



GIH Fall Forum  
Health Care Transformed:  
Better Delivery for Those Most  
in Need

# Chronic Homeless

November 15, 2012



NATIONAL  
HEALTH CARE  
*for the*  
HOMELESS  
COUNCIL

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Health Care & Housing Are Human Rights

## + How Many Homeless?

- *HUD*: (2010)
  - 649,917 on a single night (January 2010)
    - 109,812 were “chronic” (17%)
  - 1.6 million in shelters over course of year
- *Health Care for the Homeless*: 825,295 (2011)
- *Department of Education (K-12)*: 1,065,794 (SY2010-11)
- **All methods of counting have drawbacks**



# + Causes of Homelessness

- **Primary:** Lack of **affordable housing**
- Lack of adequate health care
- Lack of adequate incomes
  - Wages or benefits
- Lack of support services
  
- **Chronic homelessness:** *long-term or repeated homelessness, often coupled with a disability*





**What's the difference  
between someone who's  
“chronically” homeless and  
other homeless  
populations?**

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# TIME



# + Trends

## Homeless Population

- Increasing need for housing assistance & safety net services
- Pervasive un/under employment
- More families with children
- More “unaccompanied youth”
- Longer stays in shelters

## Public Response

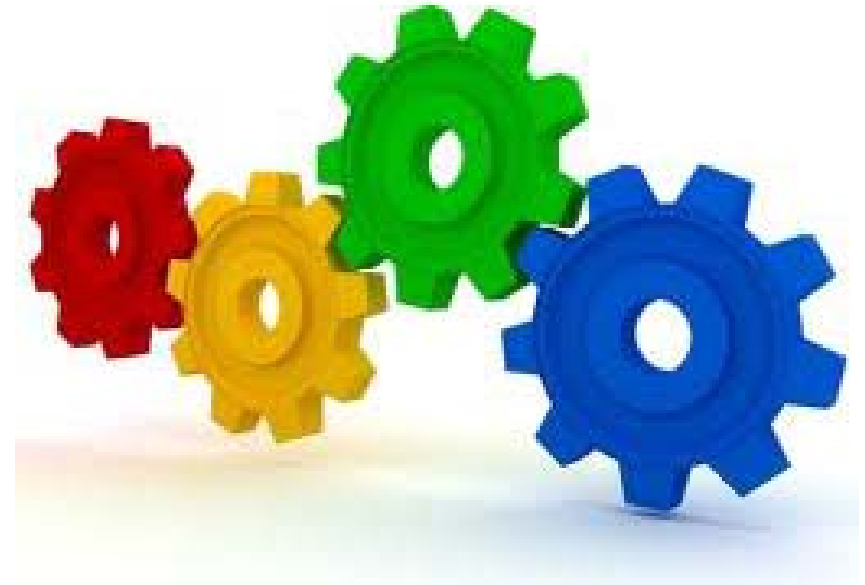
- Cuts to public services
- Wide range of local approaches
- Criminalization of homelessness
- Palpable distain for those receiving services
- Dividing between “worthy” and “unworthy” poor

# + What Works for the Neediest?

- Assertive, consistent & tenacious **outreach**
- **Housing First** models
  - Wraparound services + housing (often subsidized)
  - No time limits or requirements for sobriety
- Creation of medical **respite** programs
  - Post-acute care after hospital stay
- Care **coordination** across multiple systems
- Implementing **EBPs**
  - Harm Reduction & Motivational Interviewing
  - Assertive Community Treatment

# + What Else Works for the Neediest?

- **Integrated care**
  - Access
  - Services
  - Funding
  - Evidence-based practices
  - Data
- **Rapid Rehousing**



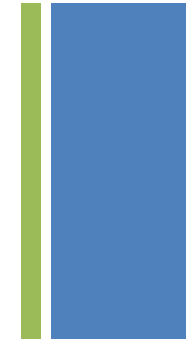
- *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*
  - [http://www.usich.gov/opening\\_doors/](http://www.usich.gov/opening_doors/)





# Grantmaker Considerations

- Connections to housing & health care
- Case management
- EBP training
- Care transitions
- Outreach programs that link to services
- Continuum of care planning
- Capacity building (prep for health reform)
- Unrestricted dollars
- Focus groups, analyses, collaborations, cost studies
- Expert consultations
- Public awareness campaigns
- “Housing kits”
- Supplemental funds for daily client needs



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# We can't end homelessness by ending homelessness



*Prevention works...and its cost-effective*

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# + National HCH Council

- *A membership organization for those who work to improve the health of homeless people and seek housing, health care, and adequate incomes for everyone.*

[www.nhchc.org](http://www.nhchc.org)  @NatlHCHCouncil

- *Health Care for the Homeless grantees are federally qualified health centers providing comprehensive primary care, behavioral health care, and support services to those experiencing homelessness*

- Barbara DiPietro, Director of Policy

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