

A5. Income and Resource Maximization

2018 Rapid Rehousing Institute

Agenda

- PLEASE ADD AGENDA SLIDE and INTRODUCTIONS/WHO IS IN THE ROOM



Principles of Housing First

- Immediate access to **permanent** housing
- Consumer choice
- Recovery orientation
- Individualized supports
- Social integration



Housing First

What is the goal of Housing First?

- Short term → crisis response
- Long term → housing stability



Employment: Benefits and Barriers

What are the benefits of employment?

- Income
- Empowerment/Self-esteem
- Contribution to Society
- Connection to Others
- Improved Physical/Mental Health



Integrating Employment and Housing

Let's review the 5 principles with an employment lens:

- Immediate Access
- Consumer Choice
- Recovery Orientation
- Individualized Supports
- Social Integration

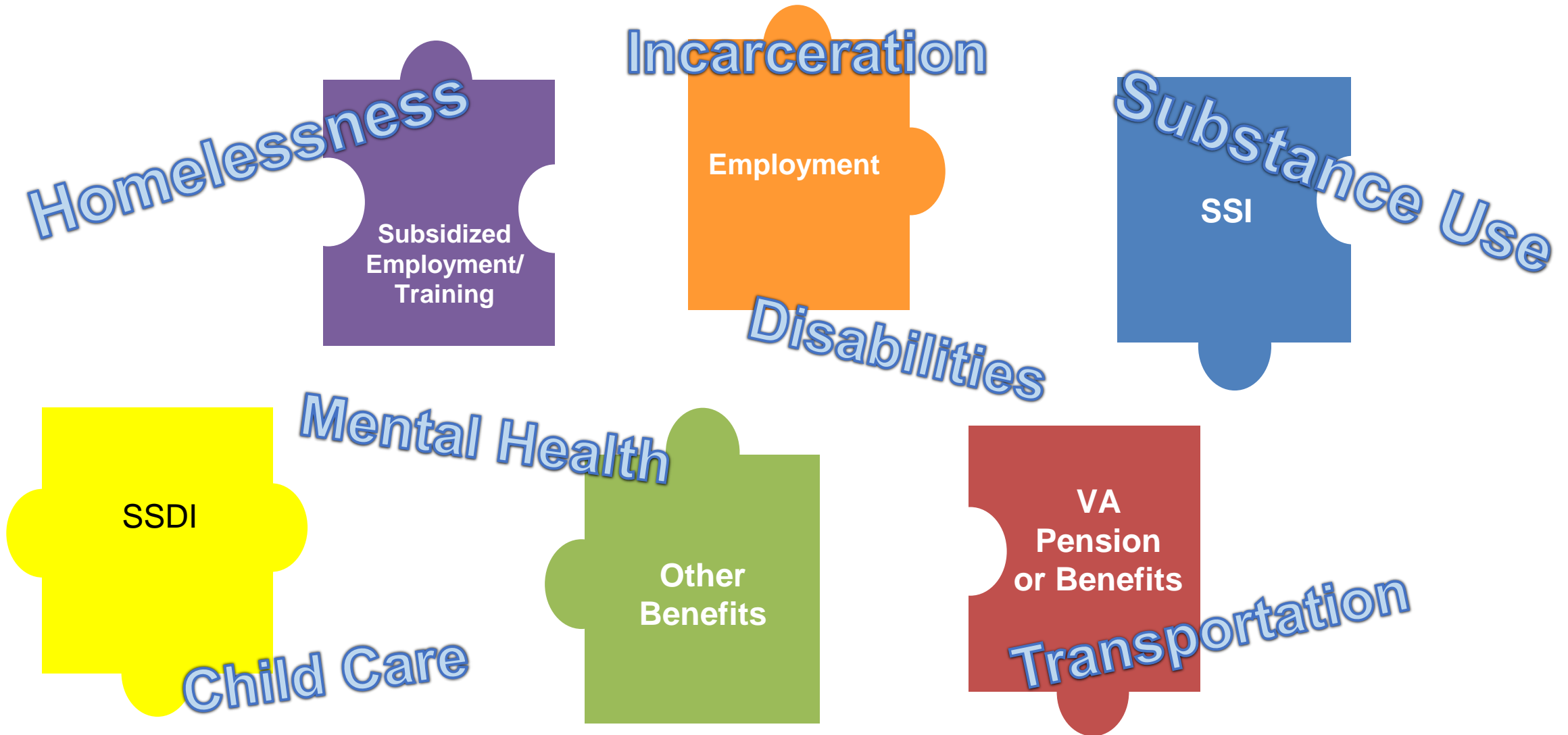


Income Supports: Early and Often

- Housing Stability requires a source or, more often, many sources of income.
- Talk about income and employment options early and often
 - Time Intensive
 - Myth Busting
 - Addressing Barriers
- Lack of income is not a reason to deny housing!

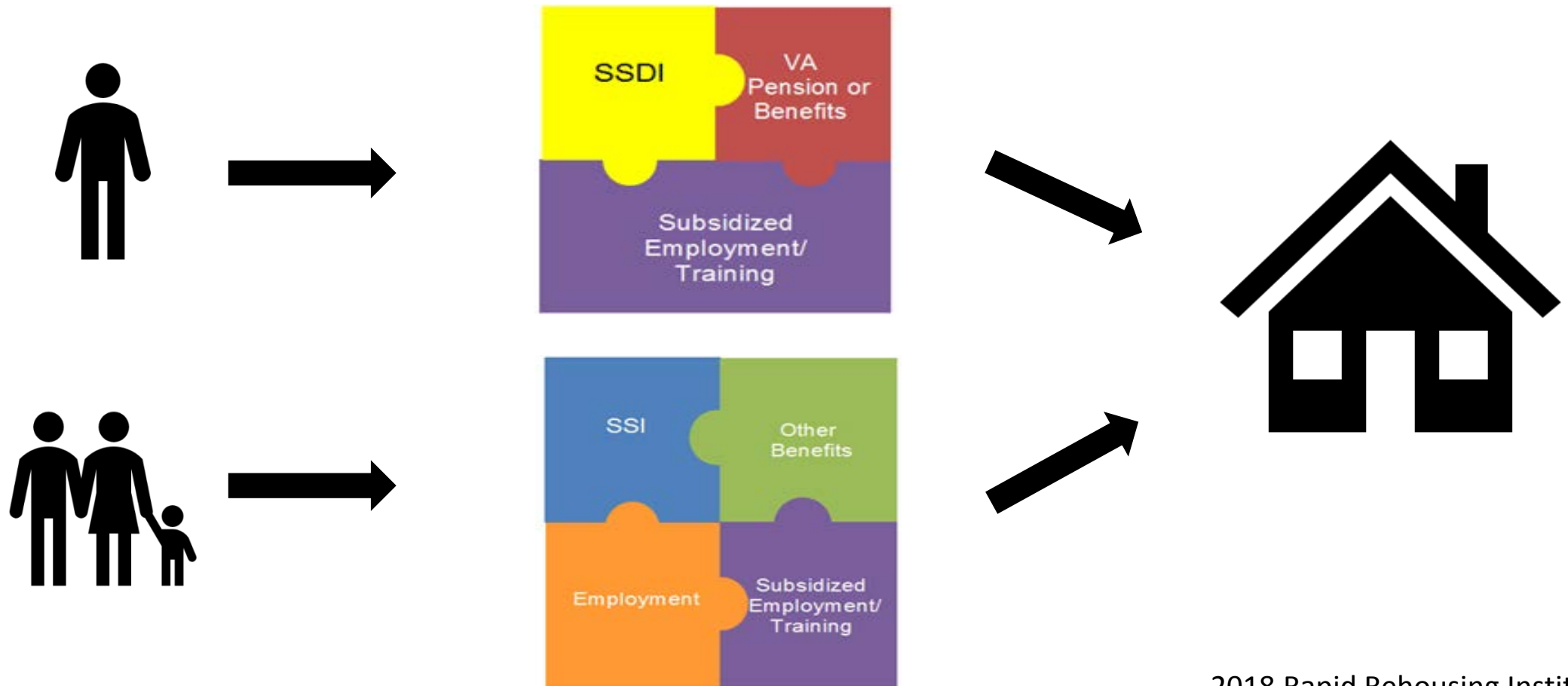


The Income Puzzle...



The Income Puzzle

Putting the pieces together in the right combination for each individual leads to housing stability.



Individual Activity/Reflection

What are the barriers to accessing income?

- Client Level
- Organization/Institution Level



Group Activity: Barriers and Solutions

Directions:

1. Identify a notetaker and a speaker who will report out to the group.
2. Read your assigned scenario.
3. As a group discuss the scenario to identify:
 - a. Barriers to employment/income/benefit maximization
 - b. Strategies and solutions to address those barriers
4. Groups report out.



Scenario 1

You are a supervisor for a rapid rehousing program. A client asks if you can help her get a job so she can pay her rent when her financial assistance ends. You suggest she bring this up at her next case management appointment, and she replies that her case worker “wants her to wait” on employment. After looking through the files you notice that this case manager does not have anyone on his/her caseload who is pursuing employment. During supervision, you discover that the case worker is resistant to encouraging employment for his/her clients.

What might the caseworker be thinking? How do you address this?



Scenario 2

You are working with Martin who is receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and is not currently working. He is having difficulty keeping up with rent payments, even with a voucher, and is also having difficulty supporting his basic needs. He wants to explore options for getting additional income, but he doesn't know what he can do because he's "disabled" and is deeply afraid of losing SSI benefits.

What might be some of Martin's fears? What other sources of income could he explore? What barriers do you need to address and how could you help him develop an income stability plan?



Scenario 3

A new family has just been assigned to your caseload: Tom, Maria, and their seven year old son Marcus. Tom was forced to quit his job after a car accident left him unable to stand for long periods. Mary's part-time position kept them stable for awhile, but the bills piled up, and they were recently evicted. At your initial meeting, Tom stresses his ability and desire to go back to work asap, while Maria is more concerned with keeping Marcus at his current elementary school.

How would you develop a service plan for this family? What are the barriers you need to address? What partners will you need to engage? What will you do first?



Scenario 4

Isaac was recently transferred to your caseload from a colleague's by mutual agreement. In your meetings to date, you have found him to be intelligent, friendly, and dependable. Isaac has a history of substance use and is open about the fact that he still uses, although you have never seen him under the influence. The search for permanent housing is moving quickly, and Isaac wants to move forward with getting a job. He worked successfully as an electrician for 10 years before being laid off when the company downsized.

How would you develop a service plan for Isaac? What are his employment-related assets and barriers? Is he “employment ready”?



Individual Activity/Reflection Part 2

What is a possible solution to the barrier you identified earlier?



Hand-Outs: Tools and Resources

- Tools and Resources
 - *VA Income and Benefits Calculator*
 - *Program and **System** Assessment Checklist*
 - *Resource List*



Q & A

- Questions?
- Contact Information:

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