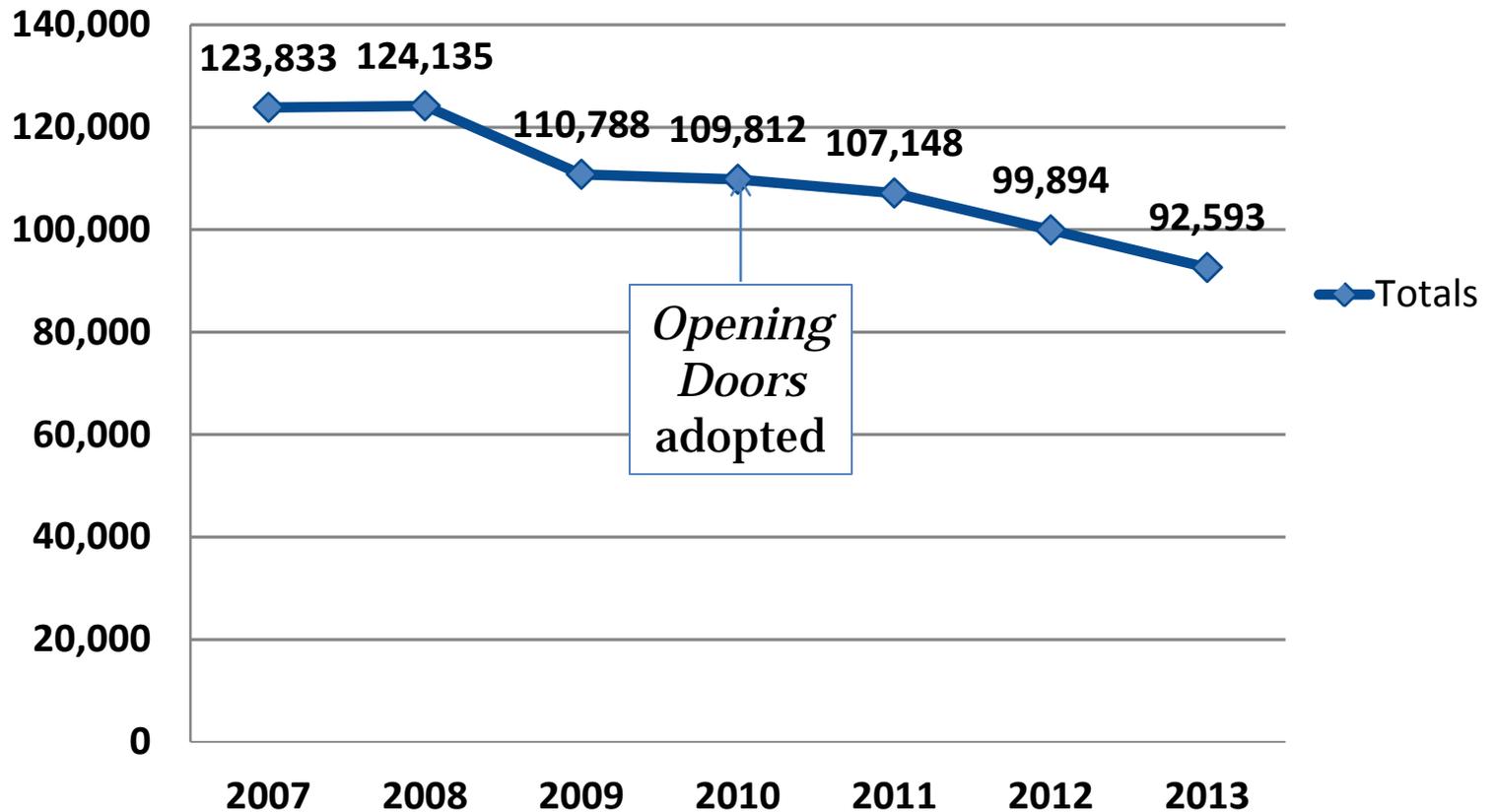
Retool the Homeless Crisis Response System

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

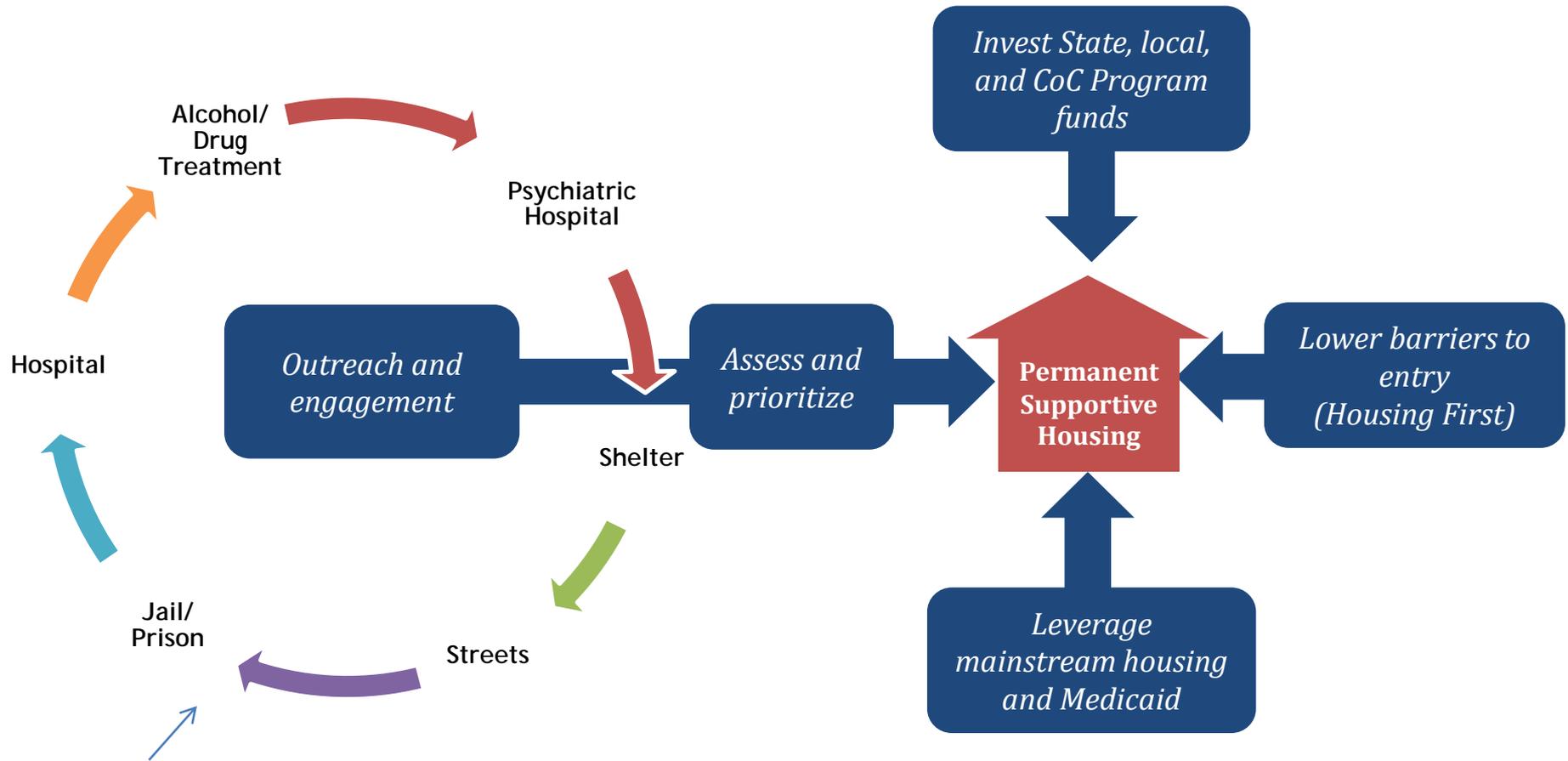
United States Interagency Council on Homelessness
Federal Center SW | 409 3rd Street SW, Suite 310
Washington, DC 20024
Email: usich@usich.gov Visit: www.usich.gov



Chronic Homelessness, 2007-2013



Systems Approach to Ending Chronic Homelessness



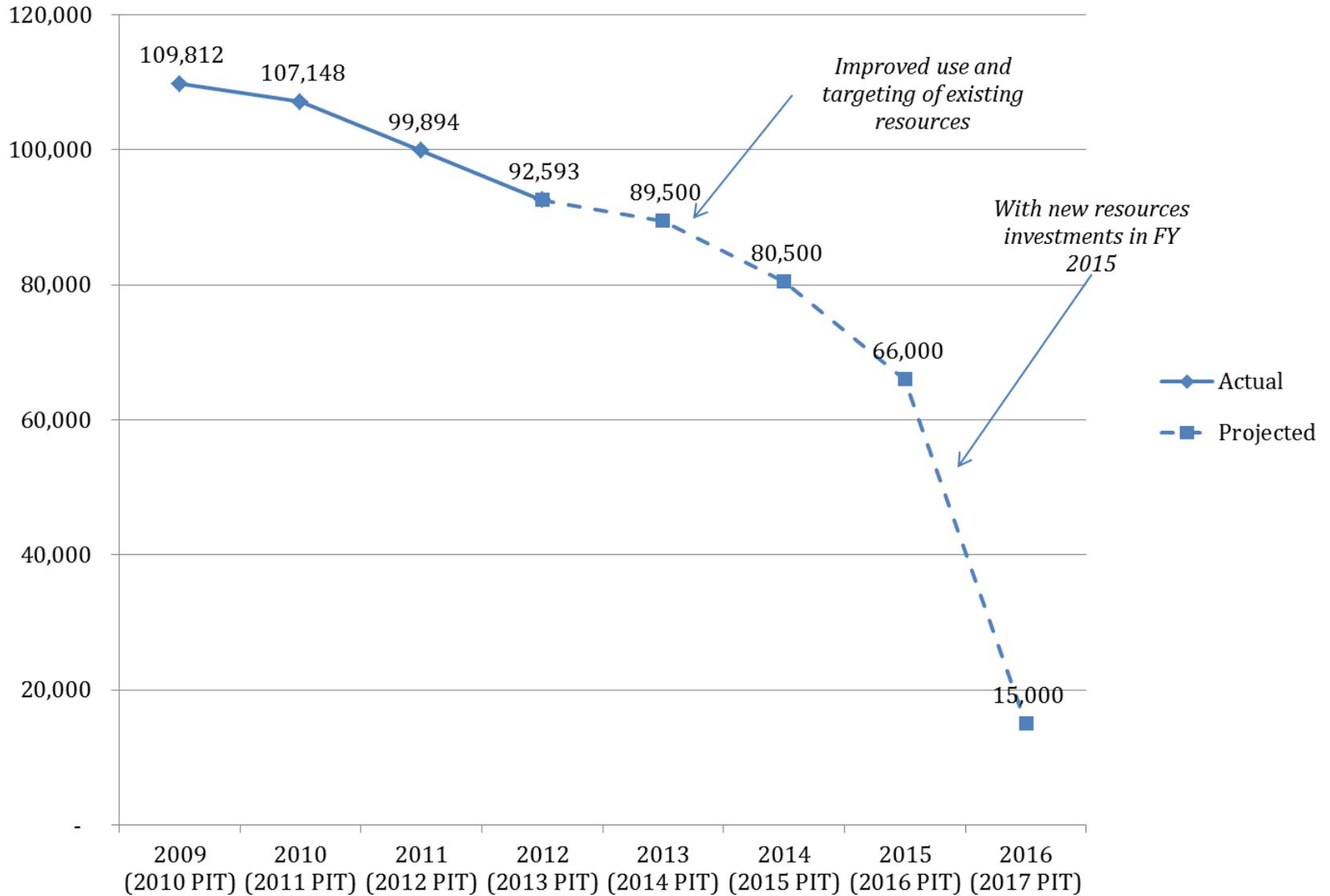
The cycle of chronic homelessness



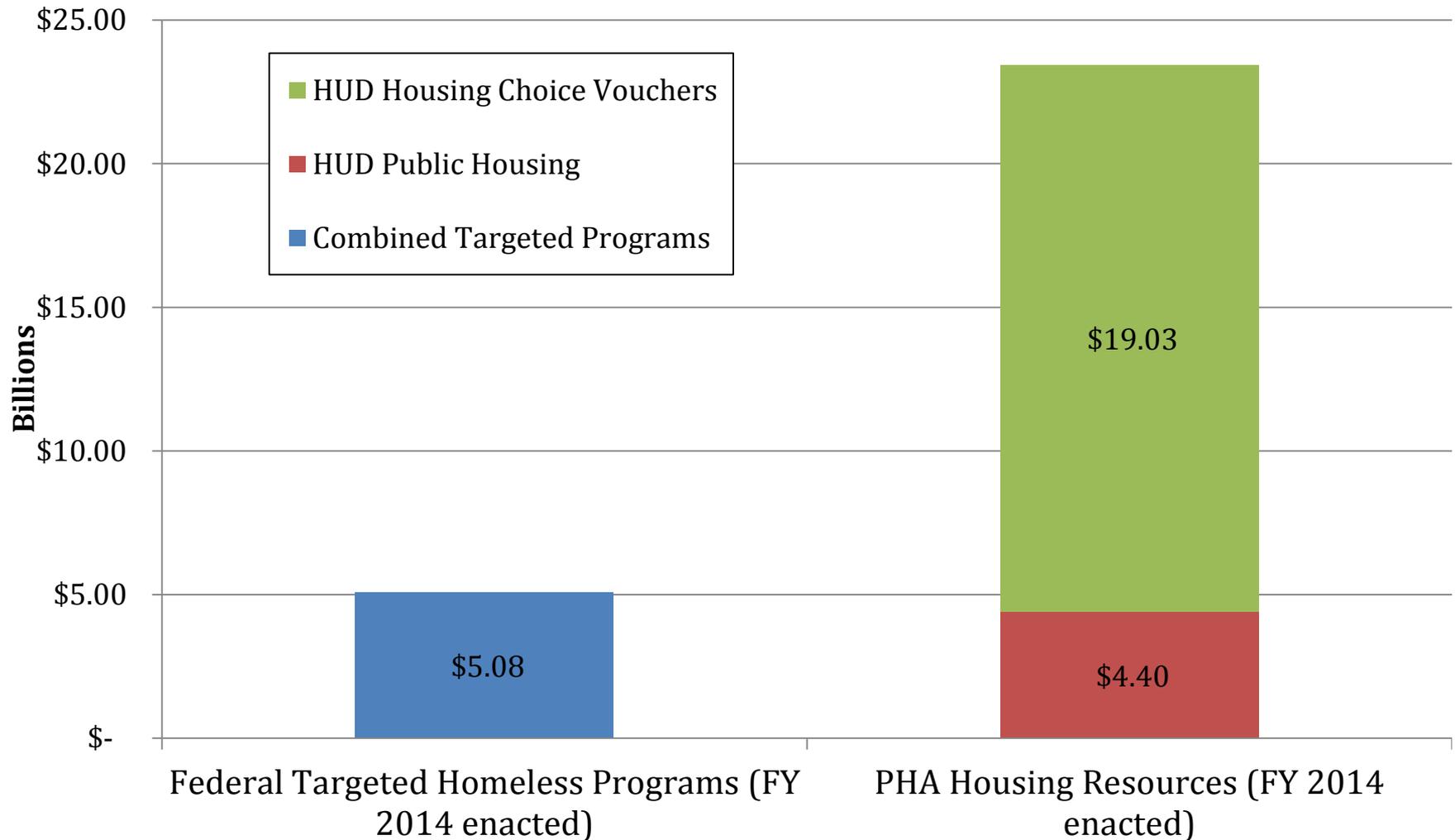
Ending Chronic Homelessness

- **Interagency efforts focused on:**
 - **Reallocation of HUD resources towards supportive housing**
 - **Leveraging mainstream resources like Housing Choice Vouchers and Medicaid and behavioral health funding**
 - **Improving targeting and prioritization in existing units**
 - **Promoting Housing First and collaborative approaches to outreach and engagement**
- **The President's FY 2015 Budget includes request for \$301 million increase in HUD's budget to fund 37,000 new units of permanent supportive housing.**

Chronic Homelessness



PHA Resources are Key





HUD/USICH PHA Engagement

- National convenings
- National study of PHAs
- Guidance, Secretary letter, resources
- Partnership with NAHRO and CLPHA



HOUSING AUTHORITIES:
Essential Partners in Ending Homelessness

A publication of the Council of Large Public Housing Authorities

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We Must Increase the Role We Play in Ending Homelessness

"The ache for home lives in all of us, the safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned." – Maya Angelou

On any given night, there are more than 600,000 homeless Americans, a large percentage of whom are living on the streets or some other place not meant for human habitation. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) estimates that more than 1.5 million Americans—or one out of every 200—have experienced homelessness. The single-night count, which is based upon the Federal definition of homelessness, does not include the numerous homeless that would meet a less restrictive definition because they are doubled up, surfing between friends and family, or have some other form of housing instability.

Unfortunately, it is not enough for us to do the steady important daily work that we do at our organizations to combat homelessness. We must also debunk the stereotypes that have sprung up about it. A fallacy that I have heard many times throughout my career is that "people choose to be homeless." I vehemently disagree. People do not want to be homeless. Period. Furthermore, it is both morally compelling and fiscally rewarding to end the epidemic of homelessness. A second fallacy that I hear repeatedly is that public housing authorities are rigid and inflexible and are choosing to not participate in a community's efforts to eradicate homelessness. Based upon my travels and hearing firsthand the programs and policies that PHAs have in place to end

homelessness, I must disagree. In fact, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2014 Final Report titled *Study of PHAs' Efforts to Serve People Experiencing Homelessness*, "about a quarter (24 percent) of all PHAs were attempting to serve people experiencing homelessness." I believe when taking into consideration all of the activities undertaken by PHAs, it is a much more substantial number than 24 percent.

Two great resources exist to provide assistance to PHAs to expand what they are doing to end homelessness. First, the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) has the PHA Toolkit (www.csh.org/photo008), "[a] technical assistance resource for Public Housing Agencies and their partners who want to end homelessness." The second is the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness' (USICH) PHA Guidebook to Ending Homelessness (usich.gov/usich_resources/phs_portal), which "provides guidance and best practices PHAs can use to strengthen their collaborative efforts."

Another way in which to fight homelessness is by partnering with other organizations. This year, NAHRO is building upon its partnership with USICH. At the Summer Conference in Tampa, USICH Executive Director Laura Green Zellinger will keynote a plenary session. And USICH Policy Director Richard Cho will moderate a breakout session highlighting innovative and entrepreneurial work led

by PHAs. The goal is to hold a jointly sponsored convening by the end of 2014 that will focus on policy and best practices to further grow the role that PHAs have in their communities.

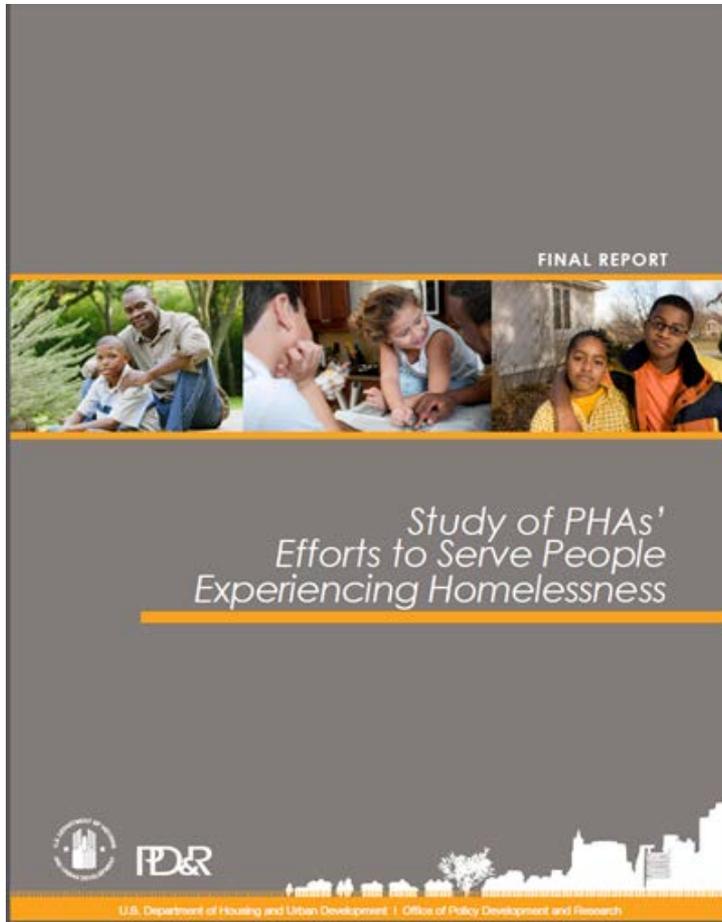
Other stakeholders are also taking coordinated action against homelessness. Veteran Affairs and HUD launched a 25 Cities Initiative to end veteran homelessness by 2015—77 mayors have already signed on. In these cities, I am certain you will find local PHAs working closely with local community development agencies aligning resources to meet these two challenges. Much has been done. But, so much more is still to be done. We, NAHRO members, must step up to do more—for while we are pleased with our efforts to date, we will not be satisfied until we help the homeless find the homes they so rightly deserve.

NAHRO Reads: In his book *Rebound: An Inspiring Story that Explores the Mystery of the Human Spirit*, Karl Johnson writes about moving into his apartment after being homeless. He writes, "When I was at the lowest of the low, I did not believe I had worth. I know now that I am worthy—and with this worth, I have a responsibility to give back and live the life I was meant to live." We in the housing and community development industry have a responsibility to help many more homeless live the lives they were meant to live. ■

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Overview of Findings



- 394 PHAs (10%) have a strong general homelessness preference, representing 10% of all assisted housing units.
- 338 PHAs (9%) have set-asides (limited local preference), representing 36% of all assisted housing units.
- 441 PHAs (11%) modify screening policies to reduce barriers among households experiencing homelessness, representing 24% of all assisted housing units.
- **Overall, 24% of PHAs, controlling 53% of all assisted housing units, make at least one of the efforts.**



PIH Notice with Guidance

Notice PIH 2013-15 (HA)

Available at:

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/publications/notices



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Public and Indian Housing

Special Attention: NOTICE PIH 2013-15 (HA)

Public Housing Agencies administering the
Housing Choice Voucher and/or Public
Housing Programs; Public Housing Field Office
Directors

Issued: June 10, 2013

Expires: Effective until amended
superseded, or rescinded
Cross References:
PIH Notice 2012-34 (HA)

Subject: Guidance on housing individuals and families experiencing homelessness through the Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher programs¹

- 1. Applicability:** This Notice applies to public housing agencies (PHAs) that administer the Public Housing and/or Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) programs.
- 2. Purpose:** The purpose of this Notice is to provide strategies that PHAs can pursue to expand housing opportunities for individuals and families experiencing homelessness through the Public Housing and HCV programs. This Notice clarifies the definition of homelessness for the purpose of IMS/PIC reporting, and provides guidance on HUD policies and program regulations related to the following topics: waiting list management and preferences; admissions policies regarding criminal activity, substance use/abuse, and rental history; program termination and eviction policies; and project-based vouchers for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH).
- 3. Background:** On June 22, 2010, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) presented the nation's first comprehensive strategy to prevent and end homelessness titled, *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness* (Opening Doors), to the Office of the President and Congress. Opening Doors is focused on four key goals:
 - a. Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness by 2015;
 - b. Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans by 2015;
 - c. Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children by 2020; and
 - d. Set a path to ending all types of homelessness.

¹ Throughout this Notice, when referring to people experiencing homelessness, the term "individuals and families" is used to indicate both individual persons who are experiencing homelessness, as well as homeless families, which may include children. When referring to HCV or Public Housing applicants or participants, the following terms are used intentionally based on their definition and the relevant statute, regulation or rule being referenced: 1. Family—A person or group of persons with or without children approved by a PHA to reside in a unit with assistance under the HCV or Public Housing program. The number of family members is used to calculate subsidies and payments. 2. Household—includes everyone who lives in the unit, including foster children/adults and live-in aides. Household members are used to determine unit size.



CSH's Toolkit



Public Housing Agencies Toolkit

A technical assistance resource for Public Housing Agencies and their partners who want to end homelessness. Click the sections below or learn more at our [Welcome Page](#).

SPONSORED BY: **CHASE** 

1 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER TOOLS

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ PHA Roles
- ▶ Service Partner Roles
- ▶ Getting Started
- ▶ Learn From Other PHAs
- ▶ Tools

2 PUBLIC HOUSING TOOLS

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ PHA Roles
- ▶ Service Partner Roles
- ▶ Getting Started
- ▶ Learn From Other PHAs
- ▶ Tools

3 PROJECT-BASED VOUCHER TOOLS

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Getting Started
- ▶ Soliciting/Selecting Proposals
- ▶ New Construction, Rehabilitation and the AHAP
- ▶ Waitlists and Preferences
- ▶ Family Right to Move
- ▶ Project-basing More than 25% of the Units in a Project
- ▶ Learn From Other PHAs
- ▶ Tools

4 UNIQUE PHA PROGRAMS &

5 PRIMER ON HOMELESSNESS



USICH's PHA Guidebook

The screenshot shows the USICH website interface. At the top left is the USICH logo. The main header includes the text "United States Interagency Council on Homelessness" and the motto "No one should experience homelessness. No one should be without a safe, stable place to call home." There are navigation links for "Resources", "USICH Blog", "Opening Doors", "Partners", "Take Action", "Media Center", and "About USICH". A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area features a "Browse Toolboxes below" sidebar with links to "Planning", "Partnerships", "Programs and Policies", and "Additional Resources". The central content is titled "PHA Guidebook to Ending Homelessness" and includes a breadcrumb trail: "Home > Resources > PHA Guidebook to Ending Homelessness". The text describes the importance of PHAs in ending homelessness and provides a link to "Download associated files" (USICH PHA Guidebook PDF). Below this, there are four questions with blue links: "Do you want your PHA to participate in **community planning** to end homelessness?", "Are you looking to build or strengthen **partnerships** between your PHA and other organizations working to end homelessness?", "Do you want to create **permanent supportive housing**?", and "Are you interested in **eviction-prevention strategies** for PHA residents?". A final question asks "Do you want to help people **move on** from supportive housing?". An icon of a house on an open book is positioned to the right of the questions.

PHA Guidebook to Ending Homelessness
Available at: http://usich.gov/usich_resources/pha_portal/



PHA Guidebook Structure

- **Planning**
- **Partnerships**
- **Programs and Policies**
- **Additional Resources**



PHA Guidebook: Planning

Guidance and examples regarding:

- Participation in the **Continuum of Care**, the local entity responsible for applying for HUD's Homelessness Assistance Grants
- Participation in a **Funders Collaborative** to align resources to develop supportive and affordable housing



PHA Guidebook: Partnerships

Guidance and examples regarding:

- Participating in local **coordinated entry systems**
- Partnering with faith-based and community organizations to provide **move-in assistance**
- Partnering to ensure **referrals** of people experiencing homelessness to PHA programs
- Partnering to provide appropriate **application assistance** to ensure people experiencing homelessness are able to navigate through the processes



PHA Guidebook: Partnerships

Guidance and examples regarding:

- Partnerships for **housing stabilization supports and case management** services to ensure program participants are successful
- Partnering with **Health Centers** to help create access to health care services



PHA Guidebook: Programs and Policies

Guidance and examples regarding:

- Establishing **wait list preferences**
- Modifying **tenant screening and eligibility policies** and procedures
- Using **Special Purpose Vouchers**
- Helping **people experiencing homelessness use vouchers**



PHA Guidebook: Programs and Policies

Guidance and examples regarding:

- Creating **Permanent Supportive Housing** with PHA Resources
 - Using **Project-Based Vouchers** to develop permanent supportive housing
 - **Sponsor-Based Vouchers**



PHA Guidebook: Programs and Policies

Guidance and examples regarding:

- Creating capacity in permanent supportive housing by providing opportunities for people to “**move up**”
- **Eviction prevention strategies** for PHA residents

Contact

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