

Homelessness in the Centennial State



SCOPE



SOLUTIONS



IMPLEMENTATION

Aimee Cox, Community Development Manager
City of Colorado Springs

John Parvensky, President
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless

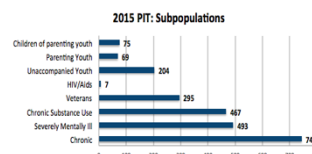
Zac Schaffner, Homeless Initiatives Program Manager
Office of Governor Hickenlooper

SCOPE/Framing the Need

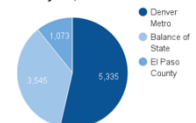
HUD's 2015 Point-In-Time Count = 9,953

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) annual Point-In-Time survey provides a snapshot of the number of persons experiencing homelessness in each of Colorado's three Continuums of Care.

(Red Rocks' capacity is 9,525)



2015 Colorado Point-In-Time Survey = 9,953

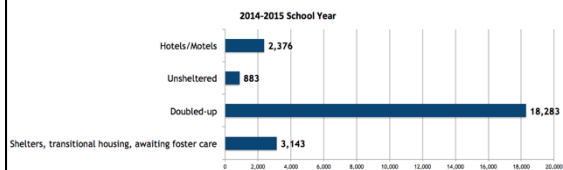


SCOPE/Framing the Need

McKinney Vento Report

McKinney-Vento helps guarantee homeless children the same rights to a public education as housed children and requires school districts to provide transportation, lunch, and immediate enrollment.

322% Increase over the past ten years of school-aged children known to be homeless in Metro Denver.



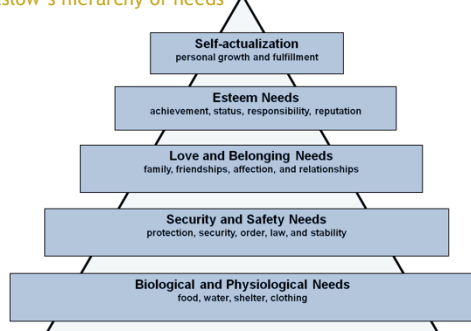
Homelessness can happen to anyone. Often it is the result of an economic crisis which is the result of:

- the loss of a job
- high housing costs
- family break-up
- sudden and/or prolonged illness



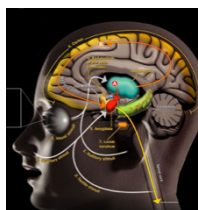
SOLUTIONS/Housing First

Maslow's hierarchy of needs



SOLUTIONS/Housing First

Neuroscience & the neurological impact of trauma



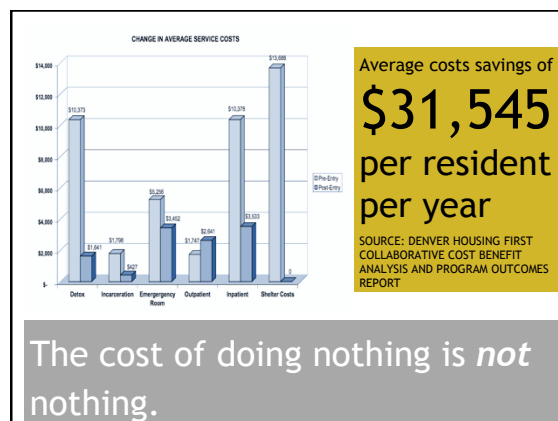
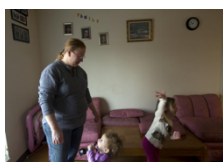
Trauma: Intense stress that overwhelms our biological psychological and social coping capacity.

- Activates survival responses
- Shuts down non-essential tasks
- Impedes rational thinking

Repeated exposure to trauma causes the amygdala to become overactive, increasingly bringing 'fight or flight' energy into benign social situations while the hippocampus (which plays a key role in memory development and processing) weakens and often becomes physically smaller. This results in an individual bringing less logic, emotional regulation, and strategic thinking into their interaction with the environment. Source: Goldspring Center for Social & Health Innovation

Housing First

A homeless assistance approach that prioritizes providing individuals & families experiencing homelessness with permanent housing as quickly as possible and then provides the supportive services & connections to the community-based supports they need to keep their housing and avoid returning to homelessness.



Benefits of Housing First

Affordable housing providers (including housing authorities) benefit from having services available for residents; it lessens wear on housing stock, and creates opportunities for people who struggle in existing housing properties.



Human service providers benefit because they know where clients reside, and have more efficient access to providing services.



State/County/City Governments benefit because they have housing for members of the community who struggle to be housed, and have "burned bridges" and a ton of money can be saved by decreasing utilization of expensive crisis services.

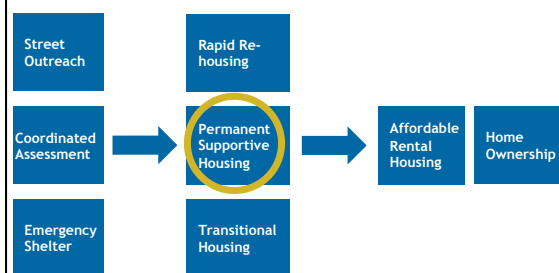


- **Launched in March 2014**
- **Statewide approach**
- **Work across state agencies**
- **Increase permanent supportive housing**



The Homeless Initiative Team in Governor Hickenlooper's Office is supported by generous funding from the local foundation community, CHFA, and DOLA.

IMPLEMENTATION/Building a robust continuum



A study completed in August 2014 found that while Colorado had an existing inventory of 7,800 PSH units, in order to meet the needs of individuals and families living in emergency shelters or experiencing homelessness, **an additional 5,800 new PSH units were needed.**

WHY FOCUS ON PSH?





Combining **affordable** housing with **access to supportive services** like **tenancy support**, **case management**, **employment training**, and **mental health treatment**, **Permanent Supportive Housing** is a nationally recognized best practice which provides vulnerable individuals and families the opportunity to live stable, autonomous, and dignified lives.

Housing

Permanent: Not time limited; not transitional

Affordable: Tenants pay no more than 30% of their income for rent

Independent as possible: Resident holds lease with normal rights and responsibilities



Services

Targeted: Based on populations served

Flexible: Responsive to residents' needs

Voluntary: Participation is not a condition of residency

Independent: Focus is on housing stability



To encourage development of PSH statewide the State of Colorado joined with CHFA, Enterprise Community Partners, and LeBeau Development in 2014 to create the Pathways Home Supportive Housing Toolkit.



The Toolkit provides technical assistance & peer learning sessions designed to help nonprofits, community leaders, service providers, & developers build high-quality supportive housing.

528 PSH units have been funded over the last two years through the combined efforts of Governor Hickenlooper's Homeless Initiative Team, DOH and CHFA.

Project Name	#PSH units
Arroyo Village - Denver	35
Attention Homes PSH for At-Risk Youth - Boulder	38
Journey Home - Canon City	30
Greenway Flats PSH - Colorado Springs	65
Guadalupe Apartments - Greeley	47
Sanderson Apartments - Denver	60
Saint Francis Apartments at Cathedral Square - Denver	50
Pathways Village - Grand Junction	40

Greenway Flats

65-unit property developed through a partnership between Springs Rescue Mission and Norwood Development.

Received significant public and financial support from the City of Colorado Springs, Colorado Springs Housing Authority, and El Paso County.



Support from local government

- Donate Land
- Financial Support (CDBG, HOME, Human Service Dollars)
- Simplify land use/permitting process
- Be a champion
- Be a convener

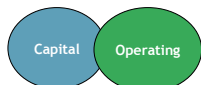


IMPLEMENTATION/Medicaid Academy

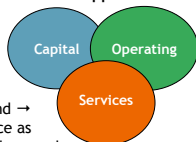
Housing is Healthcare

The goal of the Medicaid Academy is to prepare permanent supportive housing providers who are already providing tenancy support and case management services to work with Medicaid to bill for eligible services in order to increase their ability to draw sustainable (rather than short-term) funding to pay for supportive housing services.

Traditional Affordable Housing



Permanent Supportive Housing



The most difficult and → least stable to finance as residents have complex needs

IMPLEMENTATION/Coming Home Colorado

Rare, Brief, & Non-recurring

Coordinated Assessment and Housing Placement systems (CAHPS) know every individual experiencing homelessness by name, assess their acuity, and match them with the intervention that affords the greatest potential for success.

Ensures that those experiencing homelessness do not languish on multiple waiting lists, navigate a confusing maze of bureaucracy, or only get help on "first come, first served" basis.



IMPLEMENTATION/Building Public Will

Campaign to raise awareness, increase understanding, and move Coloradans to speak up, and take actions that make a meaningful difference in addressing homelessness.

43% of metro residents had a family or close friend who has experienced homelessness.

7% of metro residents believed they had a major role to play in addressing homelessness.

Encourage support for current needs and advance solutions that address root cause of homelessness.

