

Tuolumne County CalWORKs Housing Support Program

Presenters:

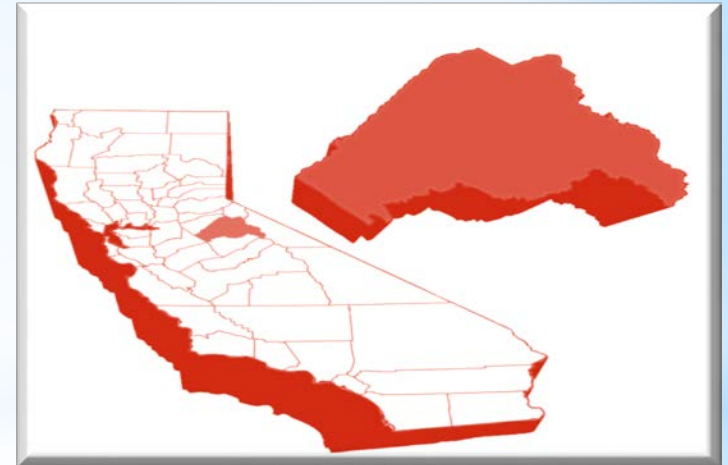
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Tuolumne County Demographics

- Population estimate for 2014 - 53,831
- Total area is approx. 2, 220 square miles and the majority of land is rural
- Elevation ranges from 300 to 9,941 feet in altitude
- CalWORKs caseload consists of approximately 398 adults and 988 children – FY 14/15
- Nearly 47% of the CalWORKs population resides in the rural regions of the county
- The average monthly income of a CalWORKs family is roughly \$794.00. Rent averages \$750.00 per month.



Tuolumne County's Housing Challenges

- Scarce habitable rentals
- Geographic isolation
- High rent burden



Homeless in Tuolumne County

Sheltered

17 families:

- 17 children 0-5
- 12 children 6-18

Unsheltered

5 families:

- 5 children 0-5
- 5 children 6-18

Couch Surfing

5 families:

- 8 children 0-5
- 7 children 6-18

- The Point in Time Survey of Homeless conducted on 1/28/2015, showed 264 persons homeless, including 27 families with children, 5 of them unsheltered
- #1 characteristic of rural homeless: they hide
- HUD estimates only 10% of rural homeless will be counted
- Tuolumne County Office of Education counted 101 homeless children in school year 2014-15



ATCAA/County Partnership

ATCAA's Experience:

- Lead agency for Central Sierra Continuum of Care - Four county planning group for preventing and ending homelessness in the Central Sierra
- Administers multiple temporary rental assistance programs: Rapid Re-Housing, Homeless Prevention, Permanent Supportive Housing for persons who have been chronically homeless
- Operates homeless shelters in Tuolumne and Amador counties and a transitional housing program for homeless families with children
- Grantee under HUD's CoC program and the State Department of Housing and Community Development for Emergency Solutions Grant and Community Development Block Grant
- Knowledgeable on Housing First practices, Rapid Re-Housing best practices, HUD criteria for rapid rehousing which appears to be the foundation for the HSP.

County/ATCAA Partnership cont.

ATCCA's Supportive Services:

- Housing navigation, purposeful housing choice, housing affordability
- Housing habitability inspections, lead-based paint inspections
- Landlord liaison for housing placement, landlord-tenant mediation
- One-on-one credit rehabilitation counseling
- Honest and realistic budgeting with an eye to when the subsidy ends
- \$mart Money classes on saving money, local resources, free stuff
- Home visits for goal setting, objective-based interactions
- Education on “Good Tenant” practices, Fair Housing law

HSP Allocation & Budget

**Direct Services
Budget – 90%**



**Administrative
Budget**



Tuolumne County was awarded \$142,358.00 FY 14/15

Collaboration

- **Together we:**
 - ✓ Developed program protocols
 - ✓ Coordinated assessment and entry
 - ✓ Conducted home visits and provided case management
 - ✓ Communicated a joint vision



What we expected from the first year of HSP

- Easy
- All funding would be expended
- Quick turnaround time between referral and housing
- Minimal case management



What happened

| Expected | Reality |
|--|---|
| Easy | Complicated |
| All funding would be expended | Not enough housing |
| Quick turnaround time between referral and housing | Turnaround time slow - target population and competing agencies |
| Minimal case management | Significant case management needed |



What we learned

- System changer
- Flexible processes and procedure
- Communication is paramount – single point of contact
- Landlords are a critical resource
- Frequent in-person contact – participants and landlords



What we changed

- Increased case management funding
- Changed from quarterly reassessments to monthly
- Integrated HSP with WTW plan
- Monthly accounting instead of quarterly



Tuolumne County HSP Partnership Outcomes

- Served 58 families and housed 34
- Over 50% of housed families graduated from program before the end of the fiscal year
 - Only 1 family returned to homelessness, and another family “graduated us” and found other means of housing support.
- Almost 50% of housed families were employed
 - Over 35% discontinued from CalWORKs due to increased earnings
- Average time on HSP – 5 months
- As of August 2015, only four families from the 2014/2015 group continue to need HSP subsidy

What's Next FY 15/16

- Increase target population – expend funding
- Continue to adjust processes to incorporate “lessons learned”
- Hire another Welfare-To-Work Social Worker
- Mitigate Butte Fire fallout
- Committed to house 100% more families from FY 14/15
 - ✓ Housed – 10
 - ✓ Pending - 40



Questions



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