Tuolumne County
CalWORKs Housing Support Program

Presenters:
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Margaret Barbour, Housing Resources Director
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sheltered</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Couch Surfing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17 families:</td>
<td>5 families:</td>
<td>5 families:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 17 children 0-5</td>
<td>• 5 children 0-5</td>
<td>• 8 children 0-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 12 children 6-18</td>
<td>• 5 children 6-18</td>
<td>• 7 children 6-18</td>
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- 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.
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.
ATCCCA’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
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expected</th>
<th>Reality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>Complicated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All funding would be expended</td>
<td>Not enough housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quick turnaround time between referral and housing</td>
<td>Turnaround time slow - target population and competing agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal case management</td>
<td>Significant case management needed</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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

Lessons Learned
recognize mistakes
observe what works
document them
share them
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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