

The Keys

New Tool: Housing First Partnership and Accountability Matrix

The Center for Capacity Building (the Center) at the Alliance has developed a tool to help communities identify possible partners and accountable agencies within their Housing First system. The tool identifies the necessary action steps and responsible entities within a community to achieve three main outcomes of a Housing First system—prevention of homelessness, reduction in the length of time individuals and families experience homelessness, and decreased recidivism. A community using the tool will identify government agencies, traditional Continuum of Care (CoC) Partners, and non-traditional community partners that could be responsible for the execution of any given action step. If a community is in the planning phase of moving to a Housing First system, this tool is valuable for making sure that all of the partners you may need are brought to the planning table. If a community is implementing a Housing First system, this tool can be used to help hold partners accountable to the roles they should be playing.

Outcomes	Action Steps	Government Agency Partners	Traditional CoC Partners	Non-traditional Partners
Prevent Homelessness	1, 2, 3...			
Reduce Length of Homelessness	1, 2, 3...			
Reduce Recidivism	1, 2, 3...			

[Housing First Partnership and Accountability Matrix](#)

FAQs:

HPRP Recertification

Q: How do you handle a situation where 3 months of prevention have been given to a client through HPRP, but they have not done anything to increase their income?

A: Assess what would happen if assistance was no longer provided. If a client would become homeless without assistance, then assistance should be continued. If the client would not become homeless without assistance, then assistance should not continue.

Youth and HPRP

Q: Can HPRP dollars be used to help a family of a homeless youth?

A: Yes, HPRP funds can be used to provide family counseling so a youth can return home. Additionally, if a youth belongs to a family who is at-risk of homelessness, HPRP funding can be used to assist the entire family. For more information on using HPRP to serve youth, or any youth homelessness related questions, contact Rich HooksWayman at rhookswayman@naeh.org or LaKesia Pope at lpope@naeh.org.

Implementing HPRP in Rural Areas

Webinar Recoding Posted Online

On Friday November 13, the Center hosted a webinar on the implementation of the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) in rural areas. The webinar featured Kathy Germain from the Rural Ulster Preservation Group and Colleen Goettel from Gateway Community Industries. Kathy discussed the design of the HPRP program in Ulster County, NY, while Colleen specifically addressed the challenges in data collection for rural areas. Their presentations were followed by a question and answer session with the audience. A recording of the webinar and supplemental materials are available on the Alliance's [HPRP Audio Conferences](#) page. Additionally, the Center will be hosting an online discussion on Rural HPRP Implementation soon. For more information on that, please contact the Center at thecenter@naeh.org.

Community Spotlight: Fairfax County, VA

Developing a County-Wide Intake and Assessment Process

Fairfax County, VA is a suburb of Washington, DC. The County is in the midst of implementing its ten year plan to end homelessness. In that process, the County created an Office to Prevent and End Homelessness which has overseen the implementation of several aspects of the ten year plan, but has made particularly strong progress on the creation of a new Intake and Assessment process and accompanying tools. The County took a community approach to this implementation process, creating an implementation task group with representatives from a broad cross-section of the community that came together to contribute to the development of the tools and build will towards a uniform process across the County. The approach that the implementation group took built strong will towards the continued implementation of the plan throughout the community and created an intake and assessment system that is truly representative of the communities nonprofits and the homeless populations they serve.

The group created an initial screening tool to funnel presenting households into prevention, diversion, or shelter entry; a housing assessment to determine a household's strengths and barriers to obtaining and maintaining house in Fairfax County; and, for households that enter shelter, a housing targeting tool to determine the appropriate permanent housing option. County-wide trainings are currently being conducted to train staff on both the new process and the use of the new tools. The County is incorporating this new Intake and Assessment system into its HPRP implementation. The County plans to continue to refine the tools through the original implementation task group. If you would like to know how your community could achieve this as well, please contact Samantha Batko at sbatko@naeh.org.
