

A1. Rapid Re-Housing and Federal Resources

Similarities, Differences and Opportunities

2018 Rapid Rehousing Institute

Goals for this session:

- Understand the basic similarities and differences between various federally funded RRH programs.
- Understand the different areas of flexibility in RRH programs and how local policies and decisions can influence the effectiveness of a given project.
- Explore the concept of braided/layered funding sources to meet unique client needs and how eligibility and services can effect client outcomes.



Who is here? Quick show of hands!

- RRH Program Frontline Staff
- RRH Program Manager/Director
- Executive Director
- SSVF-funded RRH
- ESG-funded RRH
- CoC-funded RRH
- Other funded RRH
- CoC/System Leadership
- Other



Introduce yourselves!

Please take a few minutes to introduce yourselves to the other attendees at your table.

What is your role RRH in your community?



Agenda

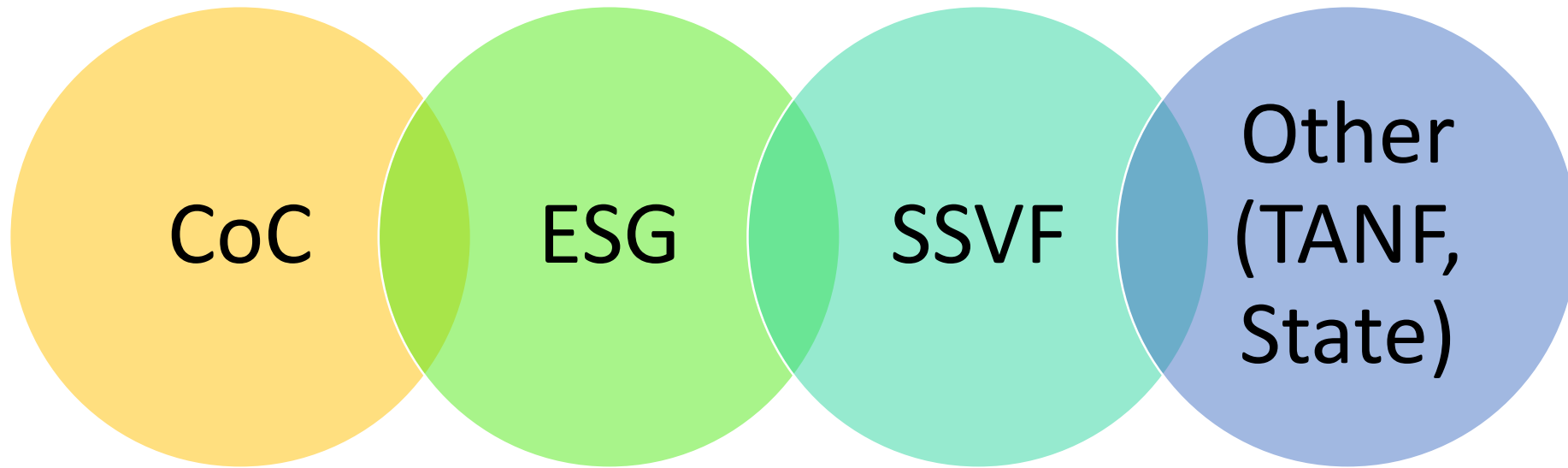
- Overview of Federal RRH Resources
 - ESG, CoC, SSVF, & Others
- RRH Resource Myth Busting
- RRH Core Components and Core Concepts
- Federal Resources Crosswalk
- Community Presentations
- Case Study Exercise
- Debrief, Q&A



RRH Federal Resource Overview



Know your programs:



Continuum of Care (CoC) Program

- The CoC Program is a competitive program that funds the following:
 - Permanent Housing (Including RRH and PSH)
 - Transitional Housing
 - Supportive Services
 - HMIS

The CoC Program is designed to:

- Promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness;
- To provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, States, and local governments to quickly re-house homeless individuals, families, persons fleeing domestic violence, and youth while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness;
- To promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families;
- And to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness.



Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

- ESG is a formula grant program. Eligible recipients generally consist of metropolitan cities, urban counties, territories, and states.
- The ESG Program funds Street Outreach, Emergency Shelter, Rapid re-housing, and Homelessness Prevention
- Metropolitan cities, urban counties and territories may subgrant ESG funds to private nonprofit organizations.
- State recipients must subgrant all of their ESG funds (except for funds for administrative costs and under certain conditions, HMIS costs) to units of general purpose local government and/or private nonprofit organizations.
- All recipients must consult with the Continuum(s) of Care operating within the jurisdiction in determining how to allocate ESG funds.



Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)

- The SSVF program is a VA-funded RRH resource.
- Supportive services grants have been awarded to selected private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives that assist very low-income Veteran families residing in or transitioning to permanent housing.
- Grantees provide a range of supportive services to eligible Veteran families that are designed to promote housing stability.



Other RRH Resources

- **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** is funding available through the Department of Health and Human Services. These funds can be used to help families move in to housing as quickly as possible, regardless of whether the families are receiving TANF cash assistance.
- **HOME (HOME Investment Partnerships Program)** HOME is funding available through HUD. Participating jurisdictions may choose to use a portion of their administrative allowance, which is up to 10 percent of the grant amount, to administer a tenant-based rental assistance program.
- **Other private and/or state resources in your community**



RRH Myth Busting!



Myth Buster #1

RRH is only a 90 day program. Households can't receive case management or financial assistance for longer than a 3 month period...



Busted!

While the intent of RRH is to provide a short-term intervention, it is acceptable and common for RRH grantees to provide lengths of service that are either shorter or longer than three months. Determination of length and amount of assistance is based on a progressive engagement/ assistance approach that requires ongoing assessment, evaluation and housing planning to best meet the needs of the individual household.



Myth Buster #2

The income limit for receiving ESG rapid re-housing assistance is 30% AMI. Households over 30% AMI are not eligible for this resource.



Busted!

The ESG Interim Rule does not impose any federally required income limits at program enrollment. This is established locally according to the community's RRH Written Standards.

Instead, each annual re-evaluation of eligibility thereafter must establish that the program participant has an annual income that does not exceed 30 percent of median family income for the area, as determined by HUD.



Myth Buster #3

Rapid re-housing doesn't work for households with zero or limited income. The ideal RRH participant has gainful employment.



Busted!

SSVF outcome data has shown that households who enter with little or no income are not significantly more likely to lose their housing. Strong case management and service packages promote housing stability (including income) while in housing and enrolled in RRH.



Myth Buster #4

RRH primarily focused on providing rental assistance and other financial help to eligible households.



Busted!

While RRH almost always include a financial component, supportive services and case management are as, if not more, critical in promoting housing stability, particularly for households with higher housing access and retention barriers.



Myth Buster #5

If we use RRH to house someone,
they lose their eligibility for PSH if
needed in the future.

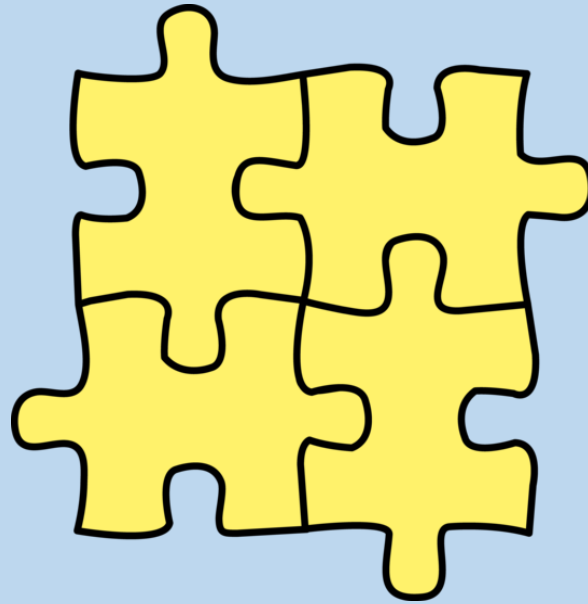


Busted!

Households who are eligible for PSH retain their eligibility to transfer to PSH while still enrolled in the RRH program. RRH should always strive to be the single intervention to promote a sustainable tenancy, but there are way to transfer a client from RRH to PSH if progressive assistance is not successful and the client was eligible prior to entry to the RRH program.



Rapid Re-housing Core Components



Core Components

Housing Identification



Rent and Move-in Assistance



Case Management and Services



Housing Identification

- Recruit landlords to provide housing opportunities for individuals and families experiencing homelessness
- Leverage non-traditional and other housing opportunities
- Address potential barriers to landlord participation such as concern about the short term nature of rental assistance and tenant qualifications
- Assist households to find and secure appropriate permanent housing



Housing Identification

ESG	CoC	SSVF
Funds may pay for housing search and placement services for up to 24 months. These services, however, are very narrowly defined to include housing search and placement only, and do not include the broader case management services permitted under § 576.105(b)(2).	Funds may pay for housing search and counseling services. Costs of assisting eligible program participants to locate, obtain, and retain suitable housing are eligible.	Funds may pay for housing location and counseling services as part of an individualized, housing-focused case management relationship.



Rent and Move-in Assistance

Provide assistance to cover move-in costs, deposits, and the rental and/or utility assistance necessary to allow individuals and families to move immediately out of homelessness and to stabilize in permanent housing.

- *Assistance is only as needed, but adequate (progressive assistance)*
- *Assistance is flexible*
- *Assistance relies on tenant to share in costs*
- *Assistance is scaled back responsibly*



Rent and Move-in Assistance

ESG	CoC	SSVF
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Short-term rental assistance (up to 3 months)• Medium-term rental assistance (4 to 24 months)• Rental arrears (one-time payment of up to 6 months of rent in arrears, including any late fees on those arrears) <p>❖ Tenant-Based OR Project-Based Rental Assistance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Short-term rental assistance (up to 3 months)• Medium-term rental assistance (4 to 24 months) <p>❖ Tenant-Based Rental Assistance ONLY</p> <p>Under “Rental Assistance”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maximum 10 months in a 2-year period• Maximum 6 months in 12-month period <p>Extremely Low Income: Max. 12 months in a 2-year period Max. 9 months in 12-month period</p>



Case Management and Services

- Focus on Housing Screening and Retention Barriers first
- Connections to mainstream and other local resources
- Work with landlords and tenants to ensure smooth housing relationship
- Tailor case management and services to tenant housing needs and personal goals
- Focus on housing retention, not solving all problems
- Leverage specialists where needed (not everyone can know everything)
- Adjust housing plan as needed to support housing
- Plan for today, with an eye for tomorrow



Case Management and Services

ESG

- Housing search and placement
- Housing stability case management
- Mediation
- Legal services
- Credit repair

CoC

- Case management
- Child care
- Education services Employment assistance and job training
- Food
- Housing search and counseling services, including mediation, credit repair, and payment of rental application fee
- Legal services
- Life skills training
- Mental health services Moving costs
- Outpatient health services
- Outreach services
- Substance abuse treatment services
- Transportation
- Utility deposits

SSVF

- Housing location & counseling
- General housing stability
- Daily-living services
- Transportation
- Child care
- Personal finance planning
- Income support
- Employment services
- Fiduciary & Rep Payee services
- Emergency housing assistance
- Legal assistance



RRH Core Concepts

Housing First

Participants' choices are respected and guide re-housing assistance:

Choice about if/when/how to address non housing-related personal issues.

Participants choose who they want to live with whether family or shared housing, or no one at all

Within practical limits, they choose the location and the housing unit

Crisis Response

A crisis response program focuses on resolving the immediate crisis:

Does not expect to solve all barriers/challenges an individual faces

Leverages the principle that once crisis of homelessness is resolved, other personal goals can be pursued

A better alternative to shelter, particularly for highly vulnerable people for whom no PSH available

Client Choice

Participants' choices are respected and guide re-housing assistance:

Choice about if/when/how to address non housing-related personal issues.

Participants choose who they want to live with whether family or shared housing, or no one at all

Within practical limits, they choose the location and the housing unit



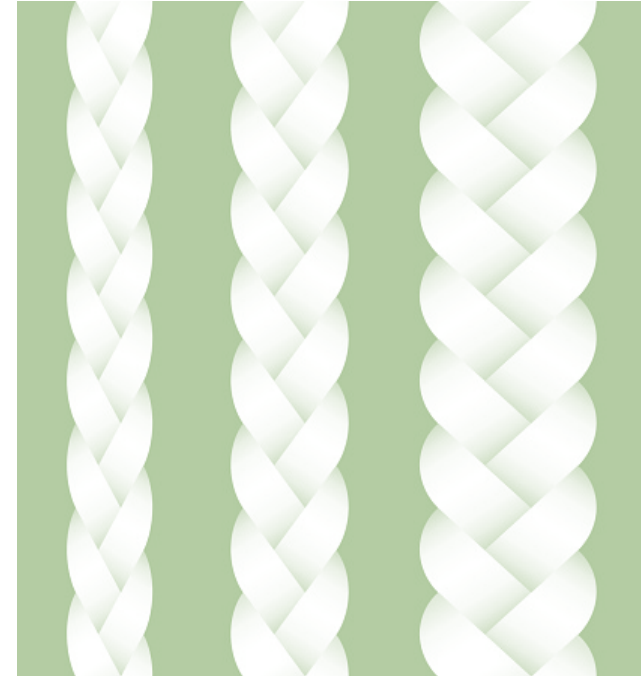
Bringing RRH to Scale: Braiding & Blending Funds

- Funding sources have different restrictions so figure out which funds can be used
- If you can combine sources, you can move households through RRH services and have multiple sources address different core components of RRH
- Make it seamless: the household being served should never feel the change in funding type
- With sources braided, more households can be served and with a wider array of options



Braiding Funding

- Lots of different funds are used for rapid re-housing
- Funding streams may have different eligibility or reporting requirements
- Tracking and accountability is maintained at administrative/systems level
- One contract



Blending Funding

- Lots of different funds are combined into a flexible pool for rapid re-housing
- One set of eligibility and reporting requirements
- They are allocated to providers without specific requirements
- One contract



Federal Resource Mapping



Community Presentations



NH Statewide Collaboration

#NH Proud

Mandy Reagan

- Program Manager
Supportive Services for Veteran Families
Harbor Homes- Partnership for Successful Living
- Co-Chair Greater Nashua Continuum of Care
- Chair Ending Veteran Homelessness subcommittee

Kristi Schott

- CoC Program Administrator
Bureau of Housing Supports
Division of Economic & Housing Stability
NH Dept. of Health & Human Services
- Co-Chair of Statewide (All 3 CoCs') Youth Sub-Committee
- Lead of Built for Zero and NH Coordinated Entry Subcommittee

Overview of RRH in NH

- COCs' in NH: NH has three CoCs': Greater Nashua (GNCoC), Manchester (MCoC) and Balance of State (BoSCoC)
- SSVF: Two statewide SSVF grantees providing supportive services to eligible very low-income Veteran families. Services include outreach, case management, assistance in obtaining VA benefits, and help in accessing and coordinating other public benefits. Temporary financial assistance on behalf of Veterans to cover areas such as rent, utilities, security deposits and moving costs.
- ESG: provides prevention services, Housing Relocation & Stabilization Services, and RRH in collaboration with 8 providers statewide;
- COC: Currently three RRH projects and one of those projects has a specific subpopulation focus of 18-24 year olds.

Since the 2017 RRH institute

- NH has learned lessons about effective messaging and communication;
- We have learned that we need to communicate to everyone who touches homelessness;
- We have remarketed our Coordinated Entry System to serve the individuals/ families in our CoC through a single point of entry.
- Sharing resources raises the quality of services, support and efficiency of housing those identified as experiencing homelessness
- Importance of both “top down” and “bottom up” approaches

GNCoc RRH Subcommittee-November 2017

- Initial Discussions were driven around building trust and rapport;
- Importance of inclusive language/ approach in pursuit of vulnerability to impact change;
- Our group is working on the creation of a common ground and discussions on “same speak” language;
- We have been examining local regulations vs federal regulations;
- We are looking at implementing a standardized screening tool for CES;
- GNCoc has updated the governance charter to reflect standardized approaches with RRH.

BoSCoC Development since 2017 RRH

- BoSCoC has been working together with the other 2 CoCs' to develop partnerships in all efforts to prevent and end homelessness;

These efforts include:

- ✓ Statewide youth subcommittee;
- ✓ Statewide coordinated entry approach; and
- ✓ Statewide response to ending veteran homelessness.

BoSCoC RRH efforts

- Bureau of Housing Supports, as the recipient of BoSCoC NOFA funding, has analyzed gaps in resources and has put forth new projects in FY2018 NOFA, including a Domestic Violence RRH project and a youth focused RRH project in collaboration with the only statewide Runaway and Homeless Youth Provider (RHY);
- BoSCoC's has worked with new and renewal RRHs' projects to have a focus on youth 18-24 year olds as this project component type has been shown to be effective with this population.

GNCOC RRH Collaboration

- BoSCoC and GNCOC collaborated to bring two Northern New England RRH Institutes including a statewide session in Spring of 2018;
- One of the GNCOC ESG grantee is focusing on Veterans who are not eligible for SSVF services;
- GNCOC has instituted a landlord recruitment and retention workgroup led by SSVF housing navigator;

Statewide areas of development

- Integrating RRH messaging/resources to further statewide collaboration of CoC goals to serve all individuals, families, and youth in NH:
 - SSVF hired a dual role with the Nashua Public School district to align with the Ending Youth and Families homelessness initiatives going on in the state. Homelessness liaison/Veteran family case manager.
 - SSVF Legal and Benefit Specialist- building a SOAR system response with BOSCO. Improved relationships with Social Security for other providers.
 - Alternative funding RRH programs

Contact Information

Mandy Reagan

Program Manager SSVF

Harbor Homes, Inc

- M.Reagan@nhpartnership.org
- 603-816-6010
- 77 Northeastern Blvd, Nashua
NH 03062

Kristi Schott

CoC Program Administrator

- Kristiane.Schott@dhhs.nh.gov
- (603)573-6144
- 129 Pleasant St., Concord, NH
03301

Case Studies



Discussion, Debrief, Q&A

