C1: Innovations in Transitional Housing

2019 Federal Permanent Housing Conference

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Setting the Stage
3. Transitional Housing Transformation
4. Transitional Housing's Role with Facilitating Permanent Housing Placements
5. Dialogue and Examples

Welcome and Introductions

1. **What is your role?**
   - SSVF Grantee
   - CoC Representative
   - HUD-VASH Staff
   - VAMC CE Specialist
   - Other

2. **Does your agency provide transitional housing?**
   - Type:
     - Youth
     - Veteran
     - Criminal Justice
     - Substance Use

3. **Has your work with transitional housing changed over time?**

4. **For those of you with transitional housing, are TH staff directly involved with coordinated entry and community planning?**

Debunking a myth creates a gap

Fill the gap with a factual alternative
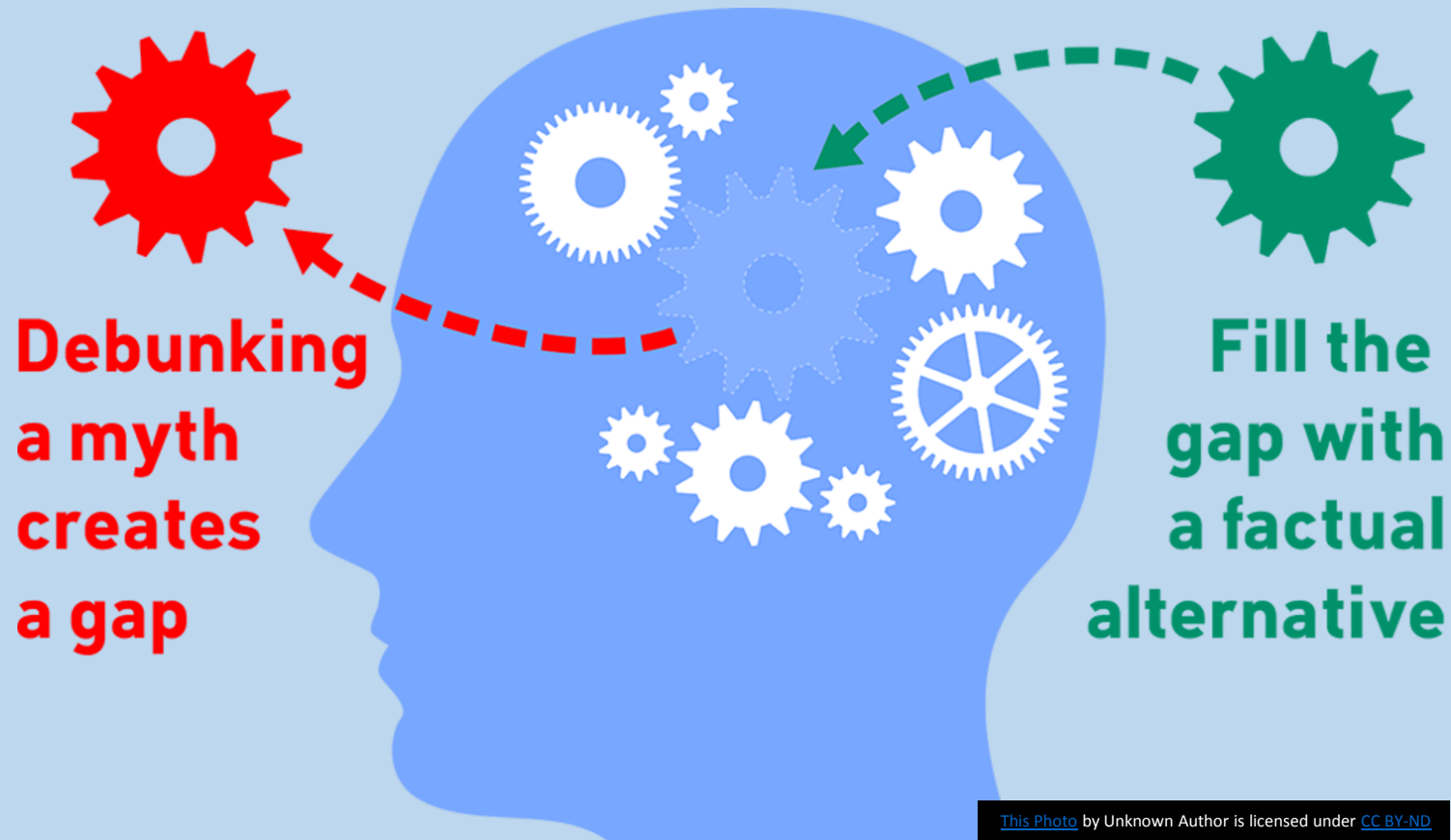
Setting the Stage

Transitional housing can serve as a tool within homeless systems

Communities and community partners can think strategically together around their use of transitional housing.

Reframe misconceptions as we continue to learn

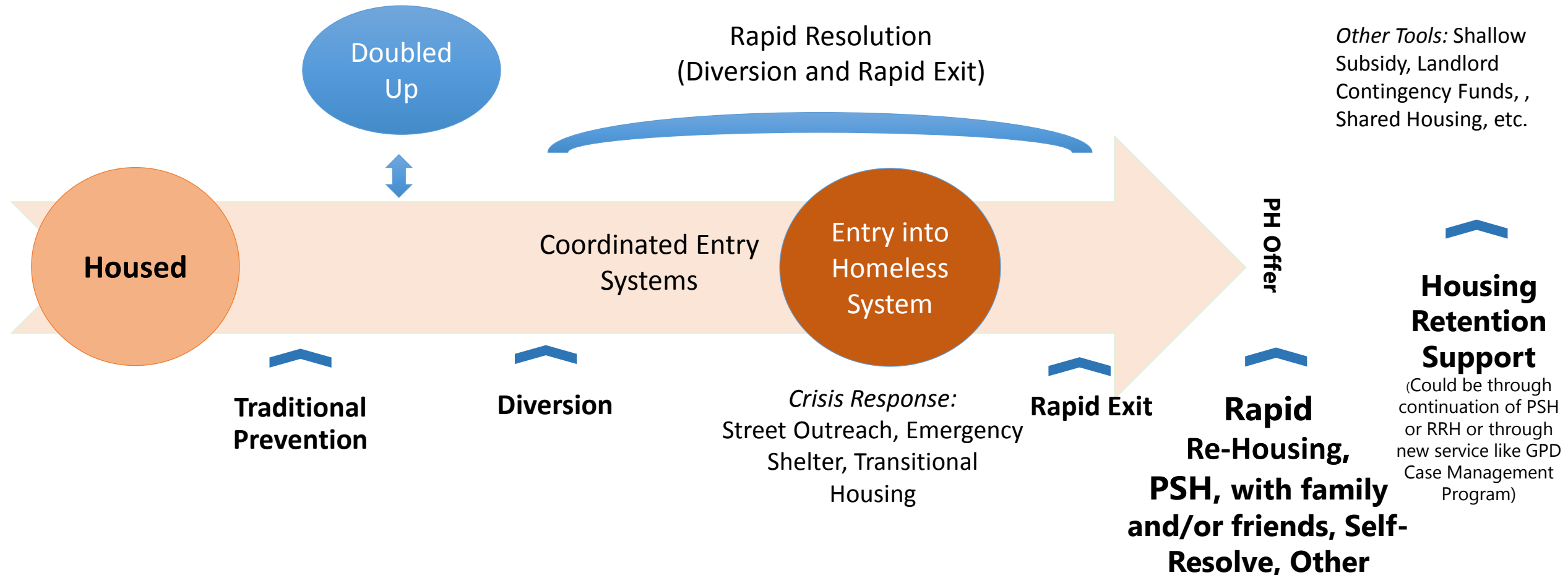This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-ND

Deeper Dive

How and when transitional housing can be used as a **tool** for **targeted populations** while also embodying **client choice** and **housing first**

We Need a Variety of Tools in Communities

Source: Adapted from SSVF Rapid Resolution Position in System Image

Transitional Housing History

- Long history in mental health and corrections prior to application in homeless system
- Community-based residential programs in 70s and 80s
- Idea was to help transition from an institution back into community
- Federal legislation to support development of transitional housing for persons experiencing homelessness was introduced in 1986 and then incorporated into the McKinney Homeless Assistance Act in 1987
- First TH programs focused on serious mental illness and substance abuse
- 1992 shifts from more of a demonstration program to permanent grants
- 2005 Transitional Housing Continued with additional studies related to families
- 2011-2012 Communities begin to engage more with rapid rehousing
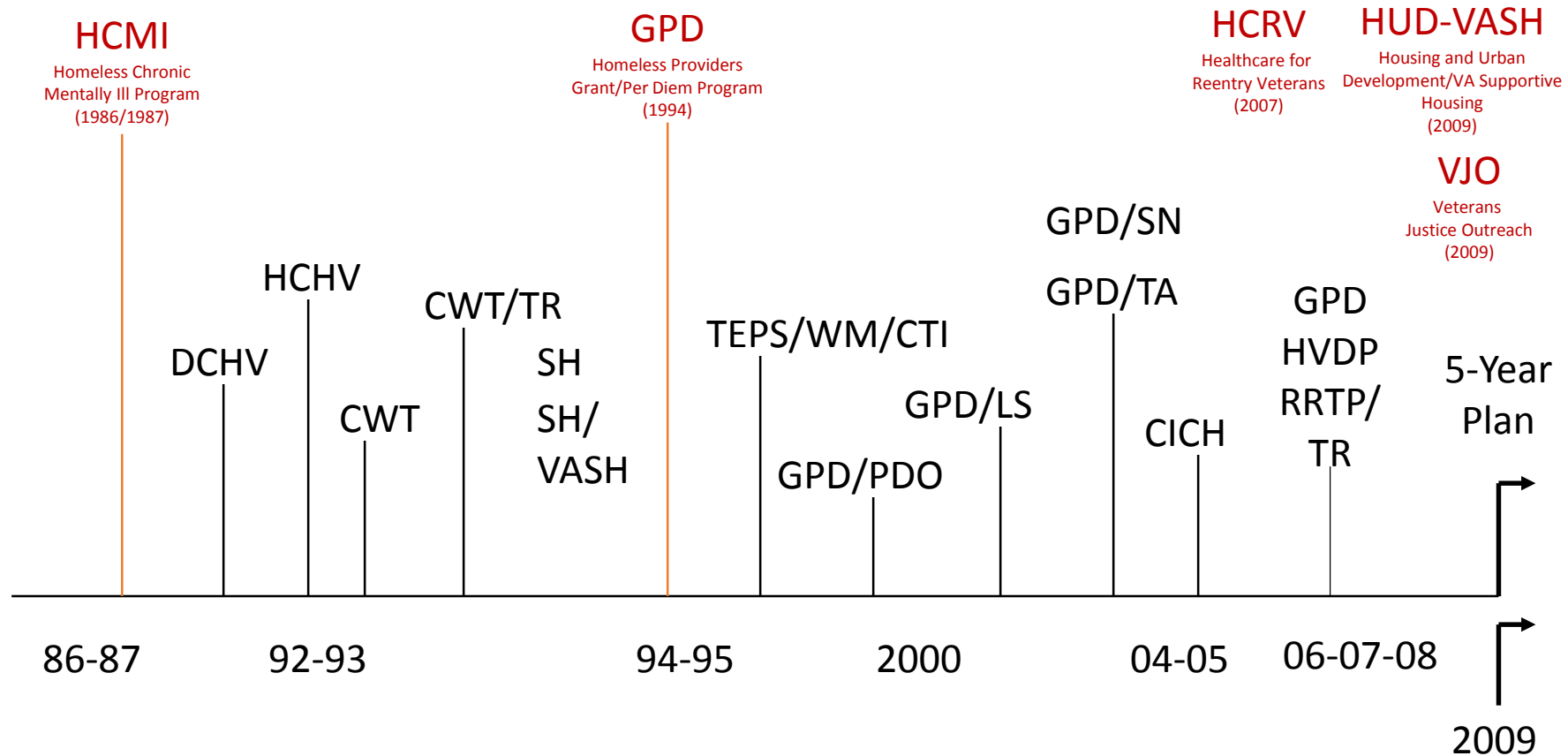- 2017 HUD Joint Component TH-RRH
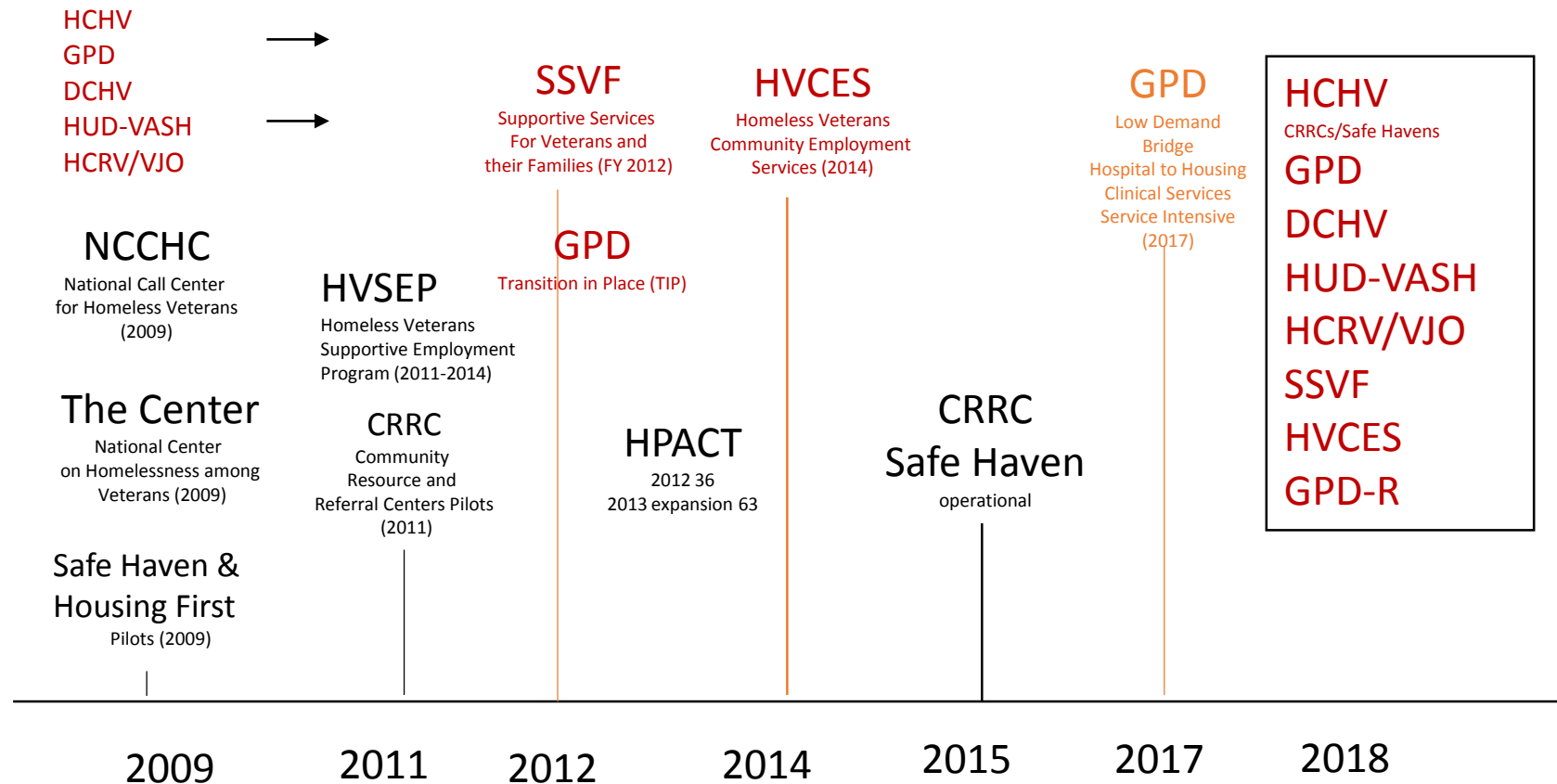
Source: Burt (2006)

Major Legislation for Homelessness

- PL 100-77 (1987): McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- PL 100-6 (1987): Community-based psychiatric residential treatment for chronically mentally ill Veterans (HCMI -HCHV)
- PL 101-144 (1990): VA and HUD Independent Agencies Appropriations Act (HUD VASH - pilot)
- PL 102-405 (1992): Veterans Medical Programs Amendments Act (CHALENG)
- PL 102-590 (1992): Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Serves Programs Act (GPD)
- PL Law 107-95 (2001): Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act (Justice, HVRP, GPD, DCHV)
- PL 110-387 (2008): Veterans Mental Health and other Care Improvements Act (SSVF, Homeless Prevention Services)
- ARRA (2009): American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
- HEARTH Act (2009): The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act as Amended by Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act
- ESG (2012): Emergency Solutions Grant

VHA Homeless Program History 1986-2009

HCMI
Homeless Chronic Mentally Ill Program (1986/1987)

GPD
Homeless Providers Grant/Per Diem Program (1994)

HCRV
Healthcare for Reentry Veterans (2007)

HUD-VASH
Housing and Urban Development/VA Supportive Housing (2009)

VJO
Veterans Justice Outreach (2009)

GPD/SN
GPD/TA
HCHV
CWT/TR
GPD
HVDP
RRTP/
TR
DCHV
TEPS/WM/CTI
SH
SH/
VASH
5-Year Plan
CWT
GPD/LS
GPD/PDO
CICH

86-87   92-93   94-95   2000   04-05   06-07-08

2009

Source: Paul Smits, National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans

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VHA Homeless Program History 2009 - 2018

HCHV
GPD
DCHV →
HUD-VASH →
HCRV/VJO

NCCHC
National Call Center
for Homeless Veterans
(2009)

The Center
National Center
on Homelessness among
Veterans (2009)

**Safe Haven &
Housing First**
Pilots (2009)

HVSEP
Homeless Veterans
Supportive Employment
Program (2011-2014)

CRRC
Community
Resource and
Referral Centers Pilots
(2011)

SSVF
Supportive Services
For Veterans and
their Families (FY 2012)

GPD
Transition in Place (TIP)

HPACT
2012 36
2013 expansion 63

HVCES
Homeless Veterans
Community Employment
Services (2014)

**CRRC
Safe Haven**
operational

GPD
Low Demand
Bridge
Hospital to Housing
Clinical Services
Service Intensive
(2017)

HCHV
CRRCs/Safe Havens
GPD
DCHV
HUD-VASH
HCRV/VJO
SSVF
HVCES
GPD-R

2009   2011   2012   2014   2015   2017   2018

Source: Paul Smits, National Center on Homelessness Among
Veterans

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What We Have Learned

- **Time-Limited Transitional Housing may help connect to permanent housing**
  - Short-Term "Crisis" or Interim
  - Scattered Site and Transition in Place

- **Transitional Housing for High-Need Populations**
  - Sometimes facility-based
  - Sometimes Congregate living
    - Supporting recovery for substance use
    - Supporting sense of security for domestic violence
    - Supporting peer connections for youth

- **Low-Barrier Transitional Housing, Focus on Permanent Housing**
  - Sometimes facility-based
  - Sometimes Congregate living
    - Supporting recovery for substance use
    - Supporting sense of security for domestic violence
    - Supporting peer connections for youth

- **Diversion/Rapid Resolution, Rapid Rehousing, and Permanent Supportive Housing**
  - Diverse resources now available within systems
  - Ensure housing plans are individualized

HUD Joint TH-RRH Component Projects

- First offered in the 2017 HUD CoC NOFA (Summer 2017)

- A way to meet pressing challenges and filling gaps: street homelessness, youth, and domestic violence

- Provide a safe space for people to stay –the transitional housing component – while providing financial assistance and wrap around supportive services to help people move into and stabilize in permanent housing –the rapid re-housing portion

HUD Joint Component TH-RRH

HUD Expectations

- Use a Housing First approach with client-driven service models

- Incorporate client-choice

- Target and prioritize people experiencing homelessness with higher needs and who are most vulnerable

HUD Joint Component TH-RRH Best Practices

Survivors of Domestic Violence

- Safety Planning (How Survivor Defines It)
- Connection to Diverse Community Services
- Flexible Financial Assistance
- Flexible Engagement

Youth

- Shared Housing
- Scattered Site
- Maximizing youth client choice in determining unit and location

All Populations

- Landlord Engagement
- Trauma-Informed
- Staff Training
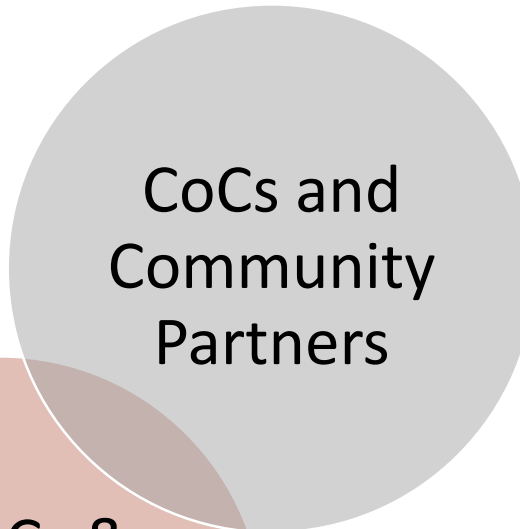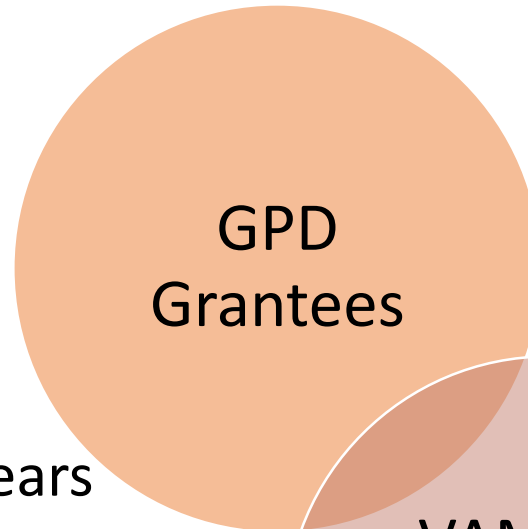- Client Choice; flexible response and engagement

Our Overall Goal

An end to homelessness **does not mean that no one will ever experience a housing crisis again**. An end to homelessness means that every community will have a **systematic response in place** that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible or is otherwise **a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience.**

Transform

Start · Continue · Milestone

GPD Grantee Role with Strategy

Program

System

GPD Grantees

CoCs and Community Partners

VAMCs & GPD Liaisons
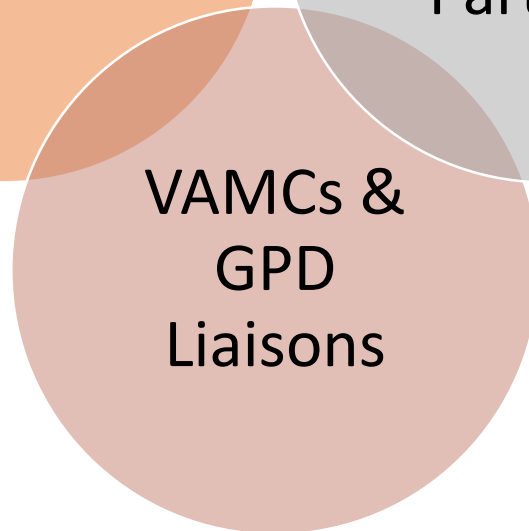
Learning over past 2 years
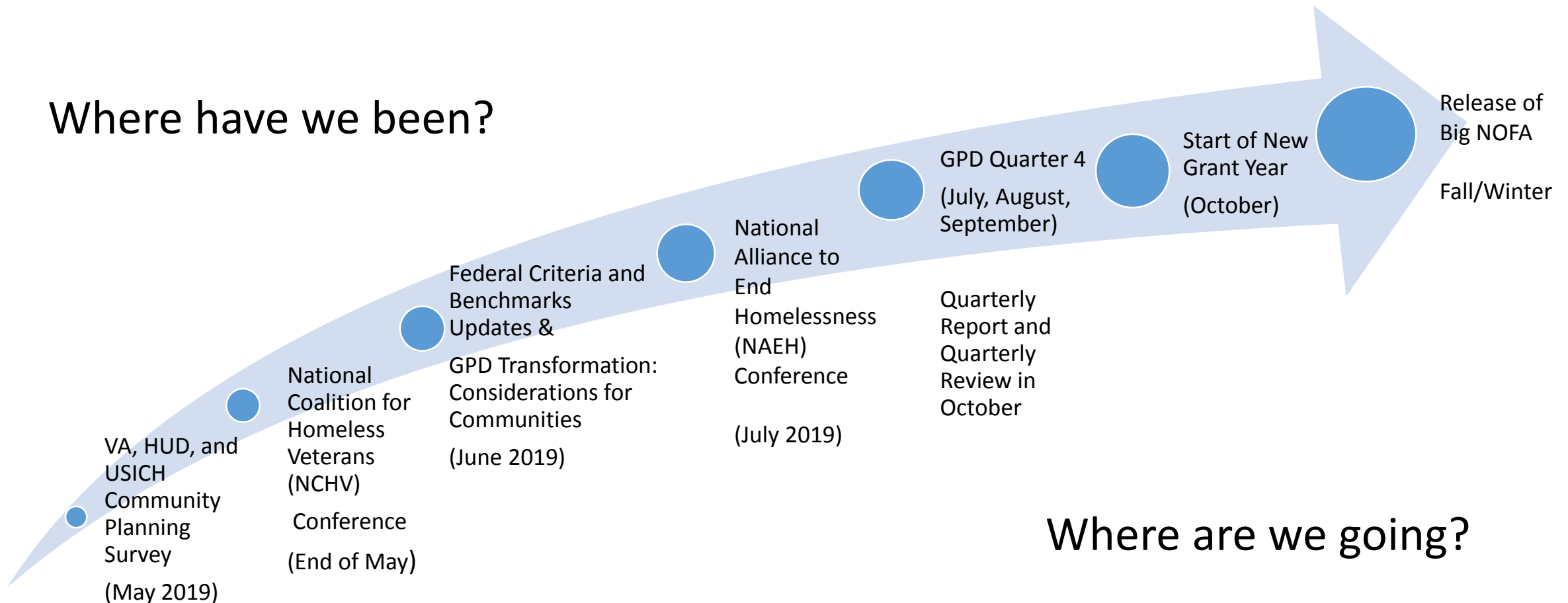
Putting learning into action

Strategic Planning Tools

Quarterly Reviews ★

Federal Criteria and Benchmarks ★

Master List/Active List/By Name List and Benchmark Generation Tool

USICH & VA Transformation of GPD: Considerations for Communities ★

HMIS and HOMES ★

CoC Gaps Analysis Tool

VA, HUD, and USICH Community Planning Survey Responses

★ = Topics we will cover today

Reflection Points and Opportunities for Dialogue and Planning

Where have we been?

VA, HUD, and USICH Community Planning Survey

(May 2019)

National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV)

Conference

(End of May)

Federal Criteria and Benchmarks Updates &

GPD Transformation: Considerations for Communities

(June 2019)

National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) Conference

(July 2019)

GPD Quarter 4

(July, August, September)

Quarterly Report and Quarterly Review in October

Start of New Grant Year

(October)

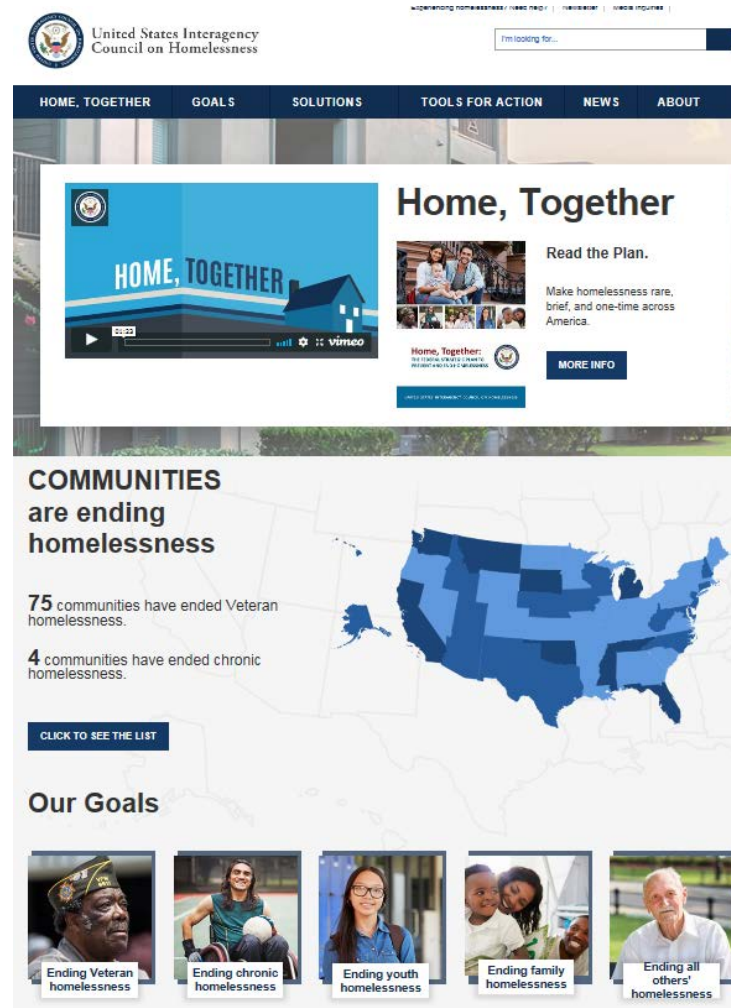Release of Big NOFA

Fall/Winter

Where are we going?

Just Released! Updated Federal Criteria & Benchmarks

What's New?

- *GPD Quick Guide*
  - Page 11
- GPD in 2 groups:
  - Service
  - Bridge
- Enhanced Definitions
  - Pages 13 and 14

What's the Same?

- Overall requirements
- The process for preparing and submitting a claim
- Our commitment

Federal Criteria and Benchmarks

Just Released! The Transformation of VA GPD Programs: Considerations for Communities

- Released on June 27, 2019

- Co-Published by USICH and VA GPD PO

- Overview of the housing models currently funded through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Grant and Per Diem (GPD) programs

- Describes the current mix of implementation of the various GPD models

- Provides some considerations for CoCs and community stakeholders as this transformation is implemented and navigated locally

- GPD Transformation: Considerations for Communities
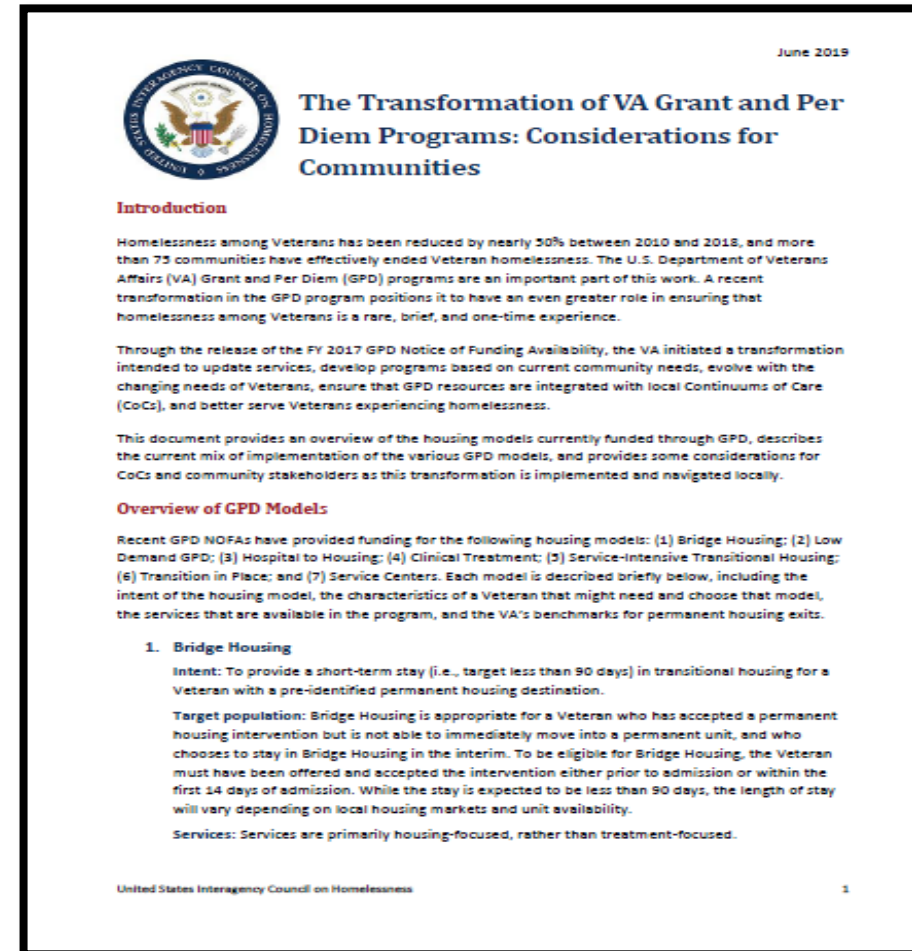
USICH & VA Transformation of GPD

- **Creates common language**
  - Model, Intent, Target Population, Services, Housing Placement
- **Charts and Tools**
  - Current Mix of GPD Models
  - Beds and Models by VISN
- **How we can work together**
- **Next Steps:** Take the lead in sharing the new document; use it as a starting point for dialogue where helpful.

VISN 2

7% 3% 0%
7%
24%
59%

CT SITH Bridge LowDem H2H TIP
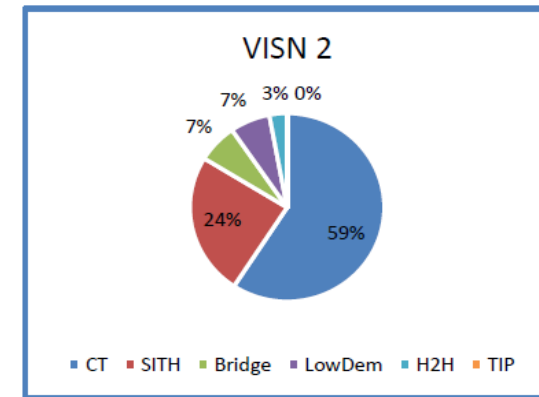
Transitional Housing's Role with Permanent Housing Placement: *System*

- Community Planning to End Homelessness and Transitional Housing

- Being Strategic with Grant Funding to support community need

- How to plan forward and what tools are available to help with planning (what this means, bringing stakeholders together, having strategic conversations)

Transitional Housing's Role with Permanent Housing Placement: *Program*

- System conversations may guide program design

- Low barrier and harm reduction

- Acceleration of permanent housing placements and wrapping supports around as needed

- Housing conversation begins upfront and continues

- Staff are trained in tools such as landlord engagement, tenant screening and housing retention barriers, etc.

- Specialized services

- Embracing housing first and client choice

Dialogue

- What questions do you have?
- What is working in your community?
- Where do you need support?
- For programs and communities that have shifted, what does it look like?
- How can we be inclusive in our strategies and partnerships?