Meredith is a 32-year-old single mother of three. Meredith is new to the area. She moved here because she is fleeing domestic violence. Her oldest son Sam is 11-years-old and has Autism. The two other children Melinda and June are twins. They are each 5-years-old. They were born premature and Melinda spent 40 weeks in NICU. The twins both continue to have health related challenges, including severe allergies to dust and mold. The family has been at the shelter for three months. All of the children will start school in six weeksk and Meredith really wants to find an apartment before school starts. Meredith has never been on a lease so she has no rental history and is currently unemployed. Due to the situation she is in, she has only had limited contact with friends and family in her home town but she is in regular contact with her mother who lives in another state. Her mother has agreed that if Meredith can find a place she could help pay some bills and necessity costs when reasonable. Meredith consistently misses appointment and is often either very frantic or she almost falls asleep. She reports no drug or alcohol use. While at the shelter Meredith has been able to finish her GED by taking night classes and will be enrolling in a vocational program for phlebotomy that starts the same time the children start school. She is very optimistic about the course and career. The program she is in successfully places 85% of graduates into jobs within 40 days of graduation with a third of those individuals earning between $18-20 per hour.

Tenant Screening Barriers and Assets

Housing Retention Barriers and Assets

Other household challenges that do or may not directly affect the action housing crisis?

Tom is a 41-year-old Navy Veteran. He has been in the shelter for exactly one year. Tom has lived in a lot of different places across the country. He reports to have had many apartments since he left the Navy almost 20 years ago, but he does not remember staying in any place very long and almost always leaves before the terms of the lease have expired. Tom was an Information System Technician in the Navy. He has a very impressive resume relating to Information Technology but has been unable keep work. Tom owns several personal devices such as a laptop, IPhone and a personal gaming device. Over the last year he can constantly be found in a local library playing computer games or looking for jobs on the internet. But Tom is difficult to engage. He seems persistently distracted by his devices. Tom does have a 10% service connected disability. The compensation was awarded because, Tom reports, that during basic training one of his ship mates drowned in front of him. Coincidently, Tom has very recently reconnected with other shipmates on social media and one of his mates currently lives locally in an affordable (tax credit and VA partnership) 2-bedroom apartment for previously homeless veterans. Unfortunately, the apartments were built on federal land near a local VA Medical Center and they have strict drug and alcohol policies. Tom doesn't report to have drug or alcohol related issues, but doesn't like the idea of not being able to have a beer in his living room after work. He's also not sure what other eligibility criteria the housing has in place and wants to keep his options open.

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