



**H o m e l e s s n e s s :   H o w   E v e r y  
C o m m u n i t y   C a n   L e v e r a g e  
R e s o u r c e s**



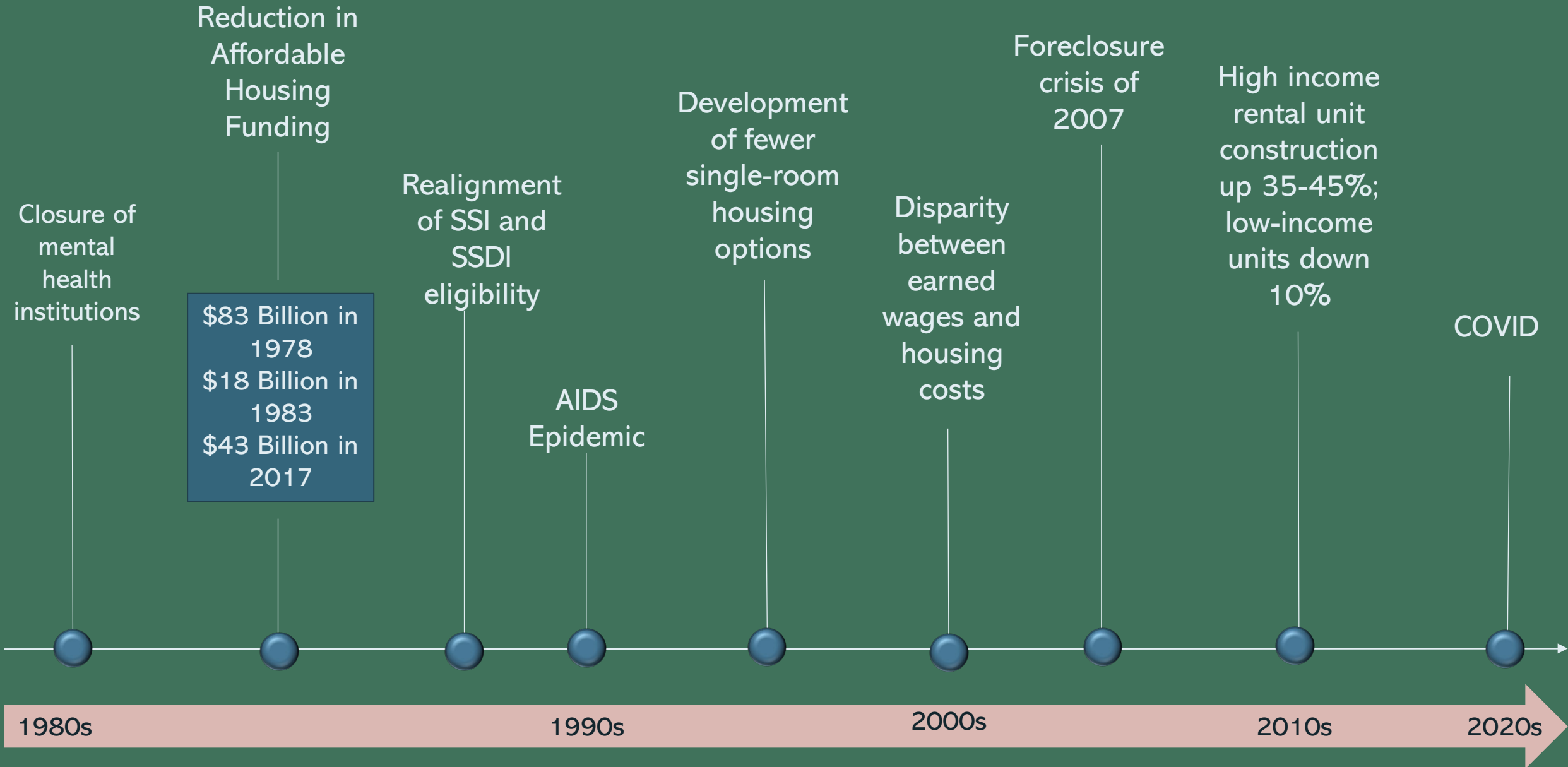
Colorado Municipal League  
2022 Conference

# Homelessness Challenges

- Difficulty of applying a local response to a national problem
- Inequity of resources across jurisdictions
- Significant administration needs
  - Knowledge of available resources and changing requirements
  - Relationships with State and Federal partners and alignment with local Continuum of Care
- Increasing number of people experiencing homelessness with higher levels of vulnerability
  - Meth, aging population, acute mental health issues
  - Sex offenders and people who have lengthy interaction with the justice system
  - High Utilizers of hospitals/clinics/mental health services/emergency services



# Origins of National Homelessness Crisis



# Historic Response – We Were Good At Helping People Be Successful in Homelessness

Uncoordinated  
Grass Root  
Response

Concentrated on moment  
to moment needs  
(food, supply  
distribution)

Sheltering  
Focused On  
Inclement  
Weather

Shelter as an emergency  
response rather than a  
tool to move people to  
housing. No real  
prioritization of highest  
system utilizers

Housing  
Readiness  
Solutions

“Fixing” people (sobriety  
requirements, work  
requirements, etc.)  
before housing





# 2016-2017: Where Did We Start?

- Facilitated community and service-provider meetings
- Development of a Homeless Strategy
- Creation of Homeless Solutions for Boulder County (HSBC)
  - Centralized decision-making for Boulder County single adult homelessness
  - Executive Board: leadership from Boulder, Longmont, Boulder County, local housing authorities, and local Continuum of Care
  - Work groups involving key nonprofit partners
    - Housing Exits
    - Systems
    - Data
    - High Utilizers
    - Outreach
  - Established case conferencing to consistently and fairly match individuals with housing resources



# Boulder Homeless Strategy



Expand Pathways to Permanent Housing and Retention



Support Access to Public Information



Support Access to a Continuum of Basic Services



Create Safe and Welcoming Public Spaces



Support Best Practices and Data-Driven Results

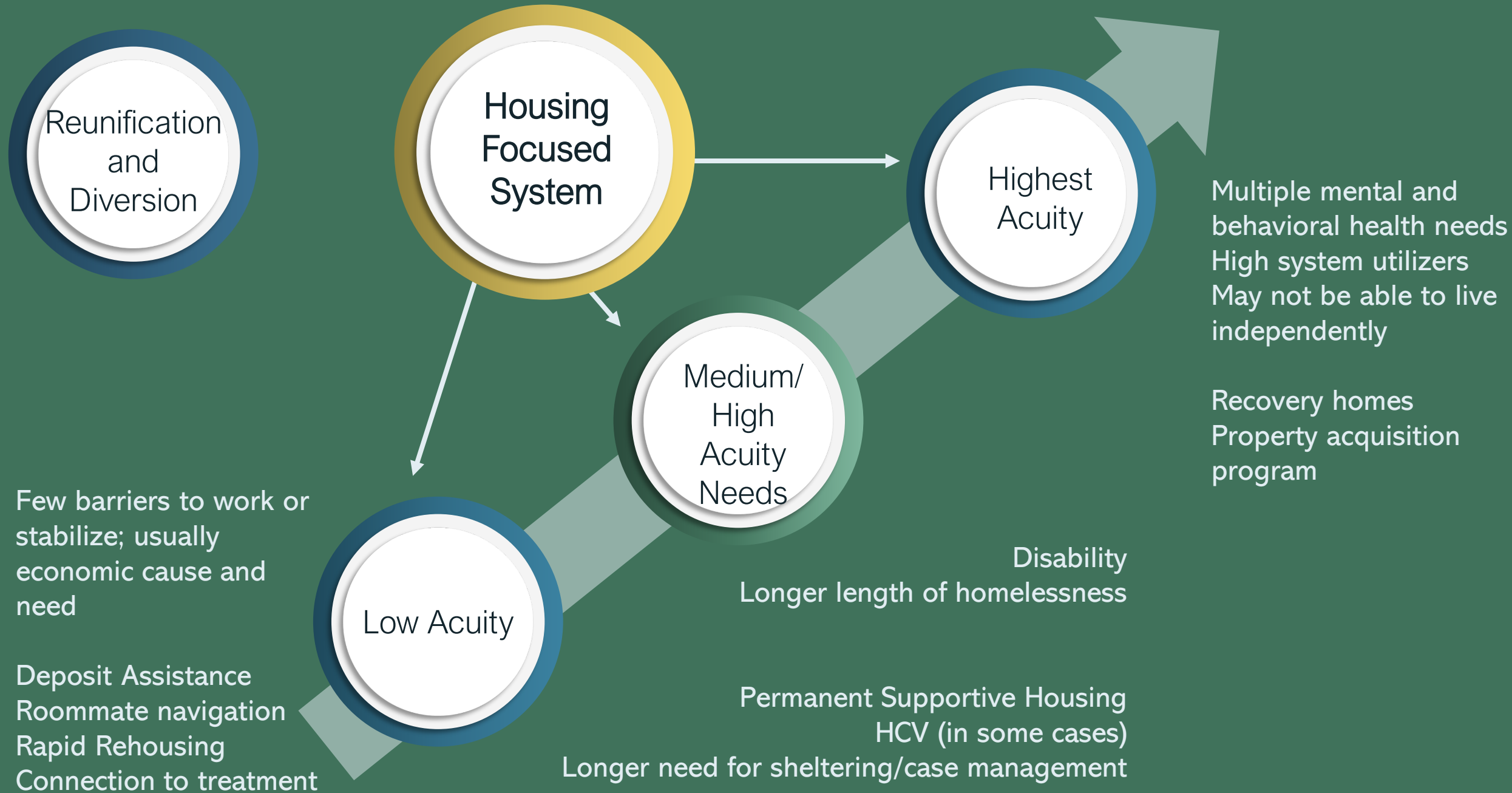


Expand Access to Programs to Reduce or Prevent Homelessness

# System Principles and Coordination

- Collaboration between charitable actors and government funding players
- Agreed upon:
  - Set of operating principles
  - Implementation and funding strategy
  - Ongoing coordination
- Boulder
  - Transition system into housing focused instead of emergency response
  - Concentrate as many resources to increasing access to/availability of housing resources
  - Match response to acuity of need







# Components of a Housing Focused System

Client  
Engagement

Affordable  
Rent

Access to  
Housing

Appropriate  
Supportive  
Services

Outreach  
Shelter & Coordinated Entry  
Magnet Events  
Navigators/Community  
Court  
Clinics/Mental Health  
BTHERE  
Homeless Outreach Team

Deposit Assistance  
HCV Set Asides  
Locally Funded Vouchers  
State/HUD Vouchers  
Move on Strategies

Mix of local and other  
resources

Landlord recruitment/  
relationship  
Damage assurance funds  
Debt relief funds  
Signing incentives  
PSH unit Development

Increasing the number of  
units available across need

Shelter Exit Support  
BCPHS  
Housing Case Managers  
Peer Support  
Retention Teams

Matched with acuity of  
need

Focus on housing

# A Sample of the Partners and Players

- Boulder Shelter for the Homeless
- HOPE Longmont
- Mother House & The Lodge
- The Source and TGTHR
- Focus Re-entry
- Feet Forward
- Boulder County
  - HHS
  - Community Services
  - Public Health
- Boulder County Housing Authority
- Longmont Housing Authority
- Metro Denver Homeless Initiative
- Colorado Department of Housing
- Harvest of Hope Food Pantry
- Mental Health Partners
- City of Longmont (various departments)
- City of Boulder
  - HHS
  - Municipal Court
  - City Attorney's Office
  - Parks and Recreation Urban Park Rangers
  - Utilities Operations Team
  - Boulder Police Department
- Boulder Downtown Business Partners
- SAMHSA
- VA
- HUD
- Boulder Community Health



## Questions/Comments

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