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NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS

New Cities Project Meeting
June 1, 2006
Costs of Homelessness

- Mental Health
- Corrections
- Hospitals
- Shelter
- Human Cost
Costs of Homelessness

- We pay $44,000 per year to keep someone like Charles homeless
A New Approach

When we talk about ending homelessness, what we are really talking about is doing a much smarter, more effective, more efficient job of delivering assistance.

We can – and must – reallocate resources in order to get better outcomes.
Who is Homeless, and Why?

- 2.3 – 3.5 Million Homeless Per Year
Who is Homeless, and Why?

- 80% Are Homeless For a Relatively Short Period of Time
  - Not different from other poor people
  - Have had a housing crisis
  - They stay homeless until they find new housing – services may or may not help.
Who is Homeless, and Why?

- 20% are Long-Term Homeless
  - Often suffer from mental illness, substance abuse disorders, HIV/AIDS, other physical ailments
  - Homeless for long periods of time
  - Mostly single adults
What Have We Been Doing For People Who Are Homeless?

- For the 80%
  - Lots of services plus shelter and transitional housing
  - Too little focus on permanent housing.

- For the 20%
  - Very few services
  - Some shelter.
What Can We Do to End Homelessness?

In Communities Where Progress is Being Made, Three Common Elements:

- Effective Implementation
- Key Strategies
- Solutions brought to Scale.
Implementation

- Implementing Body Controls Resources
  - New York City
  - Columbus
- Shift From Nonprofit Sector to Public Sector
Key Strategies

- Homelessness is Driven by Housing
- Key Strategies are Focused on Housing:
  - Prevention/Diversion
  - Housing First
  - Rapid Re-Housing
  - Supportive Housing
Key Strategies

Examples
- Hennepin County, MN
- Westchester County, NY
- Columbus, OH
- New York City
Scale

Examples

- Chronic Homelessness Initiative
- San Francisco Direct Access to Housing
- Portland Central City Concern
- Philadelphia Street Outreach
Challenges

- Scarce Federal Resources
- Access to State Funding
- Transforming Systems
- Overlapping and Mismatched Funding
It Can Be Done

- Doing Things Smarter
- Solving A Problem
- Targeting Resources
- Good and Effective Governance
- Public Morality and Conscience
- ENDING Homelessness
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