

# The solution to homelessness is a strong Homeless Response System

A successful homeless response system is a coordinated, regional response centered in the principles and practices of **Housing First and Supportive Housing**. The system is data and performance driven and strives to achieve **Functional Zero**: where homelessness is prevented whenever possible, and if it is experienced, there is a supported return to housing as soon as possible. Funding and resources are aligned to reach performance targets, and partnerships provide specialized, niche services to ensure effective stabilization for unique populations. Access to appropriate affordable housing and responsive supportive services is essential at all points of the continuum.

## Prevention



Reduce the number of people entering the crisis system pipeline through increased proactive prevention resources.

- Prevent institutional discharges to homelessness (foster care, jail/prison, recovery/behavioral health centers)
- Low barrier, flexible Eviction Prevention and Emergency Rental Assistance funds
- Landlord mediation services
- Multiple household subsidies coordinated to reduce household cost burdens
- Early identification and referral process for housing retention intervention

## Diversion



Reduce the number of people who need ongoing emergency shelter by assisting people to resolve immediate crisis by accessing safe alternative solutions offered upfront.

- Centralized, flexible emergency problem-solving funds
- Family reunification and conflict resolution services
- Assist reconnections to reliable social supports
- Financial support for safe co-habitation with friends or family (food, bills, rent)

## Emergency Shelter



Provide low-barrier, 24/7 safe places for people to stay temporarily, meet basic needs such as shelter, food and hygiene, and be actively supported on a pathway to housing.

- Coordinated intake and assessment quickly assigns people to appropriate resources
- Outreach to those not accessing shelter and supportive services
- Onsite or instant referrals for medical and mental health services for people in need of immediate healthcare
- Onsite navigation/case management assistance with document preparation, rent, housing and benefits assistance applications and housing search

## Housing



Increase the number of people who exit the system to affordable housing through Permanent Supportive Housing for the most vulnerable and maximizing Rapid Rehousing.

- Expand inventory of deeply affordable (0-30%AMI) housing units dedicated to programs through Tenant Selection Plans and property owner partners
- Diversify housing choice with vouchers, shallow subsidies and rapid rehousing
- Community Landlord Engagement and incentives to secure units
- Hotel/motel acquisitions and Master Leasing options for niche transitional or permanent supportive housing (youth, seniors, recovery, family, domestic violence)

## Supportive Services



Increase permanent housing retention with services designed to help the individual or family stay housed and live a safe, stable, healthy and empowered life in the community.

- Resident and Tenancy Support Services onsite
- Self-sufficiency enhancements: employment, training and education program placements
- Benefits enrollment assistance: SSI/SSDI, Medicaid/Medicare, food stamps, unemployment
- Low-barrier, Medication Assisted Treatment for substance use disorder
- Legal Aid