

Rapid Rehousing Demonstration to End Homelessness

**National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference
July 29, 2009**



National Strategy

- From managing homelessness to ending it
- From emergency shelter & transitional housing to permanent housing with supports

**Housing First
&
Rapid Rehousing**

Local Strategy

- Influence State Funding Policy
- Master how existing funding works
- Create pilot program models
- Enlist State as partner in pilot

Existing Funding

- In NJ, TANF clients are eligible for Emergency Assistance (EA)
- EA includes Temporary Rental Assistance (TRA), a valuable tool in creating a rapid rehousing strategy
- TRAs now used only for people who are working, but at less than full capacity
- EA also funds emergency & shelter stays on reimbursement basis

Proposed Funding

- Use EA funds in new way
- Give TRAs to people who would otherwise have gone into emergency & transitional – reduce shelter census & costs
- Pay for all rapid rehousing services – housing location, rental assistance, case management
- Use pilot to demonstrate cost-effectiveness of rapid rehousing vs. emergency shelters & transitional housing

Current and Future costs

Current costs	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Daily</u>
• Shelter	\$3750	\$125
• Transitional	\$2310	\$ 77

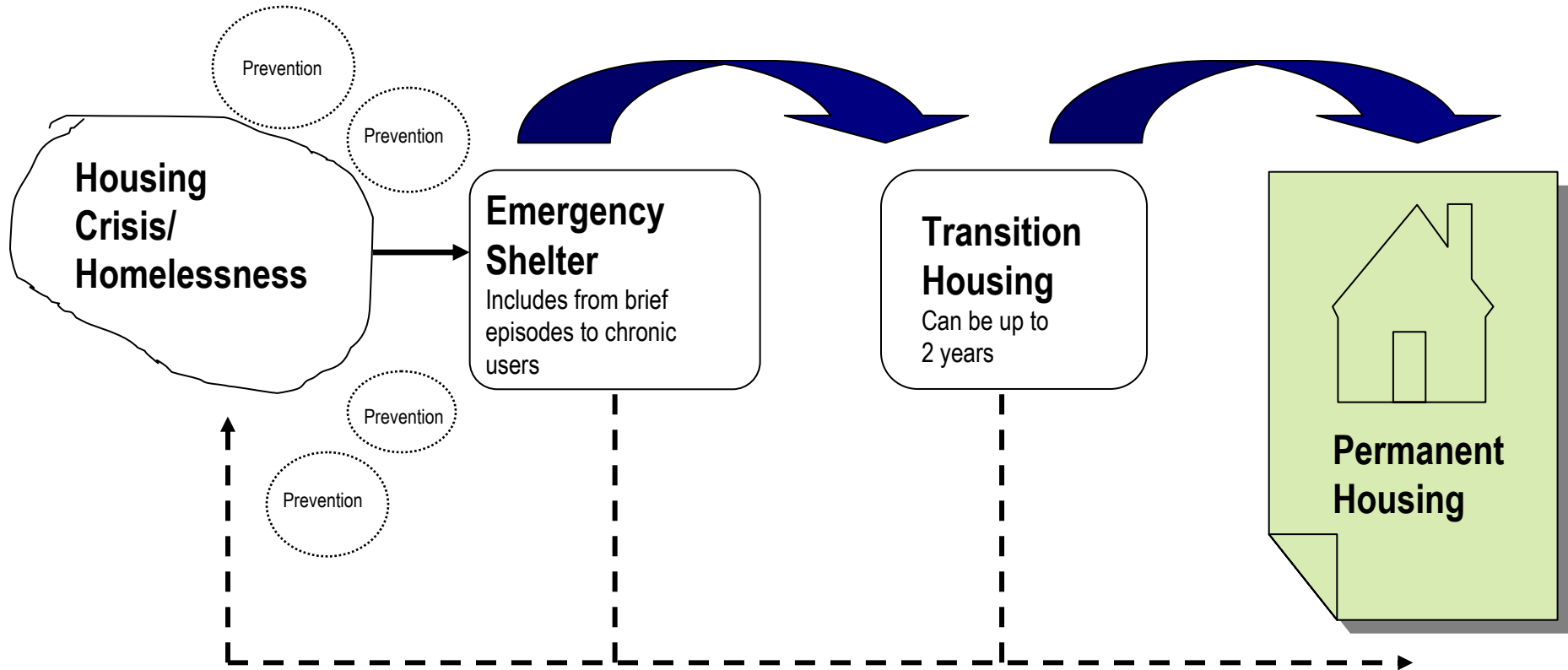
Pilot costs for rapid rehousing

• Rental Assistance	\$600	\$20
• Case management	<u>\$700</u>	<u>\$23</u>
Total	\$1300	\$43

How does new differ from old?

- Current system has no funds available to the homeless population for either rental assistance or significant case management
- New system has both
- Receiving services in one's own home, rather than in shelter, promotes greater long-term self-sufficiency

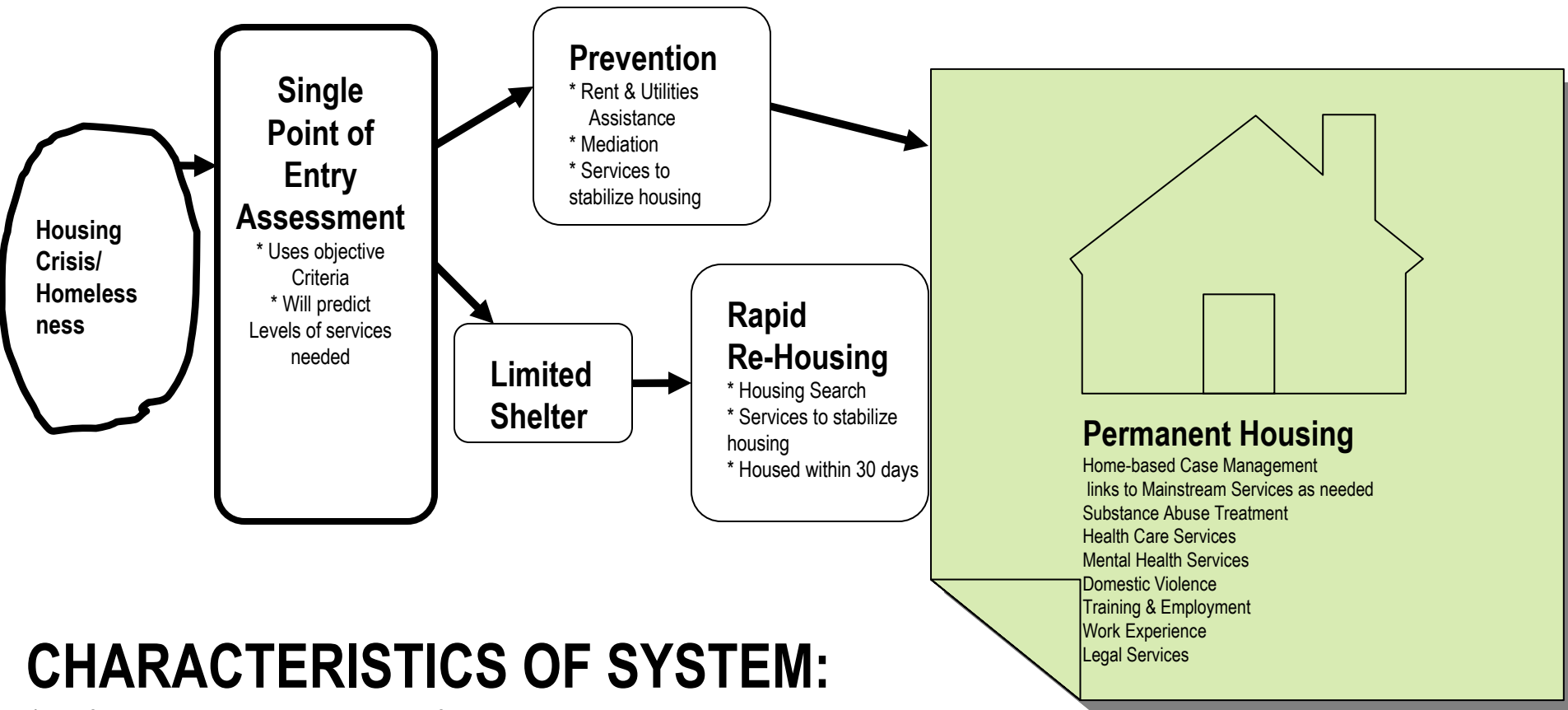
Current System: Manages Homeless in Shelters



PROBLEMS WITH CURRENT SYSTEM:

- Minimal prevention services at front-end
- Assessment of need not made uniformly
- Homeless people move through multiple sites before reaching housing stability
- Services not provided consistently - Need doesn't determine length of stay.

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CHARACTERISTICS OF SYSTEM:

1. Upfront intensive assessment for barriers to housing
2. Preventing homelessness wherever possible
3. Housing of homeless families as soon as possible in permanent housing, with supportive services promoting self-sufficiency and housing stability

Funding Rapid Rehousing

- From New Stimulus funding
- From HUD Rapid Rehousing Pilot
- From State DFD grant
- From County Social Services to the Homeless

Funded Components

• Housing Locator	\$ 75,000
• Rental Assistance (non-TANF)	\$144,000
• Rental Assistance (TANF entitlement)	\$216,000
• Home-based Family Case Mgmt.	\$350,000
• Flexible funding	\$ 65,000
• Diversion	\$ <u>20,000</u>
	\$ 870,000

Components of Model

Single Point of Entry

- Screening done by County TANF agency
- Part of routine EA screening
- Includes triggers for barriers to housing - low, moderate, high

Components of Model

Family in shelter less than 30 days

- Immediately focused on finding housing
- Work with Housing Locator & Case Manager
- Case Management/rapid rehousing provider does agreed-upon assessment
- Provider & TANF agency work as a team to support the family.

Components of Model

- Flexible funding for non-TANF clients
(e.g. security & utilities deposits)
- Tracking length & intensity of services via HMIS
- System Monitor hired to develop components of system and set up system review

Outcomes

- Demonstrate that Rapid Rehousing decreases the amount of time that families are homeless
- Demonstrate that Rapid Rehousing downsizes emergency & transitional service need
- Demonstrate cost-effectiveness over spending on emergency shelter & transitional housing

For follow-up information, contact

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