



Department of County Human Services



**MULTNOMAH
COUNTY**

Safe, healthy, caring and diverse communities where hope, independence, learning and opportunity prevail for all.

Five Questions About Homelessness in Multnomah County

April 23, 2013

Five Questions about Homelessness in Multnomah County

1. What's the size of the problem?
2. How do we compare to other cities?
3. Do we "attract" people here with our services?
4. How much do we spend, what do we get?
5. What's the answer?

What's the Size of the Problem?

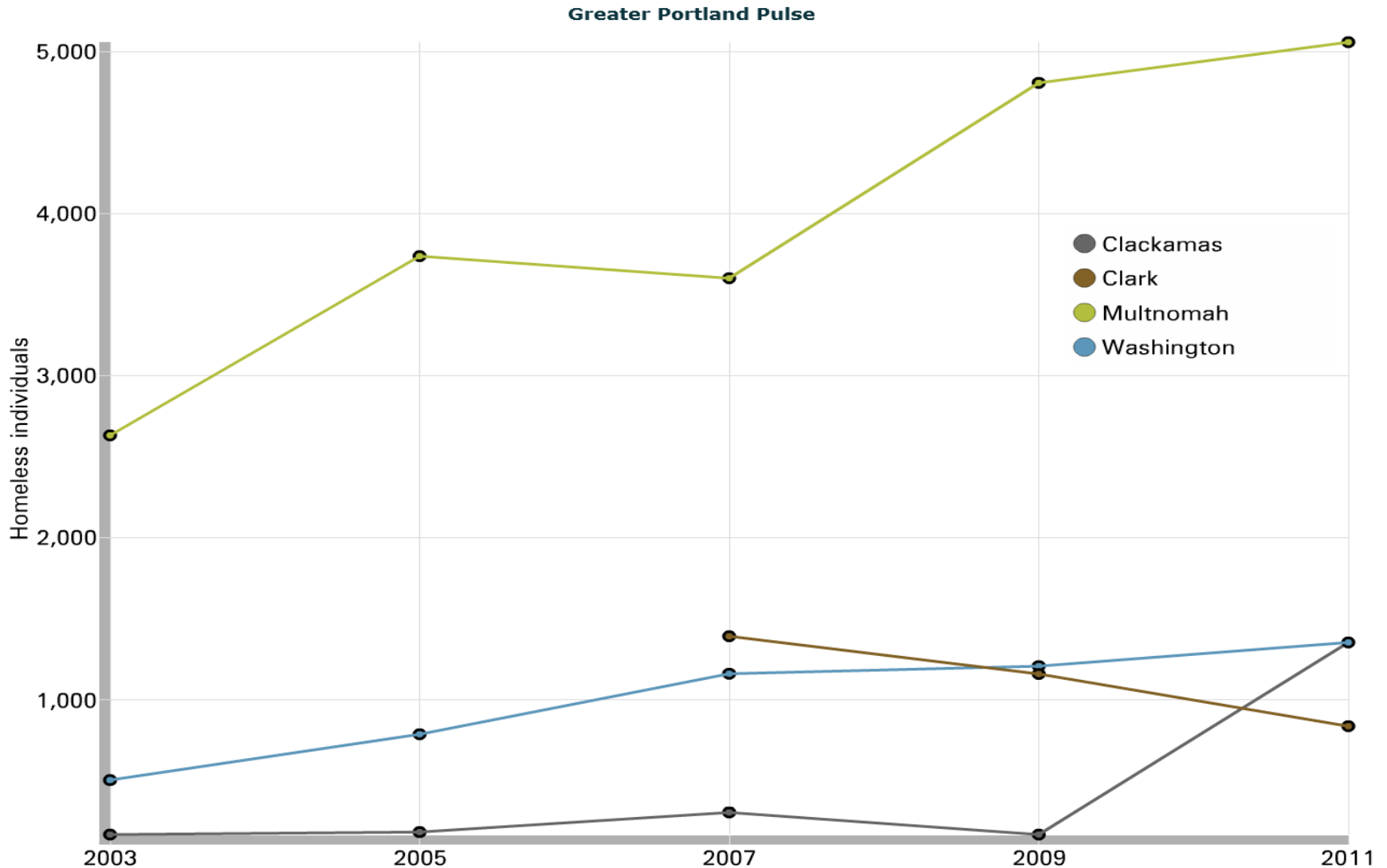
Despite unprecedented investment and new innovation in our homeless programs, Multnomah County continues to experience high numbers of homelessness in our community

What's the Size of the Problem?

- 41 out of every 10,000 Oregonians are homeless
- Statewide homelessness decreased 8%
- Households doubled up increased 16% statewide
- Rents increased 6% statewide
- Households rent burdened increased 13% statewide
- Persons living in poverty increased 11% statewide

2010-2011 "State of Homelessness in America", National Alliance to End Homelessness

What's the Size of the Problem?



What's the Size of the Problem?

Multnomah County Homelessness Count 2011

Key:

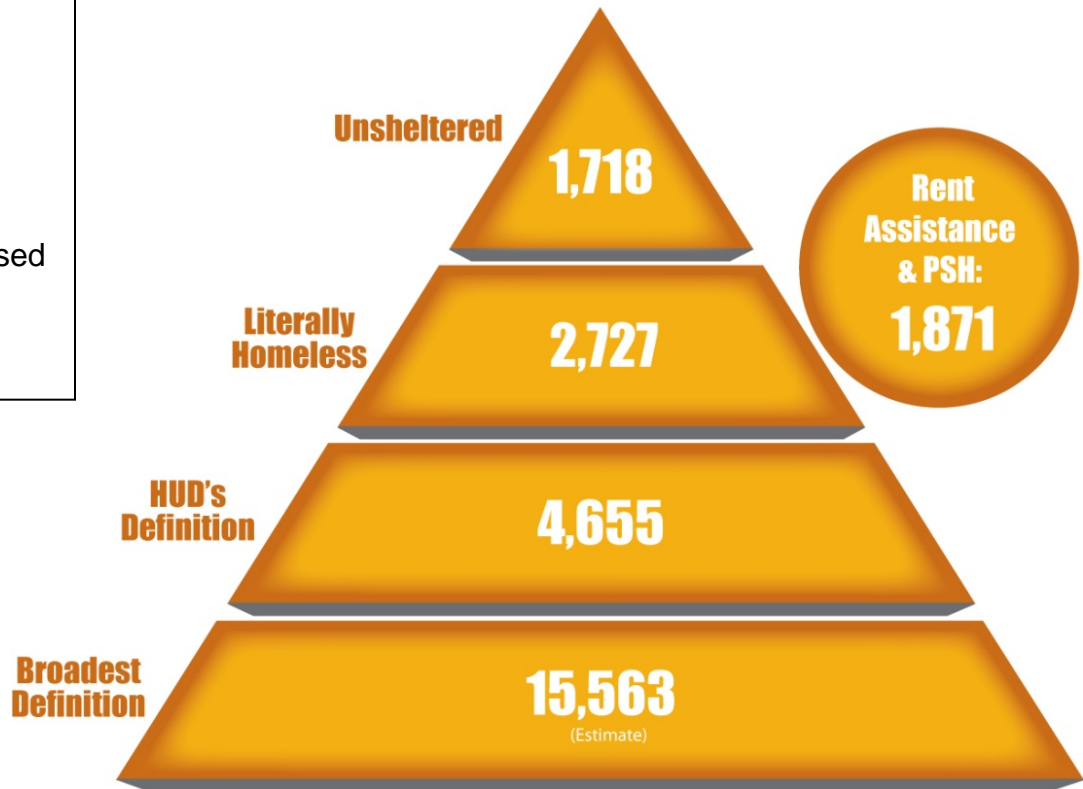
Unsheltered: Sleeping outside, in vehicle or abandoned building

Literally Homeless: Unsheltered or in an emergency shelter

HUD's Definition: Unsheltered, literally homeless and transitionally housed

Broadest Definition: All other categories plus "doubled up" or "couch surfing"

PSH: Permanent Supportive Housing



What's the Size of the Problem?

Although many people struggle with homelessness in our community, the 10 Year Plan Reset identifies the following groups as those homeless who are most vulnerable:

- Families with Children
- Unaccompanied Youth (including age out of foster care)
- Adults with disabilities (including seniors)
- Women
- Veterans

What's the Size of the Problem?

Homelessness in Multnomah County 2009-2011

- Unsheltered homelessness increased by 127 or 8%
- Number of people meeting the broadest definition of homelessness increased by 1,112 or 8%
- The number of children under age 18 sleeping on the street increased from 44 to 64
- The number of women literally homeless rose from 662 to 787

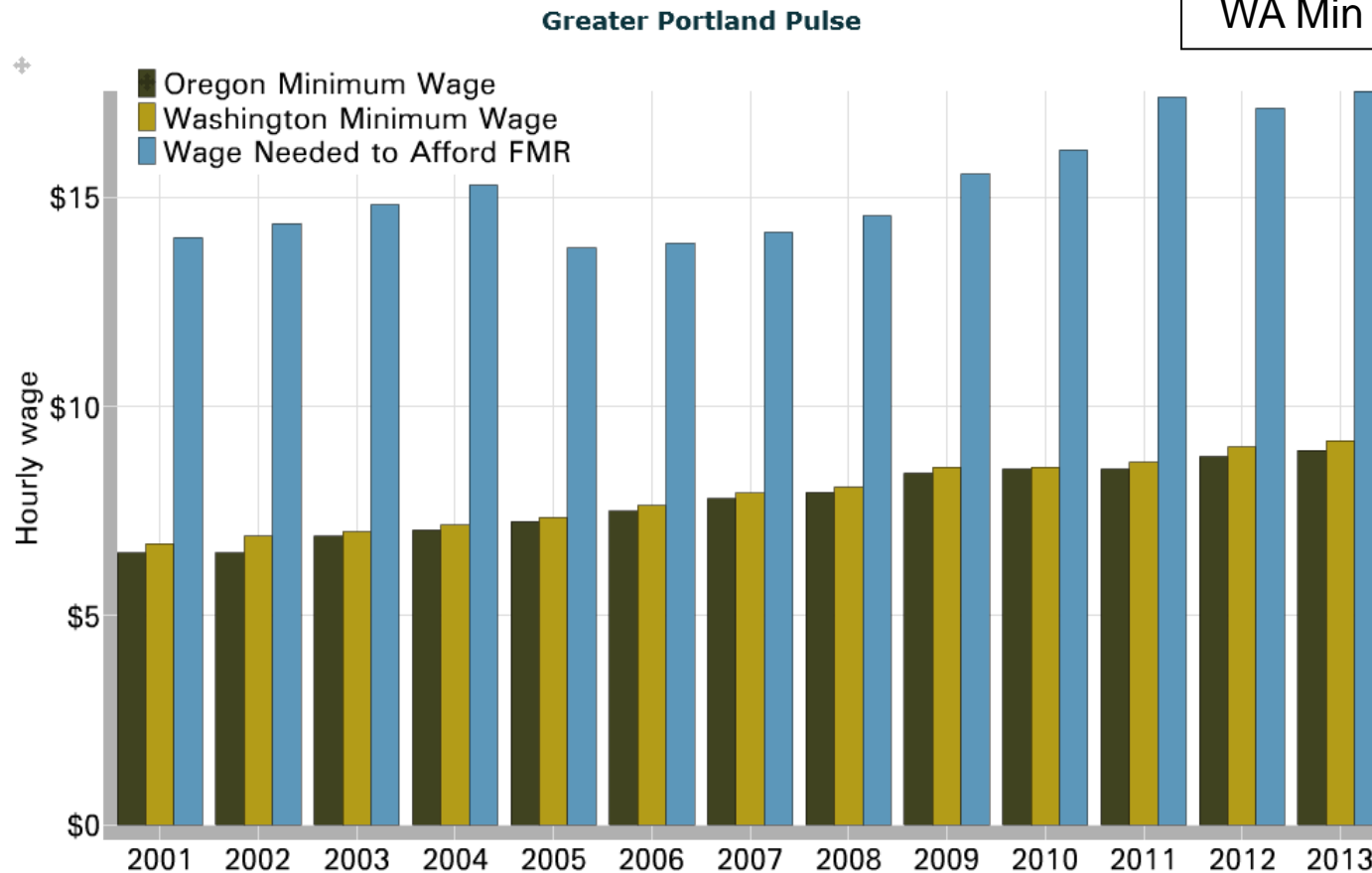
What's the Size of the Problem?

- 29% Multnomah County citizens are people of color, yet comprise 46% of the homeless population (2,054 people). The disparity is particularly stark for families with children.
- Nearly half the homeless population (2,345 people) report having a disability
- 464 individuals (12% of adults) are veterans
- 853 homeless women reported domestic violence – 35% of all adult women and 18% of all homeless adults
- 3,894 children attending school live in homeless families

What's the Size of the Problem?

Having a Job is Not Enough

Housing Wage: \$17.54
OR Min Wage: \$8.95
WA Min Wage: \$9.19



What's the Size of the Problem?

- To afford a typical rental in the County and not be rent burdened, a household must earn at least \$17.54/hour.
- A family of one adult and two children needs to earn at least \$23.75/hour in order to achieve self-sufficiency.
- Of the top 10 jobs available in the County only **ONE** pays a wage that meets either of these standards – Registered Nurse \$35.80/hour.

Bookkeeping - \$16.40, Customer Service - \$14.55, Office Clerks - \$13.75, Laborers - \$11.90, Janitors (not maids) - \$11.31, Retail - \$10.46, Wait Staff - \$9.98, Cashiers - \$9.49, Food Service - \$9.30

What's the Size of the Problem?

In the 2011 Point in Time count, the most frequent reasons cited for becoming homeless out of 5,440 respondents were:

1. Lost job/unemployment (544/10%)
2. Couldn't afford rent (527/10%)
3. Addictions disability (527/10%)
4. Escaping Domestic Violence (330/6%)
5. Criminal history (274/5%)
6. Kicked out by family or friends (227/4%)

How Do We Compare to Other Areas?

Compared to other metropolitan areas, Portland has a relatively high number of persons experiencing homelessness, particularly families, victims of domestic violence, and veterans.

How Do We Compare to Other Areas?

Comparison of 2011 Point in Time Reports

	Multnomah County	King County, WA	Hennepin County, MN	San Francisco
Population	759,256	2,007,440	1,184,576	825,863
Total # of People who are Homeless	4,655 (0.61% /pop)	8,830 (0.44%/pop)	3,285 (0.28%/pop)	6,455 (0.78%/pop)
Families	2,666 (57%)	3,127 (35%)	1,805 (55%)	635 (9.9%)
DV Victims	837 (18%)	1501 (17%)	361 (11%)	711 (11%)
Veterans	558 (12%)	883 (10%)	131 (4%)	1097 (17%)

Are We Attracting People Here?

As homelessness increases, many perceive that responding to these needs leads people to disproportionately seek out their communities...

"Homelessness increases in Wyoming, product of economic boom",
January 2013

"Are cities like Portland (ME) too attractive to homeless people?",
December 2012

"Mild and merciful San Francisco, a magnet for the homeless", August
1998

With similar headlines in Hawaii, New York City, Prescott,
AZ, and Ann Arbor, MI

Are We Attracting People Here?

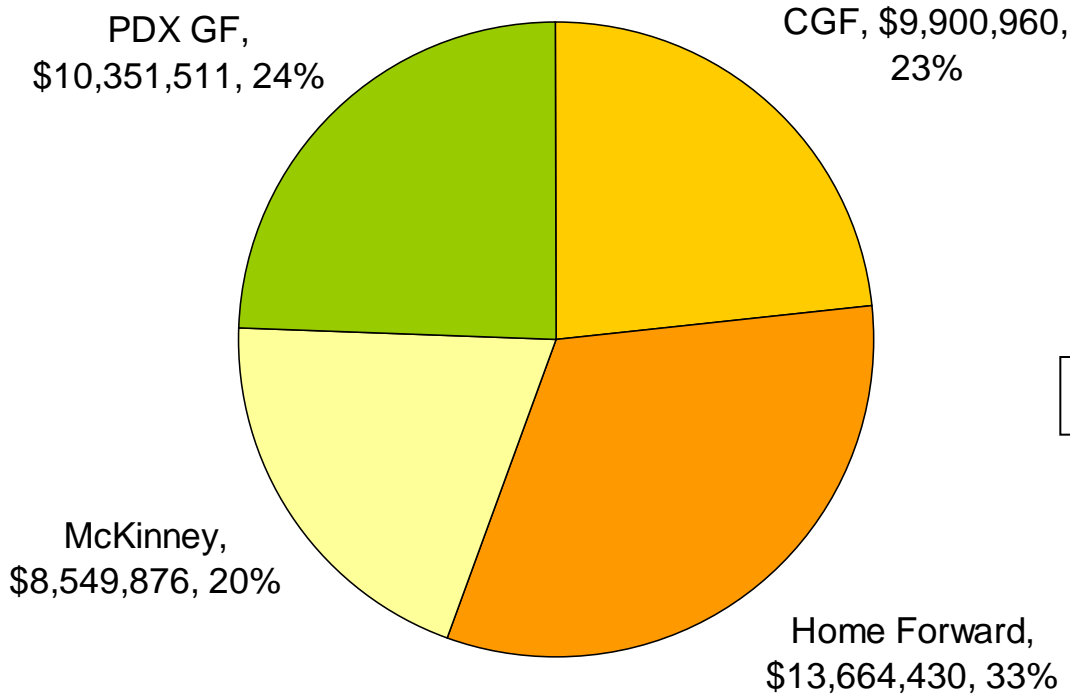
- Nationally, 75-84% of people remain in the same area where they lived before they became homeless
- In Portland, people in shelters report moving here for the same reasons as anyone else:
 - Relatives or friends in the area
 - Escaping domestic violence
 - Potential job opportunities
 - School
- 2011 Street Count found that out of 1,718 homeless individuals on the street:
 - 11% were homeless prior to arriving in the County
 - 78% had been living in the County for more than 2 years
 - 52% had been living in the County for more than 10 years

How Much Do We Spend, What Do We Get?

Multnomah County, the City of Portland and Home Forward all share funding and oversight for homeless services in the county

How Much Do We Spend, What Do We Get?

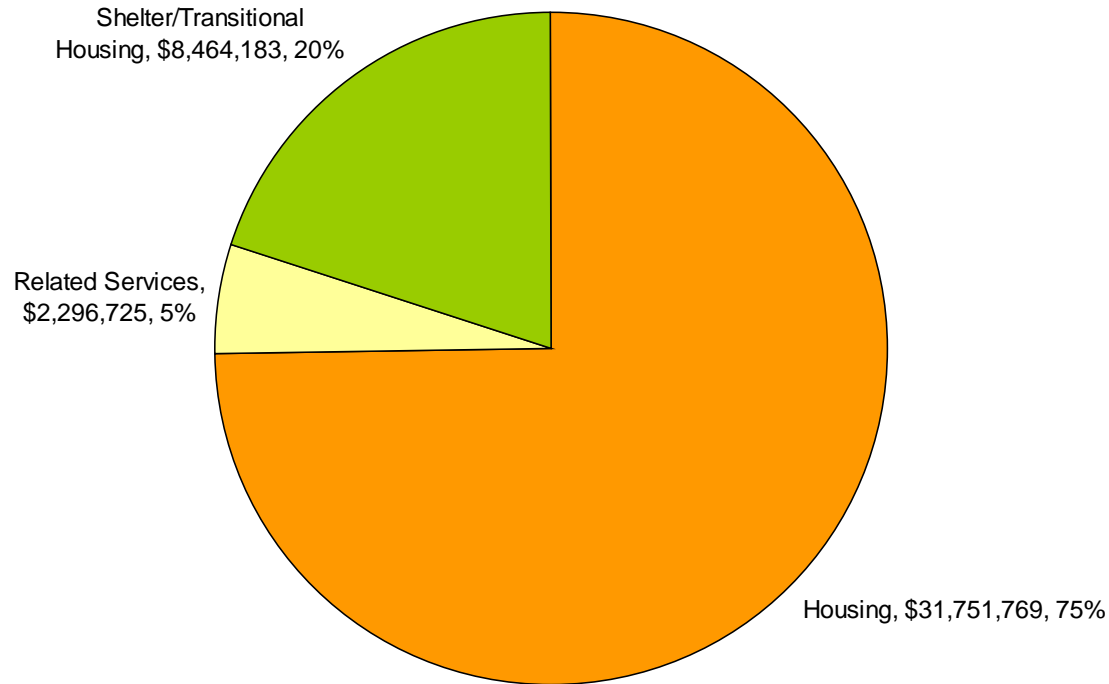
Funding for Homelessness Services



Total: Over \$42 million

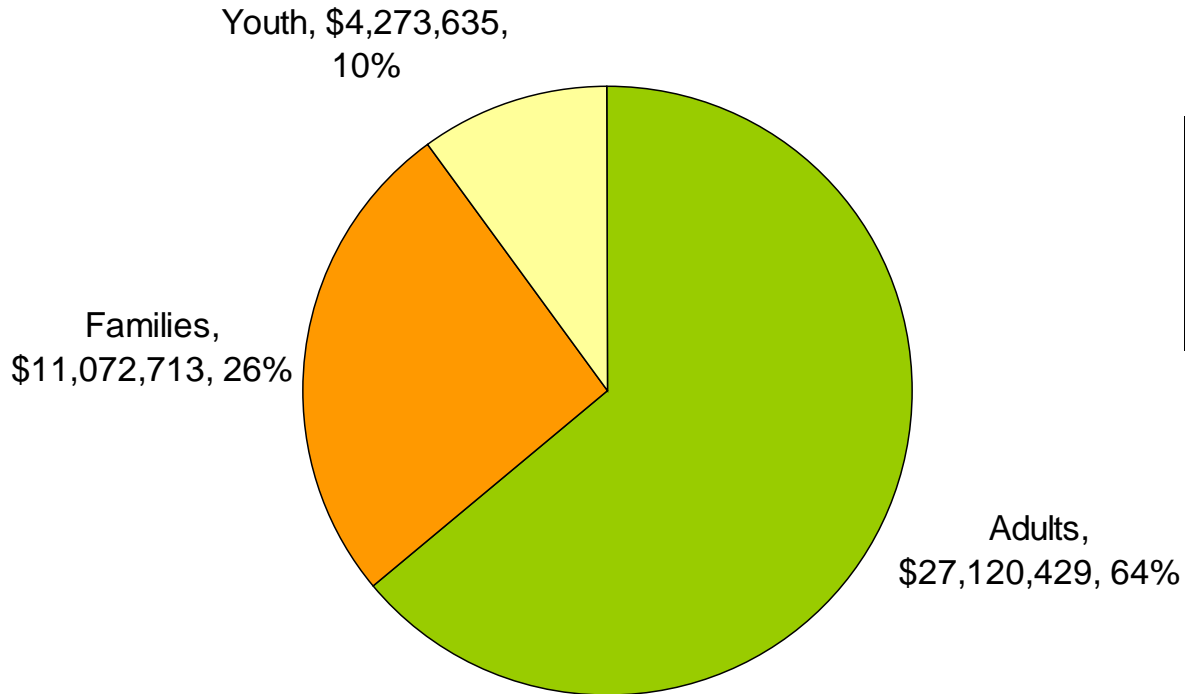
How Much Do We Spend, What Do We Get?

Funding by Homeless Service Type



How Much Do We Spend, What Do We Get?

Current Funding by Population Groups



PIT Population Count
Families: 40%
Adults: 59%
Youth: 1%

How Much Do We Spend, What Do We Get?

Housing Type	Cost	Ave Stay	# HH Svd	6 Mo. Outcome
Warming Center	\$13/night	60 nights	82	N/A
Family Shelter	\$6/night	68 nights	102	98% housed
Adult Shelter	\$25/night	46 nights	1,179	76% housed
Youth Crisis Shelter	\$30/night	22 nights	450	N/A
Hsg Placement/RA – FSHP, RRI & AFP	\$3000-\$3,500/hh	N/A	266	94-98% housed
Oxford Model	\$1,523/hh	129	63	100% housed
STRA	\$1,760/hh	102 nights	2416	90% housed
Family Transitional	\$24/night	255 nights	198	94% housed
Youth Transitional	\$39/night	271 nights	126	85% housed
Benefits Acquisition	\$3,444/ind	N/A	207	82% benefits

What's the Answer?

Homelessness continues to be a major challenge in communities around the country due to:

- The recession and poor economy
- Decreased resources
- Ongoing war
- Prevalence of domestic and sexual violence

It's also an opportunity to think about services in a new way. Using best practices, pilot projects and data driven decision making, the County is at the forefront of these changes.

What's the Answer?

- Economic Development as Human Capital
- 10 Year Plan Reset Implementation
- Increased Funding for Strategic Action

What's the Answer?

Economic Development as Human Capital

A regional approach to achieve economic growth through focused action in the areas of:

- Education
- Equity
- Engagement

Strategies to achieve this include:

- Homeless Benefits Recovery
- Action for Prosperity
- Development of Affordable Housing
- Individual Development Accounts

What's the Answer?

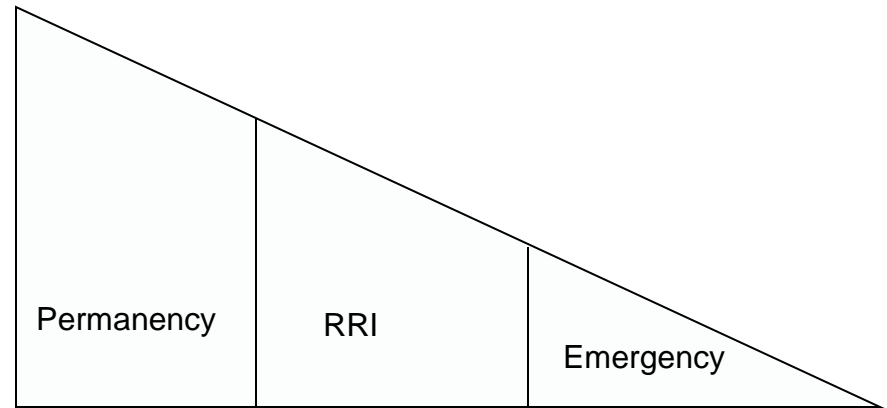
Implement the 10 Year Plan Reset

- Align Funding to better reflect:
 - Values
 - Priority Populations
 - Identified Service Areas
 - Evidence Based Practice, Successful Pilot programs - RRI, AE, Mobile Outreach
- Improve data and evaluation capacity
- Increase interjurisdictional collaborations & governance
 - Joint decision making, prioritization, outcomes, and budgeting

What's the Answer?

The Homelessness System of Care

- Emergency/Safety Off the Streets
 - Shelters
 - Street outreach
 - Information & Referral
- Rapid Rehousing
 - Landlord outreach
 - Housing Placement
 - Deposits
 - Short Term Rent Assistance
- Permanency
 - Income & Benefits Acquisition
 - Eviction Prevention
 - Stability Services



What's the Answer?

In the last 5 years we've made significant improvements in our homelessness system including:

- Warming Center “No Turn Away”
- Emergency Management to address homelessness (30/30)
- Rapid Rehousing Model
- Oxford-type Models
- Mobile Outreach Pilot
- Cross-jurisdictional Collaboration
 - Joint NOFAs
 - Regular policy meetings
 - 10 Year Plan Reset
 - Aligned budgeting discussions
 - More effective street and shelter counts
 - Short Term Rent Assistance (STRA)

What's the Answer?

We're continuing our work:

- Assertive Engagement, system-wide
- Mobile Outreach and Coordinated Entry
- Oxford Model for homeless youth
- Integration of homeless families and DV systems and services

What's the Answer?

Our Rapid Rehousing Model

First priority is to assist the family to find housing that is:

- Clean
- Safe
- Affordable

Then household is linked with:

- Benefits acquisition
- Job training or other income assistance
- School enrollment for children
- Mental health and addictions treatment
- Domestic violence services
- Housing stability services

"With housing, all is possible"

What's the Answer?

The Evolution of The Family Homeless System in Multnomah County

2003	2013
Families called or visited multiple locations looking for shelter	Centralized through 211Info
Families waited for a shelter opening	No turn away during winter months
Families were assessed for "barriers", "housing readiness" and "program compliance"	Families are assessed for strengths and advocates work together with them to create a housing plan
Families were assigned a housing advocate when they were deemed ready for housing	Mobile outreach staff often start work with families before they enter the shelter
Families stayed in shelter for long periods of time, working a program	Most families are rapidly rehoused, often with short-term rent assistance
Families could "graduate" to transitional or longer term housing programs	Focus on permanent housing
Focus on addressing service needs first, then housing	Focus on housing first, then addressing service needs once stabilized

What's the Answer?

Coordinated Entry and Mobile Outreach Pilot

- Decoupled housing placement from shelter system
- Families call 211info for assistance
- Mobile outreach – meet with families wherever they were at, whatever time works best for family
- Housed 54 families in 6 months
- For pilot families who entered shelter, length of stay was less than half of those who weren't in pilot (30 v. 64 days)

Five Questions about Homelessness in Multnomah County

Discussion