STRATEGIES TO
END HOMELESSNESS
prevent. assist. solve.

Successful PHA Partnership

Kevin Finn, MSW, LISW
President/CEO
kfinn@end-homelessness.org

Key Steps in PHA Partnership:

- Homeless Preference
- Wait list
- Eligibility Determination
- Prioritization
- Application review
- Follow-up

Homeless Preference

- Worked with the Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) to incorporate homelessness as a preference
  - Incorporated into Strategic Plan adopted by CMHA Board each April, effective July 1
    - Adopted April 2015
    - Effective July 1, 2015
  - Preference applies to both Housing Choice Voucher program (HCV= Section 8) & Asset Management site-based housing programs

Wait List

- Referrals go onto waitlist even when waitlist is closed to new applications
  - Important because approximately 11,000 households on waitlist at any given time
  - On average, remain on waitlist for 3-5 years

- Preference allows CMHA to identify and prioritize populations with greatest need
- Combination of placement onto waitlist & preference means referrals are high on list immediately

Eligibility Determination

- CMHA plan = self report
  - Self report = total waste of time
- Eligibility determined by the CoC
  - Referrals come with documentation that the household has been on the street or in a shelter in the past
  - If household applies with CMHA & indicates they are homeless, STEH is asked to provide documentation
    - No third party documentation = no preference

Prioritization

- Almost 13,000 people moving through homeless services system each year
  - Only a certain number of referrals
  - We need to be very intentional about referrals
- Started with PSH exits only, following “Moving On” strategy
  - Have incorporated RRH, TH & Shelter Diversion referrals as access to referrals has grown
- Coordinated Exit Subcommittee
  - Review requested referrals from around CoC
  - Ensure appropriate & **ELIGIBLE**
  - Some better than none

Application Review & Follow-Up

- Important that the application is complete in addition to doing everything we can possibly do to ensure eligibility
- Need to provide follow up when referrals are not approved, hearing to be requested
- Strategies to End Homelessness employs a full-time employee who does nothing but process & review applications, provide homelessness documentation, & follow-up with case managers that are working with referred clients

STEH CMHA Partnership History