

Housing First and Intersection Between Criminal Justice & Homelessness



HOUSING
CALIFORNIA

December 15, 2020:
Adult Re-entry Grant

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Agenda

- ▶ Housing and Justice Involvement Intersection
- ▶ SB 1380/Housing First
- ▶ Housing Models
- ▶ Examples



The voice in the Capitol for children, seniors, families, people experiencing homelessness, and everyone who needs a safe, stable, affordable place to call home.



Leads Campaigns that Produce and Preserve Affordable Homes, and Protect Residents



Advocates for Stable, Affordable Homes, and Ending and Preventing Homelessness



Builds Power Through Multi-Sector Coalitions & The Residents United Network

Zondré

Cycled between prison & homelessness for almost 40 years.

“I didn’t know what I was missing until I had a permanent home.”



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What We Know About Housing Instability and Justice System Involvement

“Stable housing is the foundation for successful reentry from prison. Unfortunately, many formerly incarcerated people struggle to find a stable place to live.”

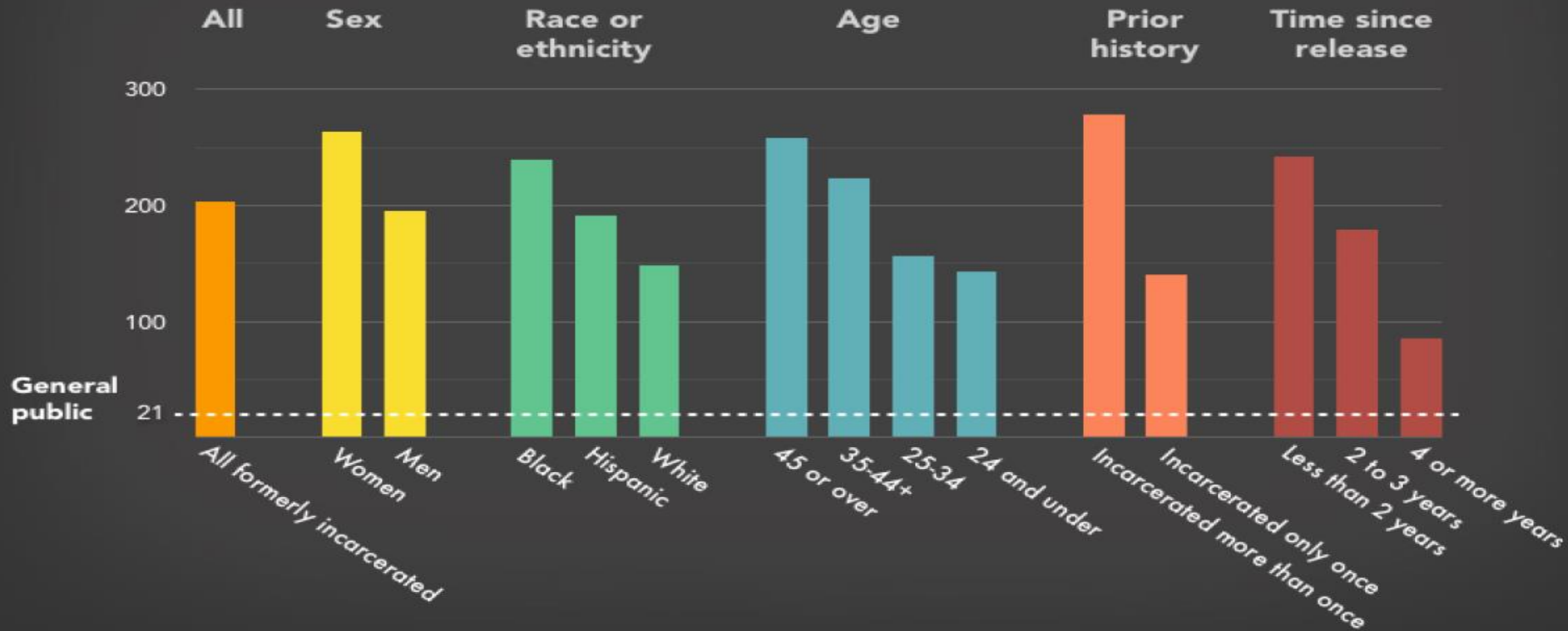
-Nowhere to Go: Homelessness Among Formerly Incarcerated People.
Prison Policy Initiative



- **Homeless people are seven times more likely to recidivate than housed parolees or probationers.**
 - About half of homeless people report a history of incarceration.
 - Formerly incarcerated persons are 27 more likely to be unstably housed or homeless than the general public.

Homelessness rates among formerly incarcerated people

Number of homeless per 10,000 formerly incarcerated people in each category, compared to the general public in 2008 (the most recent year data for formerly incarcerated people are available)

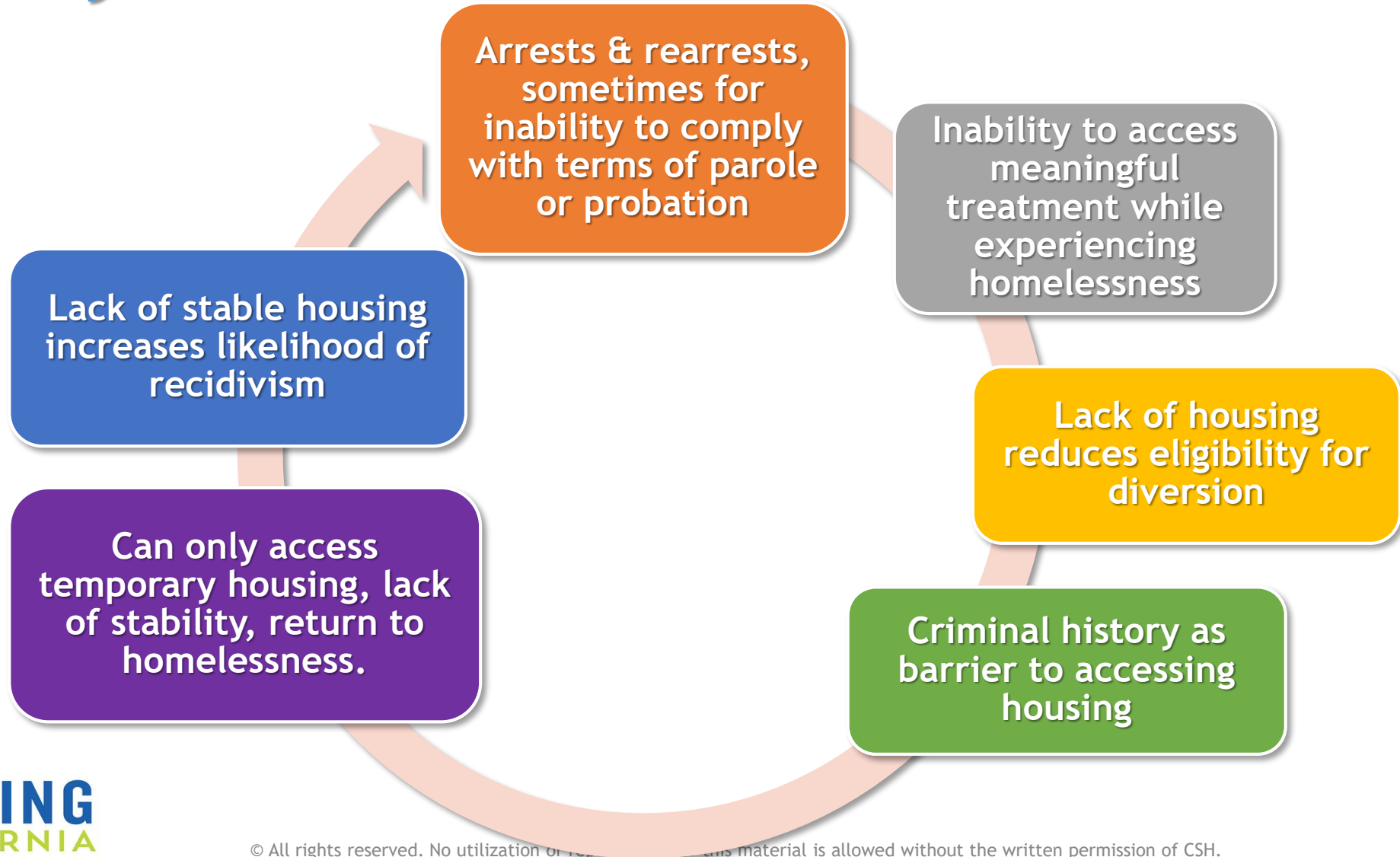


What We Know About Housing Instability and Justice System Involvement

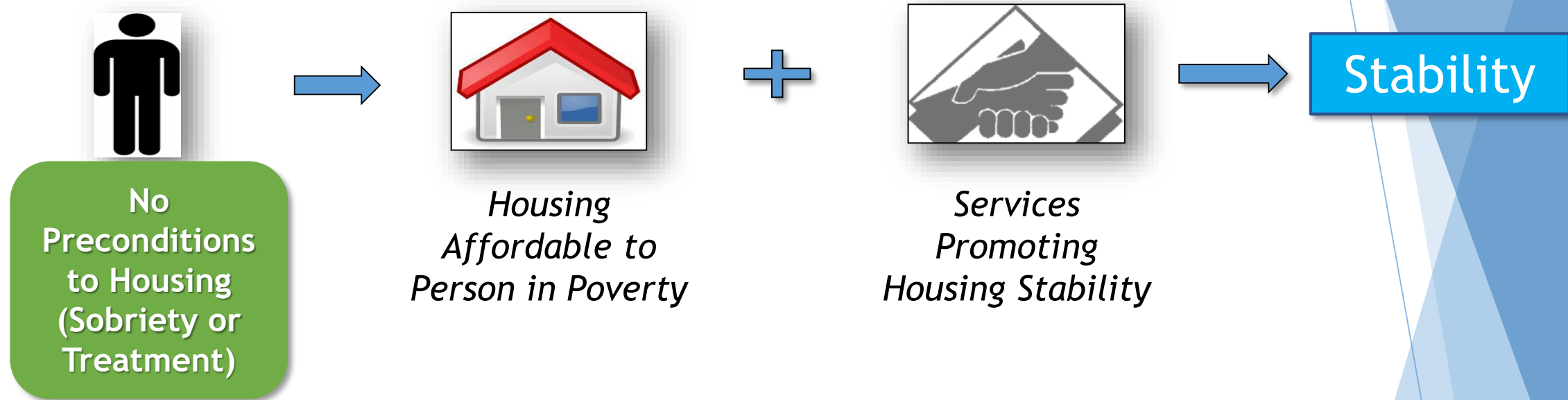
- ▶ People with a history of incarceration are much more likely to be unstably housed than the general public:
 - ▶ 570 formerly incarcerated Americans out of every 10,000 are living as either homeless or at severe risk of into homelessness.

HOUSING INSECURITY		
HOMELESSNESS		
Unsheltered Homelessness	Sheltered Homelessness	Marginal Housing
Homeless or no fixed residence	Living in a shelter	Living in a rooming house, hotel, or motel
105 per 10,000	98 per 10,000	367 per 10,000

What We Know About Housing Instability and Justice System Involvement



Solving Homelessness



- ▶ Based on Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs: can't get well if not housed.
- ▶ Housing has leases with rights and responsibilities of tenancy.
- ▶ People are evicted for lease violations, but not for failure to participate in services/non-compliance with treatment.

Requirements of Housing First: Senate Bill 1380 (Mitchell), 2016

1. Low-barrier
entry to housing

2. Quick access
to housing

3. Robust support
services with
assertive
engagement

4. Tenancy is not
dependent on
participation in
services

5. Embrace a harm-
reduction approach

6. Provide leases
and tenant
protections

SB 1380 Requirements

All State Funding Programs must adhere to the core components of housing first by July 1, 2019. These core components are:

- ▶ (1) Tenant screening and selection practices that promote accepting applicants regardless of their sobriety or use of substances, completion of treatment, or participation in services.
- ▶ (2) Applicants are not rejected on the basis of poor credit or financial history, poor or lack of rental history, criminal convictions unrelated to tenancy, or behaviors that indicate a lack of “housing readiness.”
- ▶ (3) Acceptance of referrals directly from shelters, street outreach, drop-in centers, and other parts of crisis response systems frequented by vulnerable people experiencing homelessness.
- ▶ (4) Supportive services that emphasize engagement and problem solving over therapeutic goals and service plans that are highly tenant-driven without predetermined goals.
- ▶ (5) Participation in services or program compliance is not a condition of permanent housing tenancy.
- ▶ (6) Tenants have a lease and all the rights and responsibilities of tenancy, as outlined in California’s Civil, Health and Safety, and Government codes.
- ▶ (7) The use of alcohol or drugs in and of itself, without other lease violations, is not a reason for eviction.
- ▶ (8) In communities with coordinated assessment and entry systems, incentives for funding promote tenant selection plans for supportive housing that prioritize eligible tenants based on criteria other than “first-come-first-serve,” including, but not limited to, the duration or chronicity of homelessness, vulnerability to early mortality, or high utilization of crisis services. Prioritization may include triage tools, developed through local data, to identify high-cost, high-need homeless residents.
- ▶ (9) Case managers and service coordinators who are trained in and actively employ evidence-based practices for client engagement, including, but not limited to, motivational interviewing and client-centered counseling.
- ▶ (10) Services are informed by a harm-reduction philosophy that recognizes drug and alcohol use and addiction as a part of tenants’ lives, where tenants are engaged in nonjudgmental communication regarding drug and alcohol use, and where tenants are offered education regarding how to avoid risky behaviors and engage in safer practices, as well as connected to evidence-based treatment if the tenant so chooses.
- ▶ (11) The project and specific apartment may include special physical features that accommodate disabilities, reduce harm, and promote health and community and independence among tenants.

What Housing First is and isn't

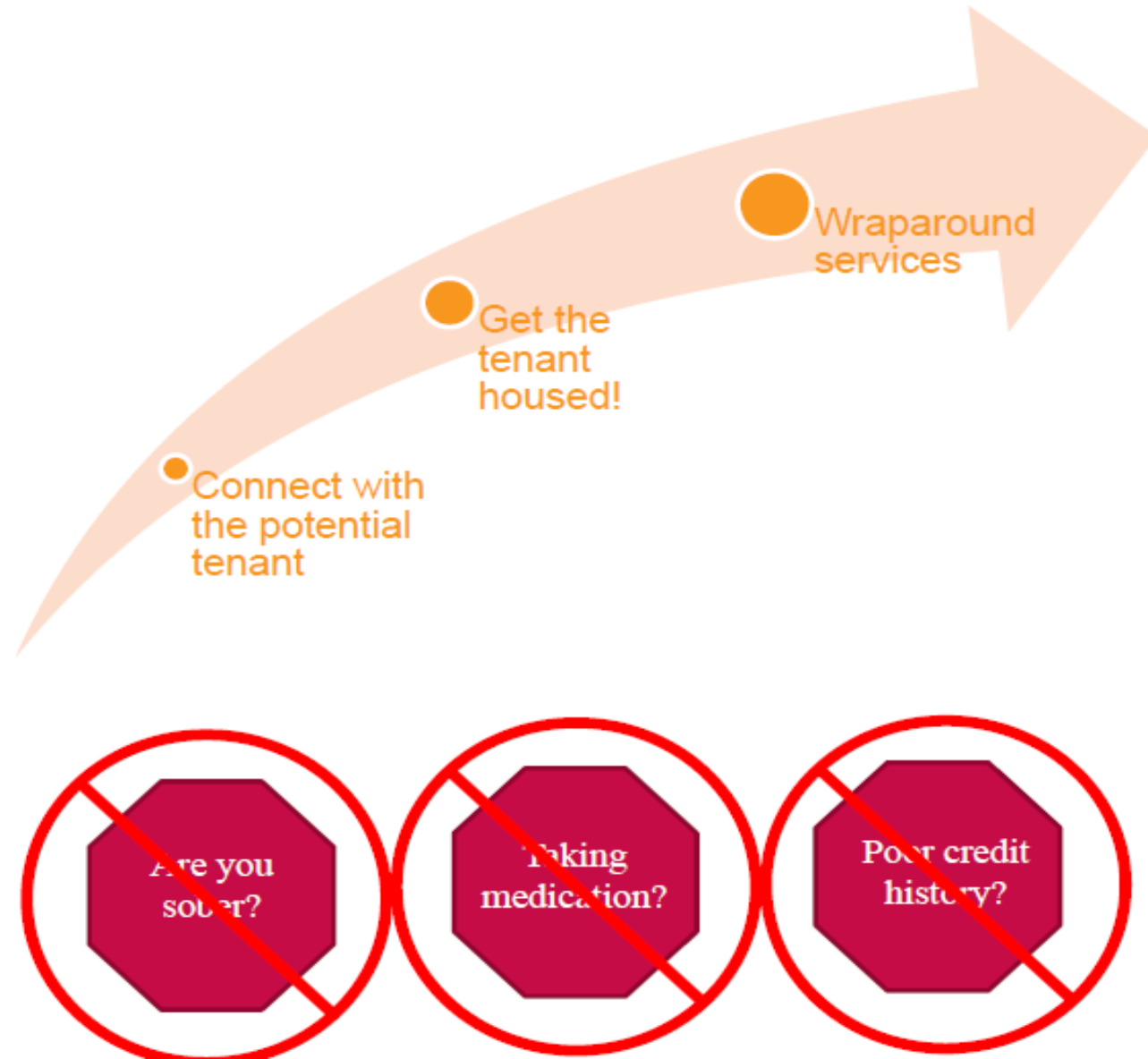
Housing First is

- ▶ Harm reduction
- ▶ Housing with services needed to remain stably housed
- ▶ Voluntary services
- ▶ Client Choice
- ▶ The understanding that without a roof over someone's head they cannot address mental health, substance use or other health needs

Housing First isn't

- ▶ Housing Only
- ▶ Eviction or losing services based on a positive drug test or failure to participate in activities
- ▶ A way to promote drug use
- ▶ Anything goes

Taking Out the Housing Ready “Stuff” to Screen In



What We Know About Voluntary Services



Flexible Tenancy Services

Designed to
meet specific
tenant's needs

Counseling

Health and
mental health
services

Alcohol and
substance use
services

Independent
living skills

Money
management/
rep payee

Community-
building
activities

Vocational
counseling and
job placement

Housing
stability
services &
tenancy skills

Residential Treatment vs. Housing

- Subject to Licensure or “6 and Under” Rule
- Care & Supervision
- Length of Stay Limited by Need for Care
- No Landlord/Tenant Rights Apply
- Treatment Ends=Discharge, Likely to Homelessness

Residential Treatment



- Communities Must Identify Zones for All Housing Types
- A Place to Live Independently
- Security, Not Supervision
- Not Subject to Licensure
- Lease or Residential Agreement
- No Discharge or Eviction Unless Violating Lease

Housing



Permanent Housing

- ▶ No limit on length of stay.
- ▶ Tenants have **leases**, rights & responsibilities of tenancy.
- ▶ Tenants live in apartments, typically integrated.
- ▶ Apartments have **bathrooms & kitchens**.
- ▶ Average length of residency of **3 years**, same as average CA renter.



Supportive Housing

Supportive housing combines affordable housing with services that help people who face the most complex challenges to live with stability, autonomy and dignity.



HOUSING

- ▶ No limit on length of stay
- ▶ Affordable
- ▶ Independent

SERVICES

- ▶ Flexible
- ▶ Voluntary
- ▶ Tenant-Centered

TENANTS

- ▶ Chronically homeless or
- ▶ Experiencing barriers to housing stability



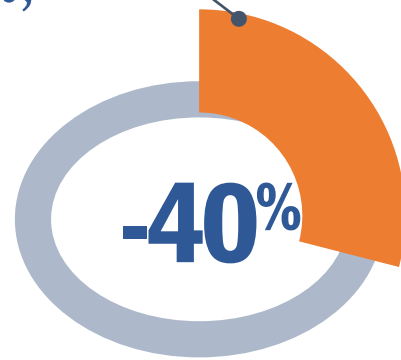
People w/Barriers to Housing Stability

Not New or Innovative: >20-Year Evidence Basis for Housing First

Settled & Growing Body of
Evidence on Supportive
Housing

Days Incarcerated

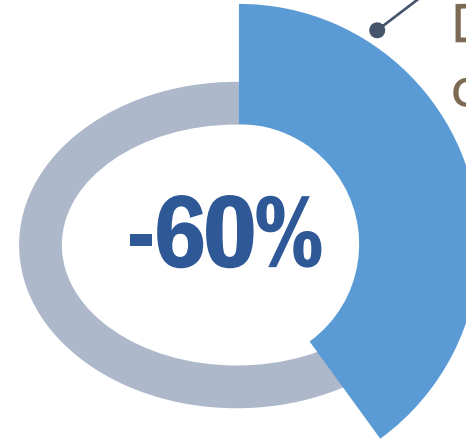
Decrease by 40%,
compared to
control group



- Tenants accessing supportive housing programs are able to exit homelessness faster than other interventions.

Reduced Recidivism

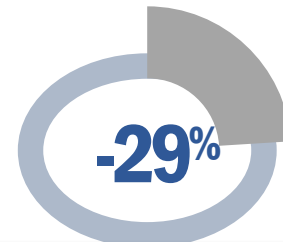
Decrease by 60%, compared to
control group



Over 90% of tenants
accessing supportive
housing are able to
retain housing stability.

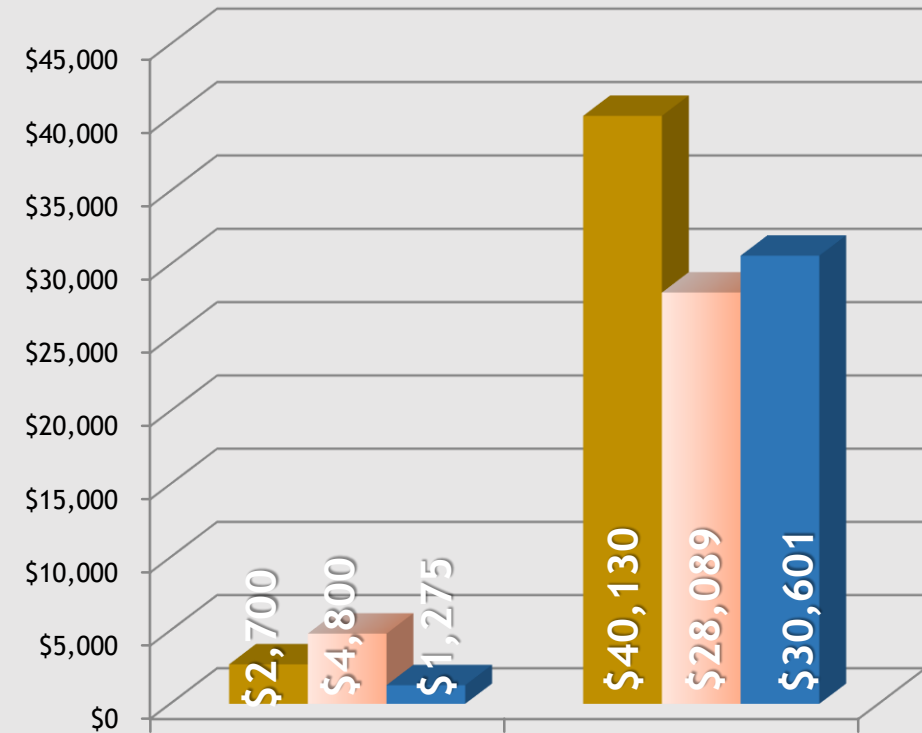
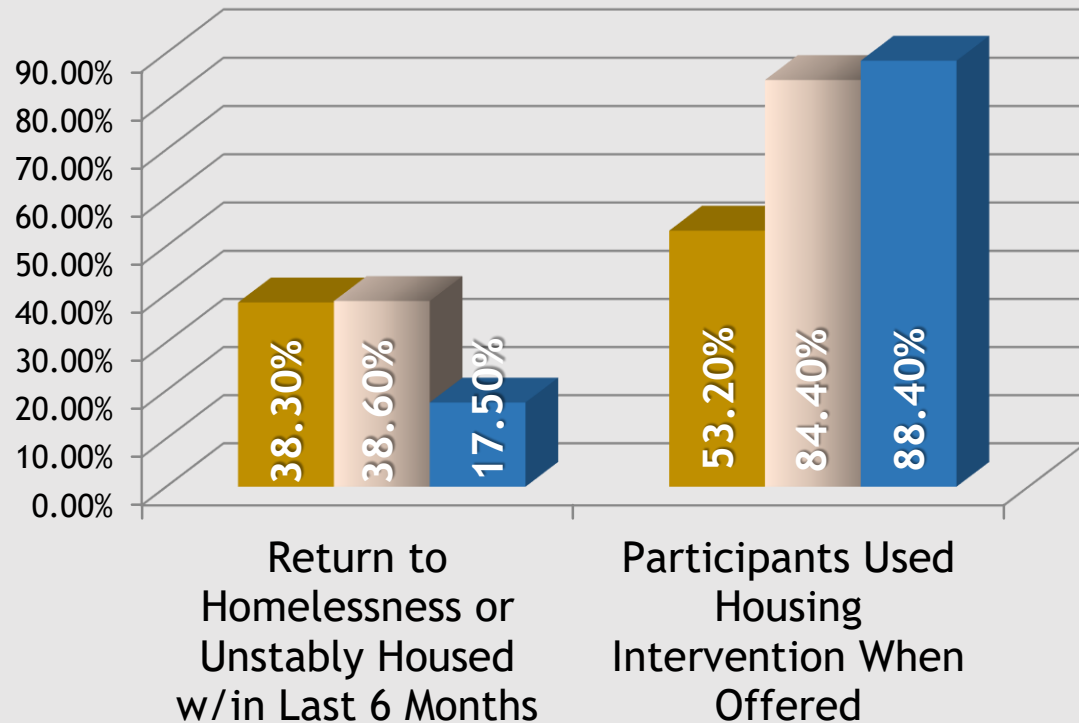
Hospital Admissions

Decrease by 29%, compared
to control group.



- Tenants using supportive housing programs access services more often, have a greater sense of choice and autonomy, significantly reduce health and corrections costs, and are far less costly to public systems than tenants of other programs.

3 Years Following Households Receiving Transitional Housing OR Permanent Housing



Permanent housing performed most favorably, with only **17.5% return to homelessness or housing instability** after 3 years, and positive outcomes in almost all areas.

- Transitional Housing
- Emergency Shelter
- Permanent Housing Subsidy

Transitional Housing & Shelters in a Housing First System

Communities are converting transitional housing and shelters to low-barrier interim housing, coupled with housing navigation services.



Interim housing: A temporary place to stay that allows people to live safely, while receiving services to connect the household to a permanent place to live.

Housing navigation: Culturally-competent services to help an individual or family experiencing homelessness connect to permanent housing.

Returning Home Ohio

Costs: \$15,000 for rental assistance & services/year/parolee, about \$41/day.



RHO provides opportunity for independent housing, easy access to voluntary services and support that fits the needs of the individual. The ultimate goal of RHO is successful reintegration to the community.



RHO has expanded with renewed and expanded funding after the initial evaluation released. Initially funded at 100 participants in 2007.
Now serving 186 participants.

Returning Home Ohio: Urban Institute Evaluation

Compared to Control Group, RHO Participants Were—

40% less likely to be rearrested



60% less likely to recidivate back to prison

Rx

290% more likely to receive outpatient services, 41% more likely to participate in services

Programs to Address Needs of People Cycling Frequently Between Incarceration & Shelters

Returning Home Ohio:

Parolees w/History of Homelessness

- 60% Less likely to recidivate than control group
- 40% Less likely to be rearrested
- 290% More likely to access treatment

NYC FUSE

- 40% Reduction jail days
- 91% Fewer shelter days
- 50% Reduction in psych. inpt.
- 86% Housed after 2 years

San Diego Project 25

- 67% Reduction in total public costs after 2 years
- 60-80% Reduction in hospitalizations, arrests, jail days

Mecklenburg (Charlotte)

- 50% Fewer arrests
- 87% Fewer shelter days
- 24% Less in ambulance service charges

Outcomes from Intensive Services without Housing

Harris County Jail Diversion Program

- People with serious mental illness receiving intensive treatment, then housing.
- Initial outcome improvement from intensive treatment.
- Over time, people who weren't housed stopped getting treatment.

Frequent Emergency Room User Program in CA

- 6 programs across California providing intensive services.
- People getting housing with services were able to decrease their inpatient admissions significantly, whereas people receiving intensive services alone increased their inpatient admissions over time.

Los Angeles County: Office of Diversion & Reentry Supportive Housing Program

Office of Diversion & Reentry, Los Angeles County Department of Health Services: \$125M Investment, to Serve 2,500 People Long-Term.

Supportive housing for people with—

- **Felony cases**
- **Experiencing homelessness and**
- **Behavioral health disorders.**



Interim

Interim housing:

Safe place to stay while waiting for permanent housing.

Housing navigation, intensive services.



Services

Intensive Case Management Services:

Point of contact for behavioral health treatment, medical care, housing-based services.

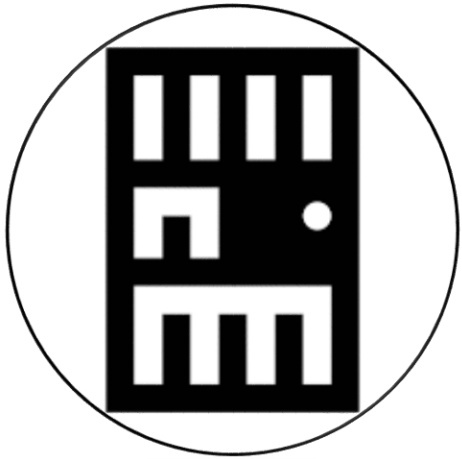


Housing

Permanent housing subsidy:

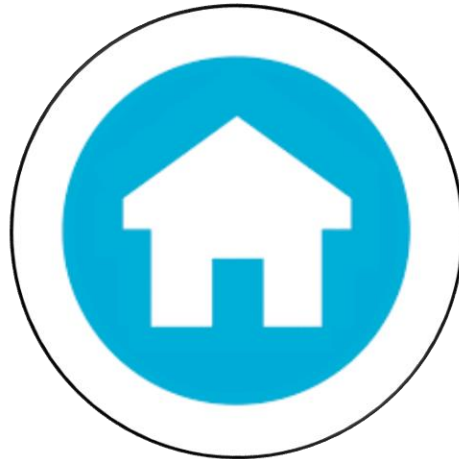
Funded through LA Department of Health Services, Housing for Health's, "Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool."

Outcomes for DHS Housing for Health Program (none yet published for ODR)



Incarceration

Incarceration rates decreased 28%.



Housing Stability

Housing retention rate for Housing for Health is 96% after one year.



Income

Income increased among over 30% of participants, mostly through SSI enrollment.



Healthcare Utilization

Inpatient medical services decreased by 76.7%.



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