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## **Our Vision for Philadelphia**

### **Chronic Homelessness Subcommittee of the Shared Public Spaces Workgroup**

Today Philly is a world-class city. It is growing, thriving and prospering. We are committed to and invested in its growth as a cultural, economic and residential hub through hospitality, tourism, arts and culture, education, health care, technology, green economy and tech.

We are also committed to making Philadelphia a City for ALL. Homelessness presents a humanitarian crisis in our midst. Homelessness is also a threat to economic development. We are committed to finding and advancing real solutions to the lack of housing for our poorest and most vulnerable citizens = for them and for us.

This scenario briefly lays out the problem of homelessness, the capacity and assets of the City's current system and a selection of high impact strategies for addressing the problem.

Please note that the Chronic Street Homelessness Subcommittee of the Shared Public Spaces Workgroup is just one of four subcommittees, the purpose of which is to strategize and implement real solutions to chronic street homelessness. The other subcommittees are addressing other aspects of the challenges faced in shared public spaces; our work dovetails with theirs:

- 1) Code of Conduct, Service Alternatives to establish clear standards for behavior in shared public spaces together with the tools and engagement to support it;
- 2) Food Access, Safety & Dignity to improve access to indoor meals and improve dignity and safety to meals when served outdoor; and,
- 3) Marketing & Public Education to develop and implement messaging, public information and communications for all around shared public spaces – business, residents and visitors.

## **Understanding Homelessness**

Homelessness is caused by poverty. Philadelphia has the highest rate of poverty of any major city. Low levels of educational attainment, lack of job opportunities and mental illness contribute. The Opioid crisis has made things worse. Homelessness in Center City is more visible now due to construction and fewer public spaces for people to live unnoticed. However, it's a city-wide issue. People need housing, jobs and services to prevent and overcome homelessness.

Philadelphia counted about 6,100 people who were homeless with 705 unsheltered in our 2016 Point in Time count. We anticipate that the 2017 numbers, available this spring, will be higher given the Opioid crisis.

Homelessness is a national crisis that affects rural, suburban and urban areas, big and small. Philadelphia's street homeless rate is lowest among the five largest cities.

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### **The City's Response and Current Capacity**

The City's Office of Homeless Services (OHS) provides leadership, planning and coordination to advance the mission of making homelessness rare, brief and nonrecurring. OHS works in partnership with the Dept of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disabilities (DBHID) to support a network of nonprofit providers.

#### **Achieved Functional Zero on Veterans Homelessness (November 2015)**

Significant investment, "bang for the buck" - \$17M local, \$13.5M state, \$18M federal  
6100 people housed temporarily at any given point in time (90%-120% full)

**System capacity of 11,000 "beds" – emergency, temporary and long-term – through an extensive network of nonprofit and governmental partners**

3,800 Emergency and 1900 Transitional Beds

339 Rapid Re-Housing - 85% success rate

5,000 Permanent Supportive Housing - 90% success rate

23% increase in capacity for Homeless Youth

Prevented Homelessness for 800 Households, 5900 requests

**In FY16 placed 1200 people into permanent housing – 20% of need**

#### **Blueprint Partnership with PHA since 2008**

3,500 placements with 88% success rate for singles, 97% for families; Medicaid-funded treatment

**24/7 Street Outreach - Call 215 232 1984 - 6 Outreach Teams - 40% Placement Rate "Hot Spots at Prime-Times"**

**Competitive Nationally - Won 4th Largest Federal Homeless Assistance Grant 2016**

**Recognized Nationally for DNC "Housed Not Hidden"**

#### **Specialized street homelessness programs:**

Journey of Hope - nationally recognized drug treatment for chronically homeless (121 beds)

Safe Havens – low barrier shelters with intensive services (414 beds)

**Winter initiative - Zero "Code Blue" cold weather deaths since January 2015**

**Annually add 370 beds - expanded daytime engagement center in 2017**

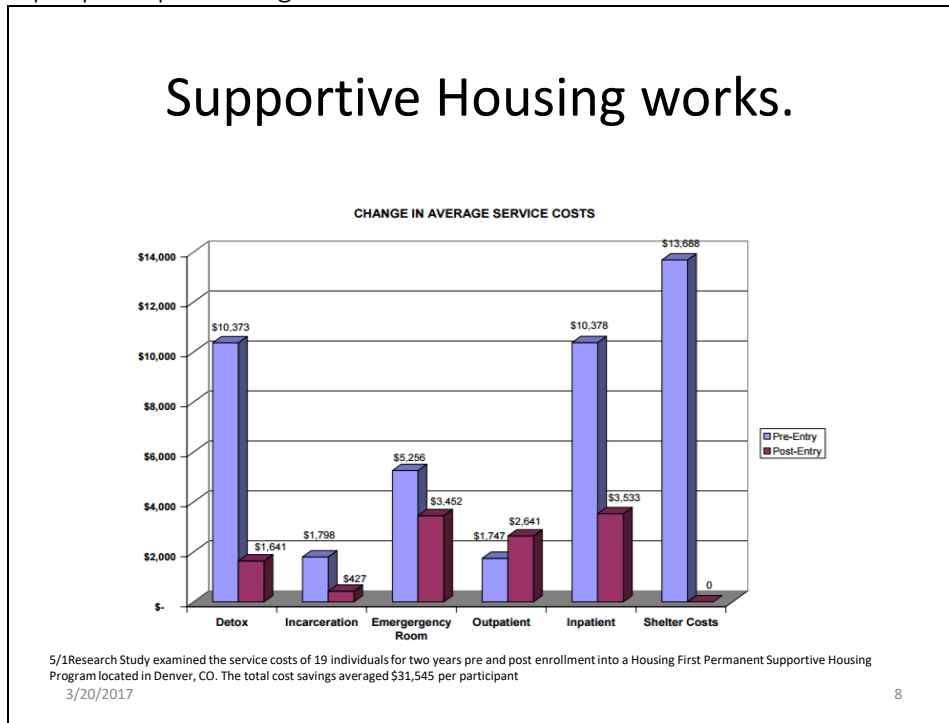
#### **Why are there still so many people on the street?**

Demand exceeds supply! There just aren't enough places for people with low incomes to live. Shelters are full. Outreach is stretched to capacity. And our daytime Engagement Centers are bursting at the seams. Last year we helped 1200 homeless households get into permanent housing and met only an estimated 20% of need.

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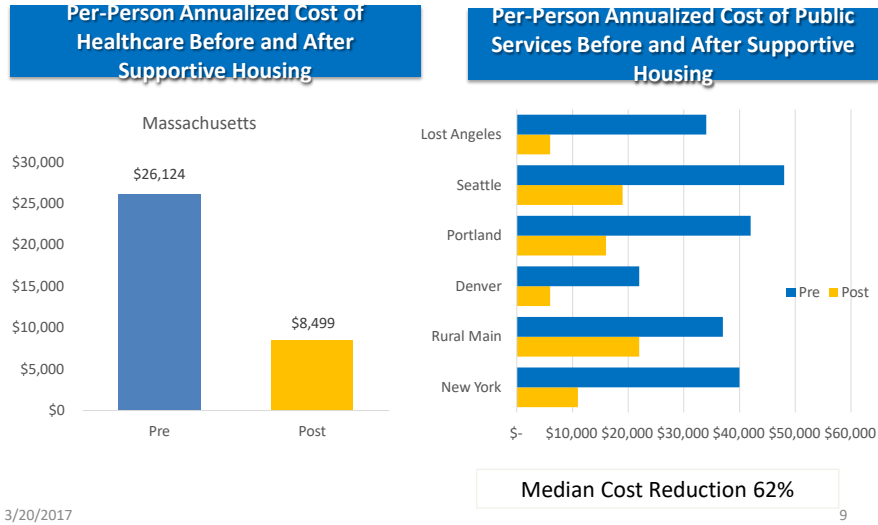
**There is hope. We know what works to address street homelessness - Supportive Housing.**

- It is an evidence-based model that combines a rent subsidy to make the unit affordable with services like medical care, drug and mental health treatment and case management like life skills. Services are funded by Medicaid.
- It is 90% effective in preventing a return to street homelessness.
- The City already has several capable providers.
- It is what people experiencing homelessness want.

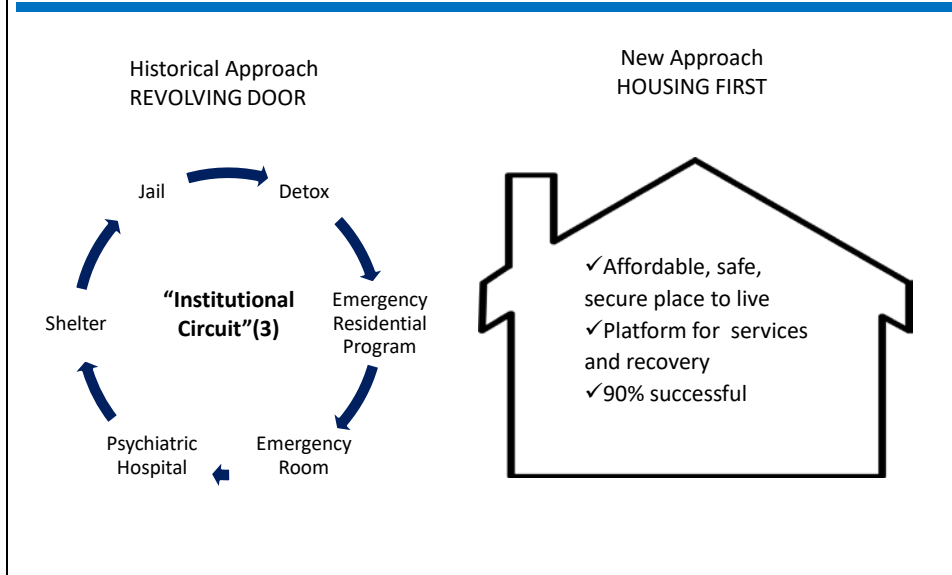


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## Results have been duplicated in LA, Seattle, Portland, Denver, NY



## Housing First – A Shift in Approach



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## PLAN FOR PHASE ONE: Implement Three High-Impact Strategies to Reduce Street Homelessness

### STRATEGY #1 – Launch Public Private Housing First Partnership

Goal: Fund 200 Supportive Housing units for individuals experiencing street homelessness in FY18

- Jumpstart with \$75,000 from Office of Homeless Services and commitment of 100 Day Chronic Homeless Team to house 20 people directly from Winter Initiative
- Launch for FY18:
  - o Leverage City's goal of new units starting with Mayor's proposed \$1M
  - o Generate \$1.5M a year in private funds for 3 years to add 100 new Housing First units <http://www.mayorsfundphila.org/initiatives/end-homelessness/>
- Use funds to underwrite rent subsidies, couple with Medicaid-funded services
- Note: True need is 500 new units a year for 10 years; 200 units is a down payment.

#### How it would work

- Homeless Outreach offers housing and treatment to individuals in targeted areas of the City who are chronically homeless and/or extremely vulnerable.
- The City selects an expert Supportive Housing non-profit provider(s) to operate program - identify landlords, enter into a lease for multiple units, administer rent payments and troubleshoot any landlord-tenant issues, coordinate services.
- City inspectors ensure the units are safe.
- Individuals choose a rental unit from the list of possible units and pay 30% of their income toward rent—the subsidy and program operating costs are funded through this initiative
- Mental health and substance use services, as needed, are provided by the City through Community Behavioral Health onsite or in the community
- Donations go to the charitable, tax-exempt Mayor's Fund to End Homelessness and are restricted to the Housing First Partnership <http://www.mayorsfundphila.org/initiatives/end-homelessness/>
- The City's Office of Homeless Services provides financial and outcome reporting to the donors, based on information provided by the providers, assume responsibility for provider performance, contracting and oversight. It is, in turn, held to high standards of fiscal accountability and audited by multiple local, state and federal entities.
- To ensure equity, City dollars will continued to be allocated citywide based on need.

#### Roles and responsibilities

The City's Office of Homeless Services

- Provides eligibility/tracking of chronically homeless
- Selects nonprofit, ensures performance, reports to community
- Inspects units
- Reports to donors

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- Takes full responsibility for success of program
- Absorbs program operation costs for first 200 units at no cost to donors
- Oversees fund management and fully accounts for all dollars and services

The City's Dept of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services (DBHIdS)

- Funds and manages Homeless Outreach
- Funds and manages Mental health and substance use services, including case management using Medicaid funding
- Coordinates with the Office of Homeless Services

Donors

- Fund subsidies that make up the difference between 30% of a formerly homeless person's income and the cost of renting a one-bedroom apartment plus program operation.
- Get charitable tax donation for donating to 501(c)(3), The Mayor's Fund to End Homelessness
- Monitor reports for results
- Participate in effort to identify long-term revenue stream and finance structure.
- 3-year funding commitment required to enter into leases

The Public Private Housing First Fund via the Mayor's Fund to End Homelessness

- Receives charitable donations for this initiative
- On behalf of the City of Homeless Services, enters into an agreement with, and makes payment to, selected non-profit who administers the program
- Charges 5% admin

### **Performance Measure**

**At least 200 homeless individuals would be housed between April 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018**

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## STRATEGY #2 - ADD TWO (2) DAYTIME ENGAGEMENT CENTERS

Engagement Centers are accessible daytime service sites that provide safety and comfort from the street, meals, showers, laundry and most importantly, connection to services. They are a way-station and pathway to housing, a site for outreach to bring people to build trust, work on next steps; a place for police to bring people to gain access to services. Ideally sites would enable meal providers to host meals in “Safe Serve” kitchen.

Note: Engagement only works if there is housing available at the back end.

We know this approach works. In February 2017 we added days and hours to New Life Center at 32<sup>nd</sup> and Spring Garden. Attendance immediately doubled daily. We propose to add two more Center City sites with proven providers 7am-7pm, seven days a week to provide meals, laundry, showers, ID, medical care, benefits and connect people to services and housing. The Hub of Hope in Suburban Station has an impressive track record of getting people connected to housing and services.

Specifically we need to:

### **1) Help secure a location for an expanded Hub of Hope.**

Operated by Project HOME January through March AM and PM hours, the Hub offers medical care, access to shelter, drug and mental health treatment; effective way station for street homeless to access services; connected to housing. It needs larger space to operate fully and accommodate more people throughout the day. Project HOME is willing to operate and expand.

### **2) Launch the Engagement Center at Liberti Church, 17th and Sansom**

Liberti has a large young congregation with homeless mission. They have developed a partnership with Bethesda project and have plans to build-out an Engagement Center in their gym. They have off-street access on Moravian, a commercial kitchen and are willing to have external meal providers. They need \$1.5M in capital improvements needed plus estimated \$600,000 a year to help about 200 people a day.

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### STRATEGY #3 - PROTECT WHAT'S WORKING

The biggest threat to the city on the homelessness front right now is the President's budget proposal. You think it's bad now, wait until HUB programs are cut by \$6B and Medicaid services are not available to people.

We ask you to join us in opposing block granting and caps on Medicaid. Oppose proposed cuts to the HUD budget

- \$6B nationally from HUD about 3000 formerly homeless Philadelphians lose their housing and no new homeless people enter. (More details on impact are being quantified)
- Medicaid provides the services to most people exiting homelessness. The effort to block grant and cap Medicaid will mean that we can no longer provide services to all who enter supportive housing.