Flexible Permanent Housing Options
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What is Shelter Diversion?

Diversion is a strategy that prevents homelessness for people seeking shelter by helping them identify immediate alternate housing arrangements and, if necessary, connect them with services and financial assistance to help them return to permanent housing. (NAEH-Closing the Front Door: Creating a Successful Diversion Program for Homeless Families, 2011)
How to Identify Candidates for Diversion

• Central Intake/ Coordinated Assessment

• Assess *all* those in a housing crisis.

• Offer range of services: prevention, diversion, rehousing, etc.

• Target resources effectively.
How to Identify Candidates for Diversion

• Address those closest to the shelter door.

• Two types of diversion:
  • Diversion to natural supports
  • Diversion to rapid rehousing
Diversion is a Conversation

• Focus on natural supports.

• Strengths-based language.
  • Strengths and resources of the individual.
  • Financial and non-financial resources.

• Past supports and successes.
Diversion is a Conversation

• Contributions to a doubled-up situations.
  • Financial for rent/utilities.
  • Non-financial – skills, food, etc.

• Other community resources.
Diversion Outcomes For those Seeking Shelter

- Diverted using natural supports, 302, 45%
- Diverted with referral, 74, 11%
- Diverted, came back, diverted again, 63, 9%
- Diverted, came back, then placed in shelter, 26, 4%
- Placed in shelter, 110, 16%
- Did not complete assessment process and did not come back, 90, 13%
- Did not complete assessment process, came back, then diverted, 7, 1%
- Did not complete assessment process, came back, then placed in shelter, 4, 1%

October 2011-February 2012: 90 day outcomes of households assessed
Diversion As a Resource Targeting Strategy

- System-wide targeting criteria.
- Evaluate characteristics of literally homeless population.
- Target diversion resources to those who meet the profile.
Rapid Rehousing for Shelter Diversion

• Moving households directly from unstable housing into permanent housing.

• Targeting to those most likely to become homeless.

• Households have to be able to locate temporary options until they secure permanent housing.
Rapid Rehousing for Shelter Diversion

- Provide rental assistance in a flexible model.
- Provide support services for increasing income, linking to needed services and reconnecting with natural supports.
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