

Supplement B:

Examples of Efforts Meriting Further Exploration

DRAFT: December 17, 2012

1. Housing

The implementation plan will address a range of critical housing issues, such as effective strategies for housing access and retention, innovative lower-cost housing models, and providing housing with access to amenities. Examples of promising practices:

- House the most vulnerable in our community first by using a vulnerability assessment tool in both congregate and scattered-site housing.
- Creative use of rent assistance to reach more households, perhaps including medium-term rent assistance or permanent shallow subsidies.
- More efficient use of longer-term housing subsidies, by helping to transition people from supportive housing who no longer need it.
- A program to support individuals to take advantage of housing and support opportunities available to them in other communities.

2. Income and Benefits

The implementation plan will explore promising strategies ranging from on-the-job training programs, to self-employment, and better alignment of local investments with mainstream employment and benefits systems. Examples of promising practices:

- Education and Training programs for individuals receiving SNAP (food stamps) are eligible for federal matching funds of \$1 for every \$2 of local funds. Two programs have successfully applied for this match to fund education and training programs for youth experiencing homelessness. We should aggressively apply for these funds to meet the demand for employment and training needs for homeless families and adults.
- Expand programs that assist homeless or formerly homeless people get the benefits (like Medicare, SSI and SSDI) for which they are eligible. Expansion should be focused where benefits would free up dollars currently being spent, such as residents of public housing.
- Supported Employment expansion.

3. Health

The implementation plan will look at critical issues related to health care access for homeless and extremely low-income households, leveraging the opportunities created by the Affordable Care Act, and how to better integrate the health care and social services systems. Examples of promising practices:

- Prepare to get every homeless person in Multnomah County enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan when eligibility changes in 2014.
- Support the emerging commitment of public safety to help meet the needs of those with mental health and substance use disorders.

- Partner with Health Share of Oregon and FamilyCare to look at providing housing and services for the most vulnerable chronically ill people as a way to improve health outcomes and reduce the cost of care.

4. Survival and emergency services

The implementation plan will look at the full range of unmet basic service needs and evaluate the effectiveness of our current efforts. Examples of promising practices:

- Low-barrier, high-tolerance shelter options, with at least some beds reserved for people who are the most vulnerable while sleeping outside.
- The creation of property storage options for individuals sleeping outside or in shelters that don't offer storage options. The storage would accommodate large backpacks and shopping carts.
- Rapid rehousing, which starts the housing placement process (like getting identification, paperwork, etc) while individuals are still outside, rather than waiting for them to enter shelter.

5. Access to services

Examples of promising practices:

- Creation of a more robust and coordinated system to provide access, perhaps in tandem with central information from 211info.
- Increased capacity to send access staff into the community to meet clients wherever they are.
- Development of improved access pathways for historically underserved and emerging communities, such as staff able to identify culturally-specific conditions and risk factors and culturally-specific access centers, to better meet the needs of specific groups.

6. System coordination

The implementation plan will look at all levels of system coordination among the local governmental jurisdictions involved in housing and anti-poverty services, as well as other divisions of local government (e.g. law enforcement, parks), the nonprofit, faith, and for-profit sectors. It will also look at strategies to improve access to and leverage state and federal mainstream resources. Examples of promising practices:

- Support for a foster care pilot to develop a coordinated plan for young people aging out of foster care.
- Leverage HUD-VASH (housing and services for homeless disabled veterans) with flexible local funds.
- TANF.
- Workforce systems.