



National Alliance to
END HOMELESSNESS

Improving Homeless Programs and Systems

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New Information Transforming Responses

- **Increased understanding of prevalence and dynamics of homelessness has led to questioning existing/prevaling interventions and adoption of new approaches**
 - **Housing First/Chronic Homeless Initiative**
 - **Rapid Re-Housing for Families**



New interventions led to improved outcomes

- **Reducing:**
 - **Street and chronic homelessness**
 - **Emergency service costs**
 - **Amount of time families remain homeless before re-accessing housing**
 - **Over-taxing of shelter programs and numbers of individuals that are turned away without help**



federal policy shifts

- **Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act**
- **Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) Program**
- **Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers**

And shifts in how resources are used to respond to homelessness locally.

- **TANF – Transitioning how TANF resources are used to respond to family homelessness**
 - Alameda, CA
 - Massachusetts
 - Mercer County, NJ
 - Salt Lake City, UT
- **Domestic violence funds**
- **Public housing agency resources**



Road Ahead: New Opportunities

- **Locally:**
 - Home Visiting Resources
 - Child Welfare – Extending Foster Care for Youth to age 21
 - FUP/VASH/Collaborative Vouchers
 - TANF ECF (Hopefully!)
- **Nationally:**
 - Federal Strategic Plan
 - Housing Trust Fund/TANF



Re-think how you use your resources

- Nationally, less than 20 percent of families entering/exiting shelter are receiving TANF assistance
 - Outreach to shelter
 - Reduce barriers to applicants
 - Reconcile sanctions
 - Explore use of 20 percent exemption
 - Involve homelessness staff in case planning



Re-think how you use your resources (cont)

- Explore prevalence and impact of homelessness and housing instability among your clients and its impact on your program outcomes
- Explore mechanisms to address housing needs and use those resources strategically
 - Emergency assistance funds
 - Aggressive efforts to access FUP vouchers and target FUP for more vulnerable populations
 - HPRP
 - Collaborations with public housing agencies



Contact information

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