Attachment for Press Release: INNOVATIVE HOUSING PROGRAM HELPED MORE THAN 700 HOMELESS FAMILIES FIND PERMANENT HOUSING

Hawai‘i Community Foundation’s HousingASAP Program Results and Functional Zero for Family Homelessness Definition

CORE TAKE-AWAYS/LESSONS/CONCLUSIONS/RESULTS

1. RESULTS FOR FAMILIES: HASAP moved 714 families from homelessness to permanent housing in 2½ years.
   a. The January 2017 Point-in-Time count saw a 17% decrease in homeless families statewide compared to 2016 – the only time this number decreased in the last 5 years.
   b. The largest decreases occurred in Maui with 46% fewer unsheltered homeless families and on Hawai‘i Island with a 45% decrease overall in homeless families (sheltered and unsheltered) compared to previous year. There was an overall 11% decrease on O‘ahu and 3% decrease on Kaua‘i.
   c. And compared to when we began in late 2014 the 8 HASAP shelters decreased the time it takes to place families in permanent housing by 38% (51 fewer days) from Emergency Shelters and 24% (98 fewer days) from Transitional Shelters.

2. RESULTS FOR SHELTER ORGANIZATIONS: The HASAP organizations changed and strengthened their own leadership and organizations in ways that both improved the capacity and focus of them as individual leaders and organizations but it also helped each make the challenging transition to putting the Housing First philosophy into real and effective practice on the front lines.
   a. 5 organizations began converting their transitional shelter approach into one that focuses on shorter-term shelter stays and increased placement in permanent housing, a dramatic change to their business and operating models.
   b. All organizations increased their use of HMIS data not only for accountability but for practical analysis and learning to understand and adapt to changing conditions and cycles of homeless families.
   c. All organizations translated their experiences and lessons of HASAP into real and effective changes in their organizations across their various service strategies including how they staff, how they use data for accountability and adaptation, and how they collaborate and work with other service providers.

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RESULTS FOR THE NETWORK AND SYSTEM:

d. Collectively over the last 3 years as the HASAP network performance on placing families in permanent housing improved, non-HASAP shelters’ overall performance decreased – especially in emergency shelters.

e. The HASAP network collectively and successfully promoted and advocated for changes in the state legislation and procurement rules which worked against Housing First.

f. The HASAP network is now working together to take on and implement the HUD-required Coordinated Entry System for families in both Continuums of Care (Partners in Care on O‘ahu and Bridging the Gap on the Neighbor Islands).

g. The HASAP network is also working together to implement a statewide Housing First training and leadership academy for all homeless service providers.

h. Most importantly, the HASAP network has collectively committed to housing all homeless families and getting to functional zero for family homelessness by the end of 2018.

FAMILY HOMELESSNESS FUNCTIONAL ZERO DEFINITION = the point at which every family in Hawai‘i that becomes homeless can be placed into housing within 30 days

Getting to Functional Zero for families will require:

- Having a total number of available resources (vouchers, subsidies, housing units [public, private, market-rate, subsidized]) that is greater than the number of families becoming homeless each month
  - This includes making sure that we have an even larger number of and range of resources to ensure an appropriate match for a family’s needs across all levels of acuity (seriousness of issues faced by the families)
- Making sure that all families can be “document ready” within 30 days and have the legal papers and identification they need to be placed in housing
- Working through the current “backlog” of existing homeless families that have been waiting for a housing placement longer than 30 days
- Being able to record and track all available resources and match them to families according to their needs through the Coordinated Entry System
- Encouraging more homeless families to consent to being included in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for both tracking and referral by the Coordinated Entry System.

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Current baseline data on family homelessness:

- The 2017 Point in Time Count (representing a single day) identified 666 homeless families in the State (19% unsheltered). Many of these families represent the “backlog” of families that still need housing but some of these families will find housing on their own.

- Using data from the 2016 Homeless Services Utilization report which looks at people already accessing homeless services in the State:
  - Approximately 1,200 families moved into permanent housing (67%) or other temporary housing (33%) over the 2016 fiscal year – approximately 100 families per month.
  - 600 “new” (not previously homeless) families entered the homeless services system in FY2016 – approximately 50 new families each month
  - 20 previously served families returned to homelessness each month (13.5% of households with children that were placed in permanent housing or exited)

- Using these data and current trends we can estimate that in addition to placing the backlog of existing homeless families into housing we would need available resources to be able to place at least 70 families into housing within 30 days every month to achieve Functional Zero.