



National Alliance to  
**END HOMELESSNESS**

# Rapid Re-housing

IMPROVING POLICY | BUILDING CAPACITY | EDUCATING OPINION LEADERS

## What *Is* Rapid Re-housing?

Rapid re-housing is an intervention designed to help individuals and families to quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing.

The core components of a Rapid Re-housing intervention include the provision of:

- Housing Identification Assistance
- Rent and Move-In Assistance (Financial)
- Rapid Re-housing Case Management and Services

## How And Why It Evolved

Innovative Practitioners & Problem Solvers

– e.g. Minnesota, Massachusetts, Washington, DC

Research on How People Use Homeless Assistance Programs

Desire to Improve Efficiency/Performance of Homeless Service Systems

# Research Informing Use of Homeless Assistance Resources: Families

Service Pattern	Percent	Current Response	New Response
Temporary	72-80%	Short shelter/TH stays	Diversion/ Rapid Re-housing
Long-Stays	20-25%	Long transitional housing stays	Rapid Re-housing
Episodic	5 – 15%	Multiple shelter stays	Intensive housing & service models

## What Does Local Data/Research Show?

Majority of people assisted with Rapid Re-housing exit to permanent housing and do not become homeless again.

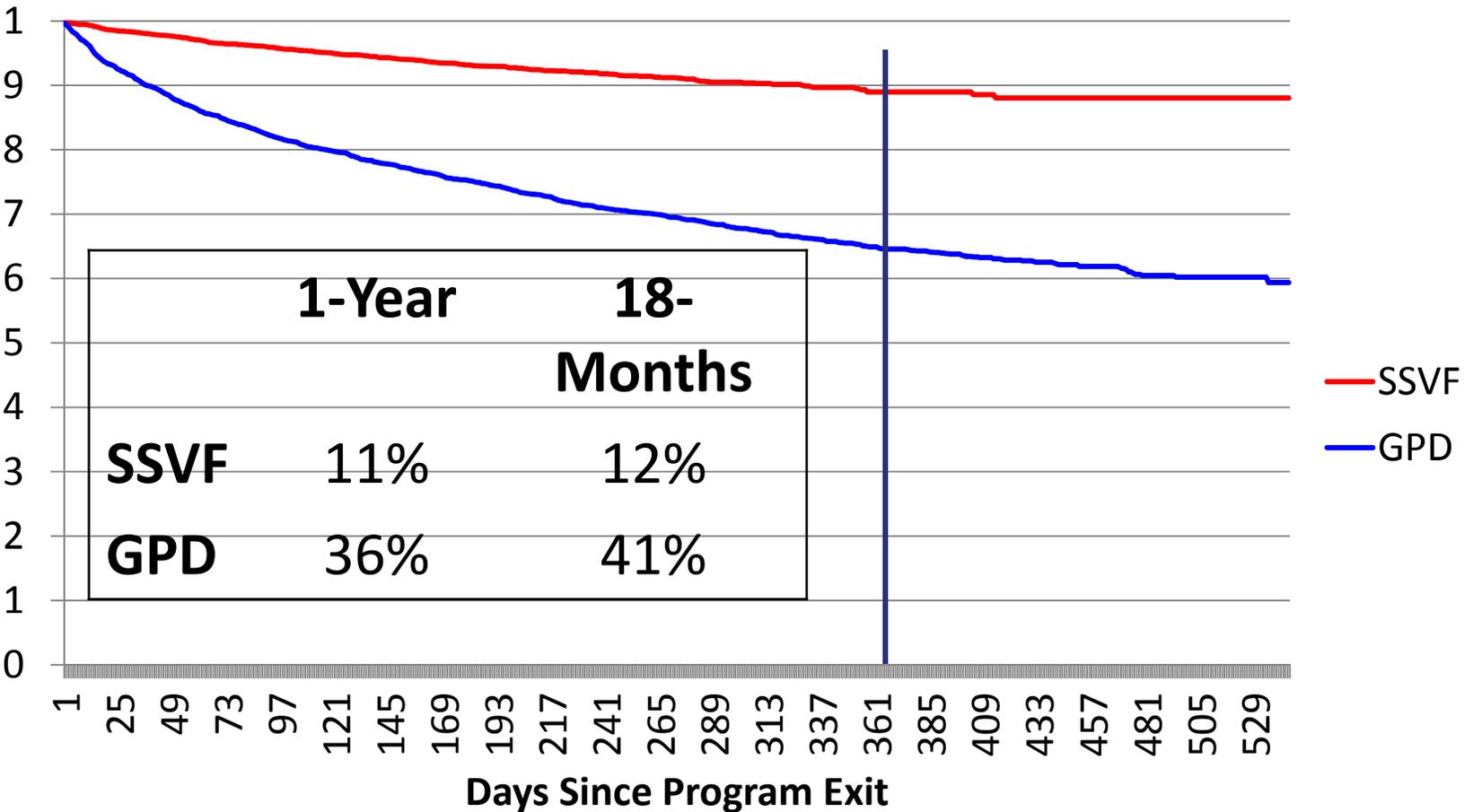
Communities adopting Rapid Re-housing broadly are reducing the length of time people experience homelessness (typically at a lower cost). In doing so, they are able to help more people, including people in need of crisis shelter.



# The National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans

*Promoting data-driven, evidence-based solutions to end Veteran homelessness*

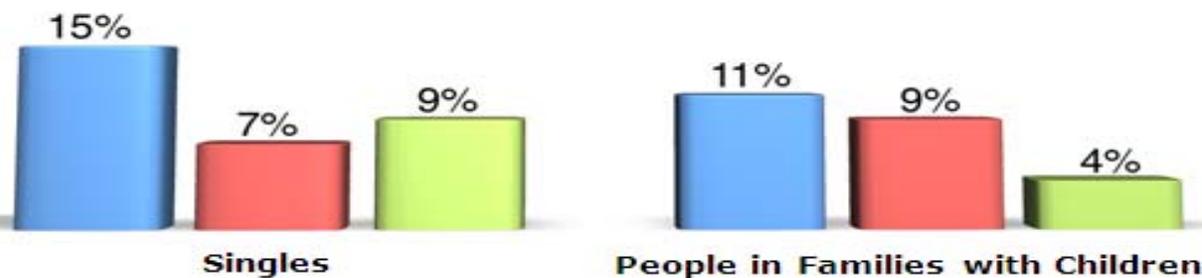
## SSVF-GPD Comparison



# HPRP Outcomes: Rapid Re-housing

## Rate of Return to Homelessness Within 12 Months of Exit for 7 Communities

- Shelter
- Transitional Housing
- Rapid Rehousing



# HPRP Outcomes: Rapid Re-housing

## Average Cost Per Exit for Families with Children in 14 Communities



## Research Findings

### **Georgia.**

- Greatest predictor that a person would return to homelessness was not getting rapid re-housing assistance.

### **Connecticut.**

- 95 percent of families who received rapid re-housing in CT during 2010 did not return to shelter within the next three years.

### **Washington.**

- Working-age adults who received rapid re-housing were 25 percent more likely to be employed over the following year than their peers who were not rapidly re-housed.

## TANF & Family Homelessness

Housing instability and homelessness is common among families served by TANF agencies.

- *Over a 3 year period, 1 in 4 experienced literal homelessness, and nearly half doubled up.*

Families experiencing homelessness may not be accessing TANF assistance they are eligible to receive.

- *Recent study found 41 percent of families entering shelter report receiving TANF assistance.*

## Characteristics of sheltered families/Compared to other poor families

Mostly single parents

Parents are younger (many under age 25)

Children are younger – half of children in shelter are age 5 or under, risk of homelessness is higher the younger the child.

Families are very poor and often have thin social networks/support systems.

Children who are homeless are at the far end of a “continuum of risk”.

## Rapid Re-housing Models: *Idaho*

Homeless families in CATCH RRH program receive:

- Housing search and landlord negotiation assistance.
- Six months of rental assistance
- Intensive case management
- Employment assistance
- Financial mentoring from volunteers from local banks; \$1,000 to open a bank account, matched dollar-dollar savings up to set amount (through partnering banks) while enrolled in the program

## Rapid Re-housing Models: *Idaho* (cont.)

**Outcomes:** 86% of families are able to pay their own rent within 6 months; 85% - 90% of families served remain stably housed one year after exiting the program.

### **Resources used:**

- **TANF:** Short-term, non-recurrent benefits is used to provide 4 of the 6 months of rental assistance. TANF grant to CATCH also funds intensive case management services.
- **HUD/Private, charitable giving:** Housing search/landlord negotiation assistance, employment services, and additional months of rental assistance.
- **Community banks:** Asset development program, including grant to families to open a bank account.
- **Community/individual donors:** Meets start-up needs of families (furniture, etc.)

## Rapid Re-housing Models: *Utah*

Families enrolled in The Road Home RRH program receive:

- Housing search/landlord negotiation assistance
- Employment assessment and employment services
- Rental assistance (“Progressive engagement” model used)
- Case management services designed to promote housing stability and link families with needed support services (Intensified, extended or tapered off based on ongoing assessment of needs).

## Rapid Re-housing Models: *Utah* (cont.)

### Outcomes:

- Over 1,000 families rapidly re-housed since 2009; 85% of families retain housing, those who returned to shelter are re-housed with more intensive support
- Average cost of RRH intervention is \$4,900.
- Reduced average family homeless episode by more than 50% - from 71 days to 26 days.
- Shelter program was able to absorb the increased demand for shelter during recession without building shelter capacity – greater turnover meant existing shelter units could serve more households/per year.

## Rapid Re-housing Models: *Utah* (cont.)

### Resources Used:

- ***TANF/Workforce Resources:*** Short-term, non-recurrent benefits to pay for 4 of rental assistance to help families move out of shelter. TANF/One Stop staff person works at the shelter program, conducts employment assessments of parents, links families with needed TANF services, and coordinates closely with HUD-funded staff focused on meeting families' housing needs.
- ***HUD/Local Resources:*** Funds the emergency shelter, housing focused case management services, additional months of rental assistance families require. Families who require more intensive assistance may be moved from RRH program to more intensive housing program.

# Los Angeles

## Los Angeles Coordinated Entry System

- 8 regional offices throughout County where people with housing crises seek shelter/emergency assistance.
- Out-stationed TANF eligibility workers, employment assistance (dedicated subsidized employment slots), and MH/SA specialists on site. Child development bridge person also on site.
- Financial resources from DPSS (and special early child development state tax fund) is used to help eligible families with short-term rental assistance.

# Washington State

## Ending Family Homelessness Initiative

- \$10 million in dedicated housing resources.
- Requires coordination between TANF, Workforce development and rapid re-housing service providers statewide to promote positive housing and employment outcomes for families experiencing literal homelessness.
- Rolled out statewide January 1. Successfully housed people from a wide range of housing situations including those living in cars, campgrounds and other places unintended for children or any person to live.

## Promising Practices

Tailoring the intervention to the needs of individual households (as opposed to looking for people that fit the intervention)!

Coupling/linking Rapid Re-housing with other supportive services

- Employment/TANF Services
- Early Childhood Home Visitation Program

# Making the Most Out of New Opportunities

Prevention vs. Rapid Re-housing

Identifying at-risk households – Assess housing status

Targeting:

- Literally homeless families (shelters/unsheltered vs. doubled up households)
- Assessing housing barriers

Augmenting the intervention

Sizing the intervention: progressive engagement, predictive models, one size fits all.

## Collaboration Across Systems

TANF agencies can help reduce family homelessness through many means:

- Expedite access to cash assistance, develop programs/strategies to reconcile sanctions or assess extensions (20 percent exemption)
- Modify work requirements for families attempting to resolve homelessness/housing crisis
- Partner/consult with Rapid Re-housing providers to promote positive housing **and** employment outcomes
- Directly or indirectly support RRH interventions with TANF resources (financial assistance to support interventions, set-aside employment or child care services etc )

## Questions?

Sharon McDonald

National Alliance to End Homelessness

(202) 942-8253

[smcdonald@naeh.org](mailto:smcdonald@naeh.org)