Framing New Policy for Youth Housing

Going to Scale to Meet National Demand
Creating a National Public Policy: Respond to National Youth Housing Demand

- Responding to National Crisis
  - Lack of Community Capacity (a couple of thousand youth served annually)
  - Long waiting lists
  - Turning away vulnerable youth
  - Shelter backlogged

- Barriers and Challenges
  - Lack of Federal, State, and Local Funding for Housing Production
  - High Cost of Service Intensive Youth Housing Models
  - Lack of Research on efficacy of particular models
  - Failure to assess and target levels of services to meet various typology of homeless youth
Federal Homeless Assistance Funding

- Of the $4.175 billion spent annually on homelessness assistance
  - HUD 81%,
  - HHS 9%,
  - VA 3%, and
  - all other fed. agencies combined 7%.
- Less than 1 percent ($195 million) is targeted to unaccompanied homeless youth services.
- HUD’s homeless assistance programs support nearly 13,000 housing programs - 399,000 residential units. Only 2 percent of all program funding is reserved for homeless youth.
Federal Affordable Housing Appropriations

- $3.733 billion for special needs population housing (seniors, disability, veterans)
- $33.213 billion on Tenant Based Rental Assistance (including Section 8)
- $7.004 billion on Public Housing
- $63.8 million Youth Housing (TLP & FUP) ($1.8 billion for YouthBuild and Job Corp)

- $44 billion TOTAL each year
- less than 1% ($68.3 million) dedicated to homeless youth housing.
Homeless Youth – Housing Outcomes

- HHS Runaway and Homeless Youth Act $115 million in federal appropriations
- Over 740,000 street interactions and contacts in FY2008
- RHYA invests over $43.3 million in transitional housing programs in FY2009
- Less than 3,700 homeless youth are offered a transitional housing unit.
**Typology of Homeless Youth**

- Runaway
- Episodic – Couch Surfers
- Shelter Using
- Street-Dependent/Street-Involved/Travelers

- Clusters
  - Foster/Juvenile Justice Youth
  - Youth with Disabilities
  - LGBTQ Youth
  - African American and American Indian Youth
  - Teen Parents
National Demand for Youth Housing?

- Incidence studies have varying results – 1.6 million youth under 18 years old (5% of adolescent general population) will experience at least one night of homelessness.

- Not all homeless youth will require publicly subsidized housing:
  - Two studies of runaway youth - 50% returned home within a few days and 75-80% within a week.
  - 19 days average stay in Basic Centers.
  - Wilder Point-in-Time Study – 47% homeless for less than one week.
Spectrum of Services & Housing

- Prevention and Early Intervention
- Outreach
- Crisis Intervention (including respite shelter)
- Youth Housing Opportunities

- Plugged Up Garden Hose
Shelter Using Youth Who are Discharged Back to Homelessness

- RHYMIS data (2003-08) 54,300 youth served with shelter annually - 7,050 youth (13 percent) discharged into homelessness
- Upon exiting shelter, these youth typically were discharged to:
  - other shelters (including youth, adult and family shelters)
  - to the streets,
  - or to places that the program did not know.
Focusing Limited Appropriations

Street-Dependent or Street-Involved Youth Experiencing Long Term Homelessness

- Study of homeless youth populations in shelters and clinics – 10-15% sleep on streets
- Study of homeless youth populations in street outreach – 30-60% sleep on streets
- Conservative estimate across all subpopulations – 15%
Recognizing Varying Demand for Housing Services by Youth Subpopulations

- Young runaways – connection to family housing - mobile case managers for family rapid re-housing.
- Older teens (couch surfing) and cannot return to abuse or neglectful homes - transitional housing with rental assistance and life skills training.
- Homeless street youth - longer term rental assistance (several years) coupled with case management and vocational training.
- Older homeless youth with employment – rapid re-housing financial assistance and shallow rent subsidies
### POLICY FRAMEWORK - 50,000 YOUTH

<table>
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<th>Typology</th>
<th>Housing</th>
<th>Services</th>
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<tr>
<td>Young Runaways</td>
<td>Family Housing (0 publicly funded units)</td>
<td>10,000 youth – mobile case management</td>
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<td>Couch surfers – Shelter Users – Can’t Go Home</td>
<td>15,000 Transitional Housing</td>
<td>15,000 youth- case management &amp; life skills training</td>
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<td>Homeless Youth with Disabilities or Significant Barriers</td>
<td>5,000 Permanent Supportive Housing</td>
<td>5,000 youth - intensive case management services</td>
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<td>Street-Involved Youth</td>
<td>10,000 long-term integration housing (rental subsidies)</td>
<td>10,000 youth – case management &amp; vocational services</td>
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<td>Older Doubled Up &amp; Employed</td>
<td>10,000 one time financial assistance or shallow subsidy</td>
<td>5,000 short-term case management</td>
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HHS Policy Recommendations

1. **Rapid Re-housing with Families - Family Reunification and Preservation through mobile case management teams.**
   - 10,000 youth annually
   - Amend BCP to offer mobile case management (schools, clinics, malls, recreation centers)

2. **Increase the supply of transition housing for homeless youth unable to return home.**
   - 15,000 Transitional Housing units with case management services
   - Don’t assume long-term assistance (average length of stay is less than 6 months)

3. **Rapid Re-housing – Street Outreach Specialists Offering Financial Assistance and Short-term Rental Subsidies.**
   - 10,000 Rapid Re-housing Financial Assistance
   - Special community and street outreach specialists
   - Financial assistance, shallow and short-term rental assistance
1. **Expand permanent supportive housing for youth with long-term disabilities.**
   - 5,000 Permanent Supportive Housing
   - Offer intensive supportive services tied to vocational skills.
   - Targeted to youth with disabilities or significant barriers

2. **Create Long-term Integration Housing for Street Dependent Youth to Bolster Reconnection.**
   - 10,000 Long-term Integration Housing
   - A Section 8 rental assistance vouchers program
   - Coupled with Supportive Services
   - Up to 48 months
Further Recommendations – Not About Housing Funding

**HHS**
- Conduct incidence study - long-term housing needs.
- HHS - offer Family Preservation Service models for older adolescents.
- Foster care access and group homes.

**HUD**
- Recognition of youth as a special needs population – age categories:
- Create a Long-term Youth Housing Strategy Inclusive of Homeless Youth.

**BOTH**
- Identify joint targets to end youth homelessness through housing production, rental assistance, and supportive services and clarify their respective roles in contributing to this joint initiative.
WHAT’S NEXT?

• DISCUSS
• QUESTION
• ARGUE
• MODIFY
• PLAN

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