



Creating a Housing First System:

You Win Some. You Lose Some. But really, you can do it



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WHO IS ALL HOME?



All Home is the lead agency for the Seattle/King County Continuum of Care.

Our **vision** is that homelessness is **RARE** in King County, racial **DISPARITIES** are eliminated, and if one becomes homeless, it is **BRIEF** and only a **ONE-TIME** occurrence. All Home realizes this vision by:

- Developing a common agenda and plan of action,
- Building the capacity of funders and providers to implement,
- Measuring results, monitoring performance, and holding ourselves accountable, and
- Communicating transparently and continuously

Seattle Human Services Department



Mission: To connect people with resources and solutions during times of need so we can all live, learn, work and take part in strong, healthy communities

Impact Areas:

- Preparing Youth for Success
- Promoting Healthy Aging
- Supporting Affordability & Livability
- Promoting Public Health
- Responding to Gender Based Violence
- **Addressing Homelessness**

WHAT ARE OUR COLLECTIVE IMPACT GOALS?



Hold our community accountable to our goals



Eliminate racial disparities

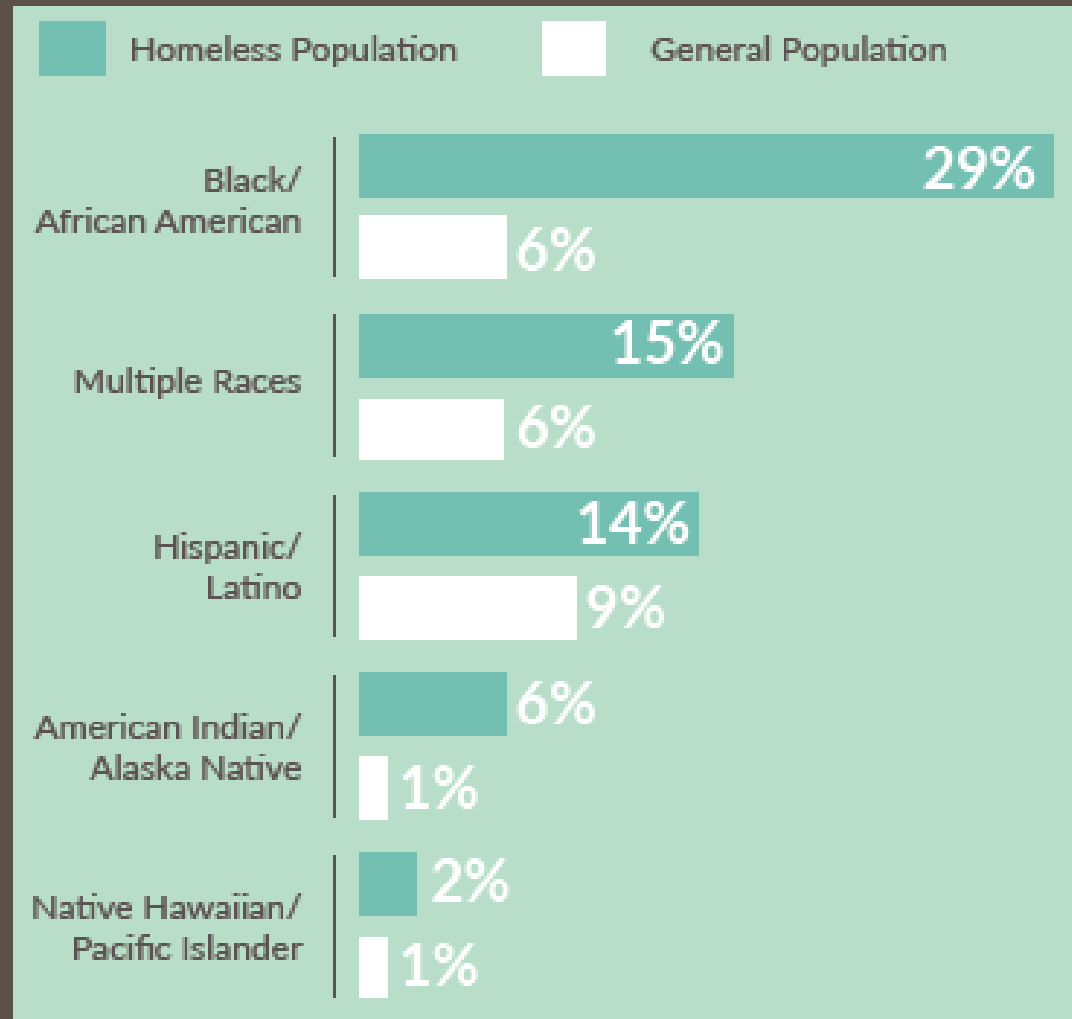


Improve system & service responses for people experiencing homelessness



Align funding, strategies and priorities to improve system performance

What We Know: Homelessness in King County



Homelessness
disproportionately impacts
PEOPLE OF COLOR.



What We Know: Homelessness in King County

Over **90%**
of people experiencing homelessness
would take safe/affordable housing
if it were offered.

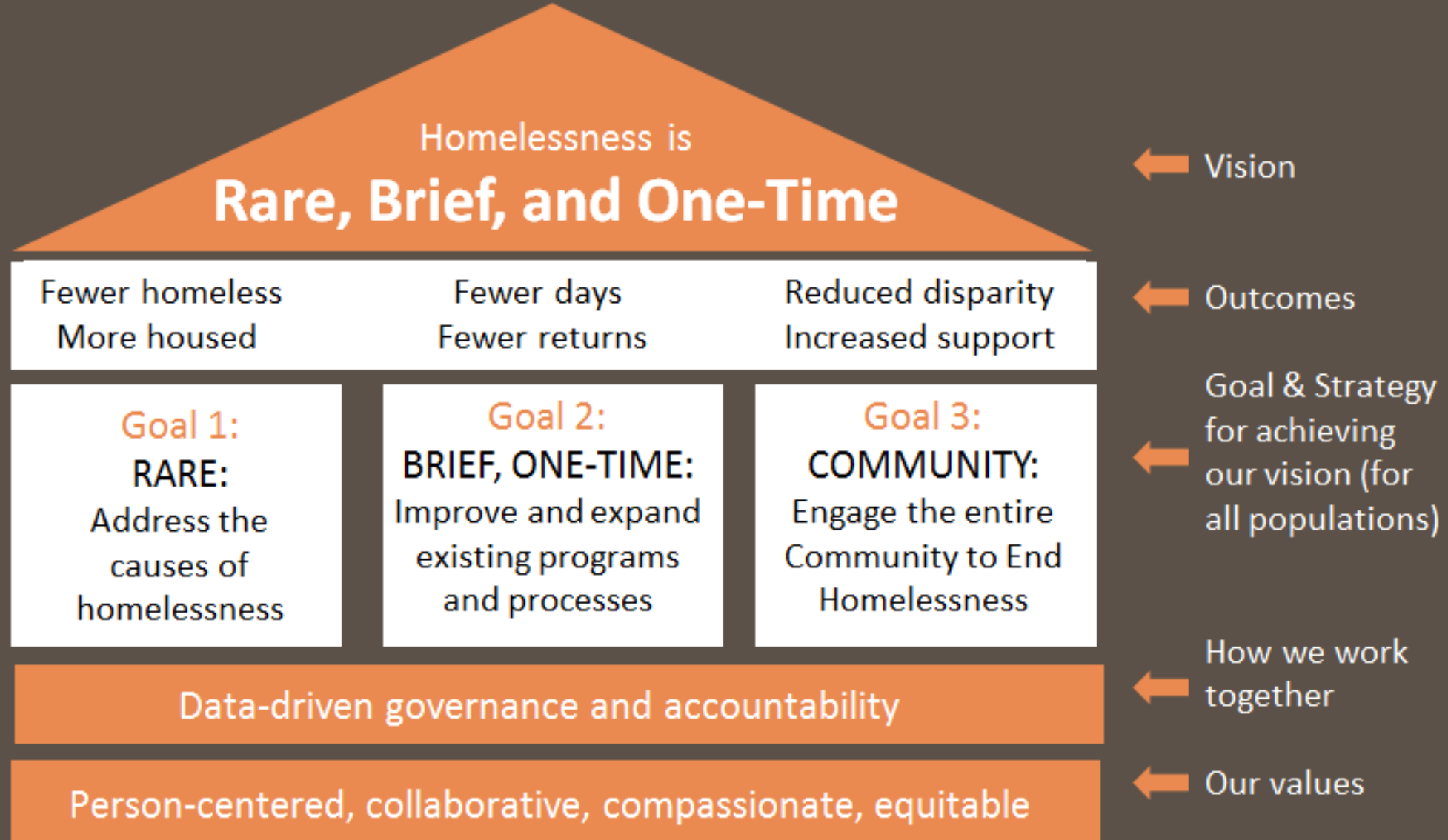


Rental assistance and **more affordable housing** were cited as the top two supports needed to end their experience of homelessness.

People experiencing
homelessness need
HOUSING.



OUR COMMUNITY'S STRATEGIC PLAN 2015-2019



CITY OF SEATTLE: PATHWAYS HOME

Addressing Homelessness

MAYOR'S HOMELESS RESPONSE

3 PILLARS OF PRIORITIES

Person-centered

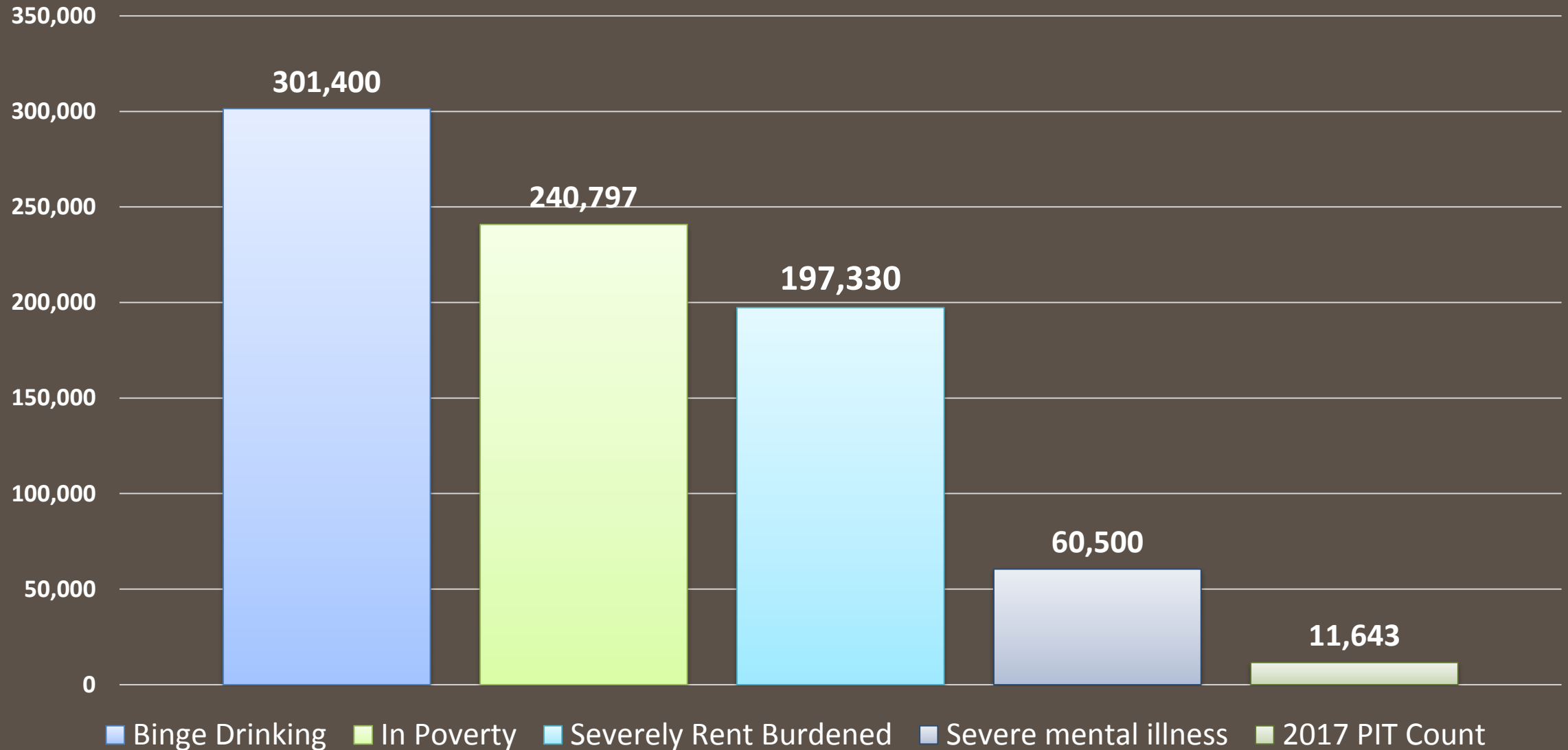
Interventions that work

Address racial disparities

PATHWAYS HOME PRIORITY ACTIONS

- 1 Commitment to Families Living Unsheltered
- 2 Actively Problem Solving Wait Lists
- 3 Connecting People to Services
- 4 Making Rental Units Accessible
- 5 Ensuring Good Government and Performance
- 6 Expanding 24-Hour Shelter Options

Making the Case for Housing First



Making the Case for Housing First

	Length of Stay*	Exits to Permanent Housing*	Rates of Returns to Homelessness*	Average Cost per HH Exit to PH**
Emergency Shelter	53 days	12%	17%	\$981/adult \$5,677/family
Transitional Housing	301 days	60%	6%	\$20,396/adult \$32,627/family
Rapid Re-housing	218 days	69%	5%	\$11,507/family
Permanent Supportive Housing	n/a	95%	4%	Not available

*2017 data from All Home System Performance Dashboard: <http://allhomekc.org/system-performance/>

**2015 data for 9/16 System Analysis report: <http://allhomekc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/System-Performance-Analysis-Final-Report.pdf>

Why do Housing First?

- Evidence-based approach (*the data shows...*)
- Cost effective (*reduces cost on other systems*)
- Reduces the length of time someone experiences homelessness (*improves outcomes for people*)
- Federal shifts and requirements (*access to and competitiveness for critical funding*)

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HOLD OURSELVES ACCOUNTABLE:

System Performance Dashboard

10/1/2016 to 9/30/2017

How is our system performing?

Exits to Permanent Housing	Average Length of Stay	Returns to Homelessness	Homeless Entries	Utilization Rate
36%	69	9%	73%	89%

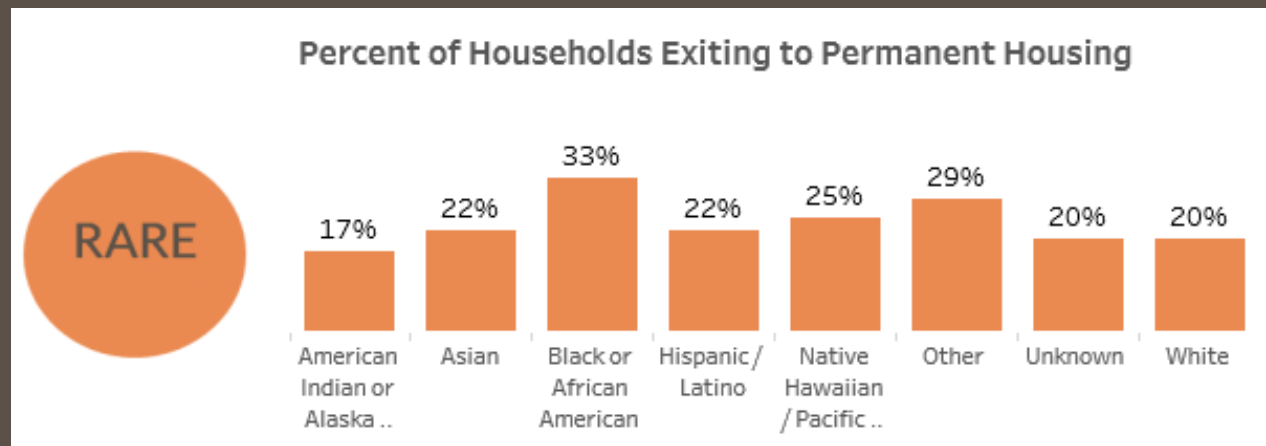
STANDARDS are set and shared publicly, but **CHANGE IS SLOW.**

ELIMINATE RACIAL DISPARITIES:

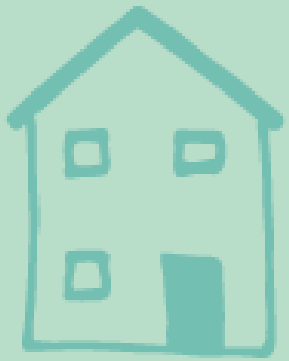
- Reduced barriers – Coordinated Entry and Fair Chance Housing
- Prioritization based on the most vulnerable
- Training on Cultural Humility and person-centered services
- Include racially specific priorities and targets in funding processes

What else can we do?

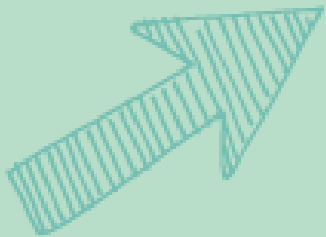
- Become an anti-oppressive or anti-racist organization
- Address policies and practices at a SYSTEMS level – Not just eliminate the bad, but add the good!



IMPROVE SYSTEM RESPONSE:



Over **7,500** households moved from homelessness to permanent housing in 2016,



a **50%** increase compared to 2013.

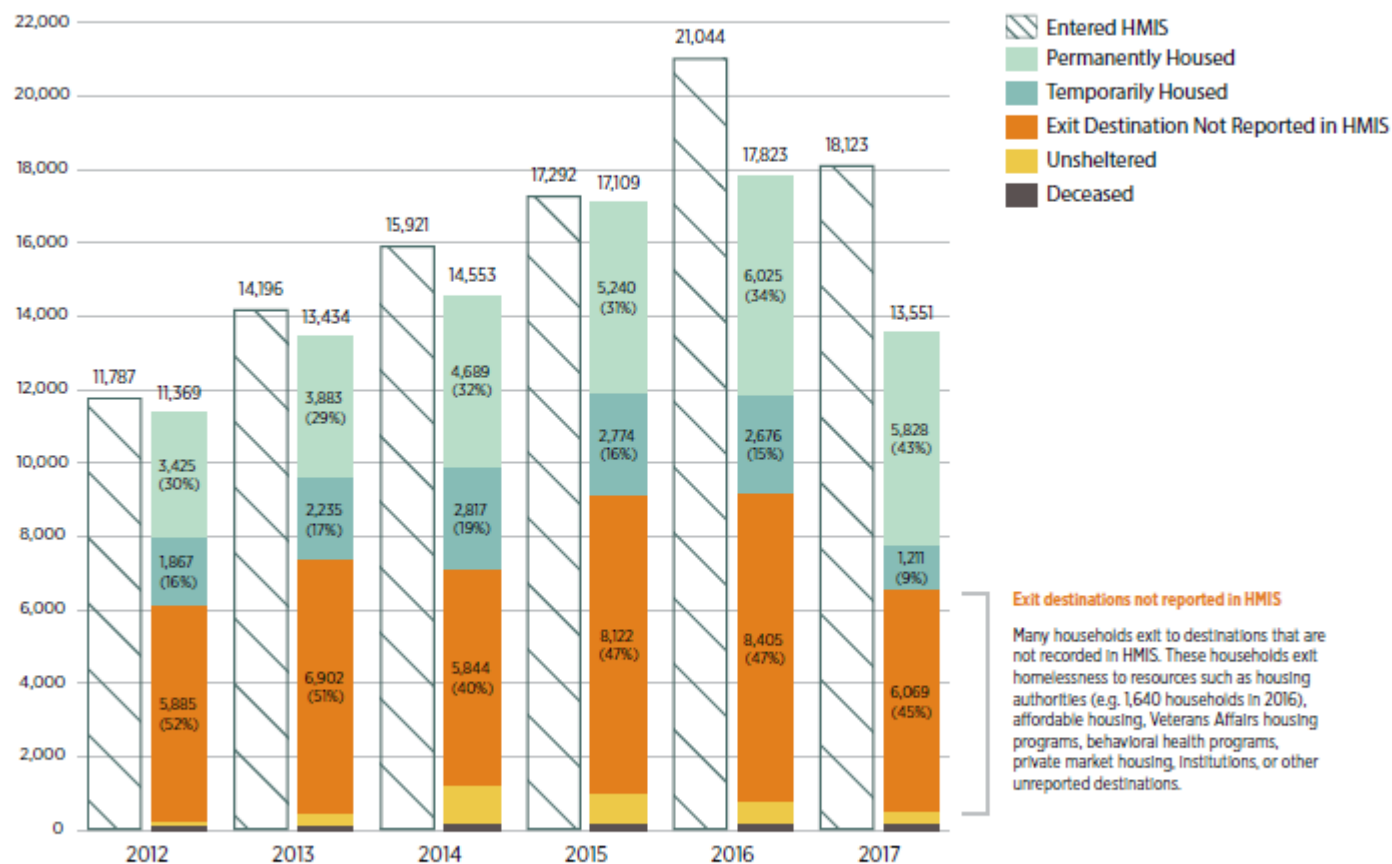
MORE PEOPLE are exiting from homelessness into housing - and doing it **FASTER THAN EVER.**

IMPROVE SYSTEM RESPONSE:



Number of Households Entering and Exiting HMIS in King County, 2012-2017

Note: HMIS tracks only agencies funded with homeless fund sources. Other systems such as housing authorities help people exit from homelessness but do not record those exits in HMIS.



Notes

About 30% of clients do not consent to share their identifying information in HMIS. As these clients cannot be de-duplicated, these inflow estimates might be slightly higher than the actual inflow to the homeless system.

Far **MORE PEOPLE** continue to enter the homeless system than we have the capacity to serve

ALIGN FUNDING, STRATEGIES, AND PRIORITIES:

What have we done?

- System-Wide Performance Targets and Minimum Standards
- Shared Contract Language
- Common Message and Shared Vision

Where do we face challenges?

- Consistent application and adherence
- Supporting community through cultural shift
- Stuck in need for perfection

Integrating Housing First in Funding Processes

- Funding processes are the most effective way to establish expectations for your system
- Not just housing programs should strive to be housing first
- Tell us what housing first means to your agency isn't going to get you the information you are looking for
- Identify specific policies and procedures that demonstrate adherence to housing first principals
- Ask for demonstration of specific examples

Examples of Specific Housing First Questions

- “What criteria must participants meet before your project works with them to start their housing search? “
- “What would cause your agency to deny someone entry into this project?”
- “What project rules do participants have to follow, and what happens if a participant does not follow the rules?”
- “If someone is asked to leave the program, what steps does your project take to make sure they do not exit to homelessness? Can a household who has been asked to leave return to this project at another time?”

Rating Criteria Supports Housing First

A strong application meets all the criteria listed below:

1. All participants are considered 'housing ready' upon Project entry. No requirements must be met before housing search is started.
2. Project does not deny entry into the program due to sobriety, mental health needs, disability, physical health needs, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, criminal back ground, poor credit or rental history, or participation in services.
3. Project has minimal rules. Rules that do exist are designed to promote the physical and emotional safety of participants and staff in the least restrictive manner possible. When rules are not followed, project has systems in place to offer participants additional support to adjust their behavior and be successful in the program. Project does not have requirements regarding participation in services. Participants right to self-determination is upheld.

Monitoring for Housing First

- Incorporate housing first best practices into contract language and program descriptions
- HUD Housing First Assessment Tool
- USICH Housing First Checklist
- Feedback from people with lived experience is essential
- Provide meaningful effective technical assistance and capacity building support



ALL HOME LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

All Home Results

Homelessness is RARE, racial disparities are ELIMINATED, and if one does experience homelessness it is BRIEF and a ONE-TIME occurrence.

Learning & Development Results

- Homeless Housing professionals and organizations:
- Contribute to improved responses for people experiencing homelessness
 - Advance racial equity
 - Contribute to improved system performance

Learning & Development Strategies

Homeless Housing
Best Practices Series

Organizational
Development Seminars

Communities of
Practice

Targeted Technical
Assistance



Questions?



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