



National Alliance to
END HOMELESSNESS

System Change and Advocacy

From Surviving to Thriving
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Kay Moshier
McDivitt

Technical
Assistance
Specialist

Advocacy is...

- Advocacy is “the active support of an idea or cause; especially the act of arguing for something.”
- Basic education to direct lobbying
- Target audience for advocacy is wide-ranging; federal, state, and local policymakers and other key decision-makers can all be targets



The Cause: System Change

HEARTH Act set national direction for communities to use a systemic approach to prevent and end homelessness

Based on practices of communities that were making significant progress in reducing homelessness

“Opening Doors- Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness”

Retool the homeless response system by transforming homeless services to crisis response systems that prevent homelessness and rapidly return people who experience homelessness to stable housing



Why System Change?

For continued bipartisan support of homeless assistance dollars to continue, communities need to shift to a systemic approach to end homelessness

- Cost effective strategies need to be implemented
- Communities must work together as a system

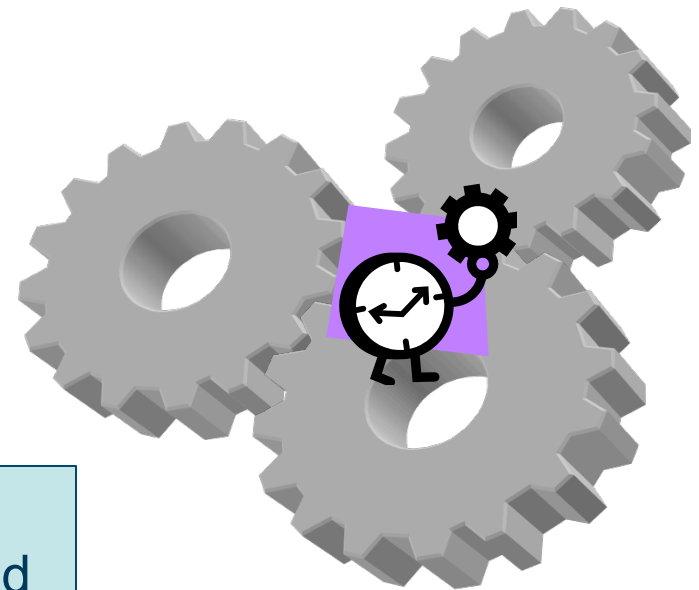


Systems Focus

Continuums of Care and homeless service providers need take time to regularly reflect on what changes you need to make to be the most effective in meeting the goal of **ending** homelessness



1. Shift from program focus to systemic approach



This takes work to include all homeless service providers, including the faith based and non-federal funded providers



2. Your system needs a good entry strategy

- A good entry strategy uses diversion tools and targeted prevention resources to divert households from the homeless system whenever possible
- When homelessness cannot be prevented, connects them with the most appropriate intervention in the system
- Focus on what the systems needs; programs may need to adjust
- Prioritize those with the most needs; not first come first serve basis

This takes work to include all homeless service providers, including the faith based and non-federal funded providers



3. Systemic focus on a quick exit strategy for each household

- HEARTH Goal to reduce LOS to 30 days or less – from the time household enters the homeless system to exit to permanent housing
- System approach that needs all programs working together
- How well is the system working to re-house a family?



This takes work to include all homeless service providers, including the faith based and non-federal funded providers

4. More Rapid Re-Housing

- More cost effective and better outcomes
- Rapid re-housing reduces the impacts of prolonged homelessness
- Increases the availability of beds for newly homeless
- Robust Rapid Re-Housing system means assess your system and reallocate resources to strategies like rapid re-housing

This takes work to include all homeless service providers, including the faith based and non-federal funded providers



Goal of the homeless service system is to end homelessness in your communities

How are you reaching that goal?

Are you a clock shop or are you building one clock?

Are all the gears in your clock?

Are you seeing significant reductions in homelessness?

How is your clock ticking?



Why Should YOU Advocate?

- You're the expert on the issue!
- Policymakers will listen to you as their constituents
- Will help you achieve your mission by securing resources, improving policy, and bringing awareness to the issue

