

A Collaborative Approach to Homelessness



Newark Funder Affinity Group Meeting
November 1, 2018
Victoria Foundation



The Many Faces of Homelessness



Mission and Vision



MISSION: The mission of the Homeless Services Initiative is to assist homeless individuals and families to **achieve independent living and self-sufficiency**, while ensuring that new occurrences of homelessness are **brief and rare**.

VISION: The City of Newark will use data and evidence-based approaches to bring the unsheltered homeless population down, with a goal of zero.

Homelessness Defined



Homelessness Defined

- A literally homeless individual or family lacks a **fixed, regular, and adequate** nighttime residence
 - **Sheltered Homeless** - Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place of short-term or transitional sheltering.
 - Lives in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living
 - Lives in an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less
 - **Unsheltered Homeless** - Primarily resides outdoors or in public places **not meant for public human habitation**. This population is often hardest to reach due to severe mental illness, addiction issues, and lack of connection to public streams of funding (e.g. welfare, Section 8 housing vouchers, etc.)



Homelessness by the Numbers



Need

- **Demographics (2017 Point in Time Count) City of Newark**
 - Approximately 2,000 homeless (80% of Essex County Homeless Population)
 - Approximately 1,500 Sheltered
 - Approximately 500 unsheltered

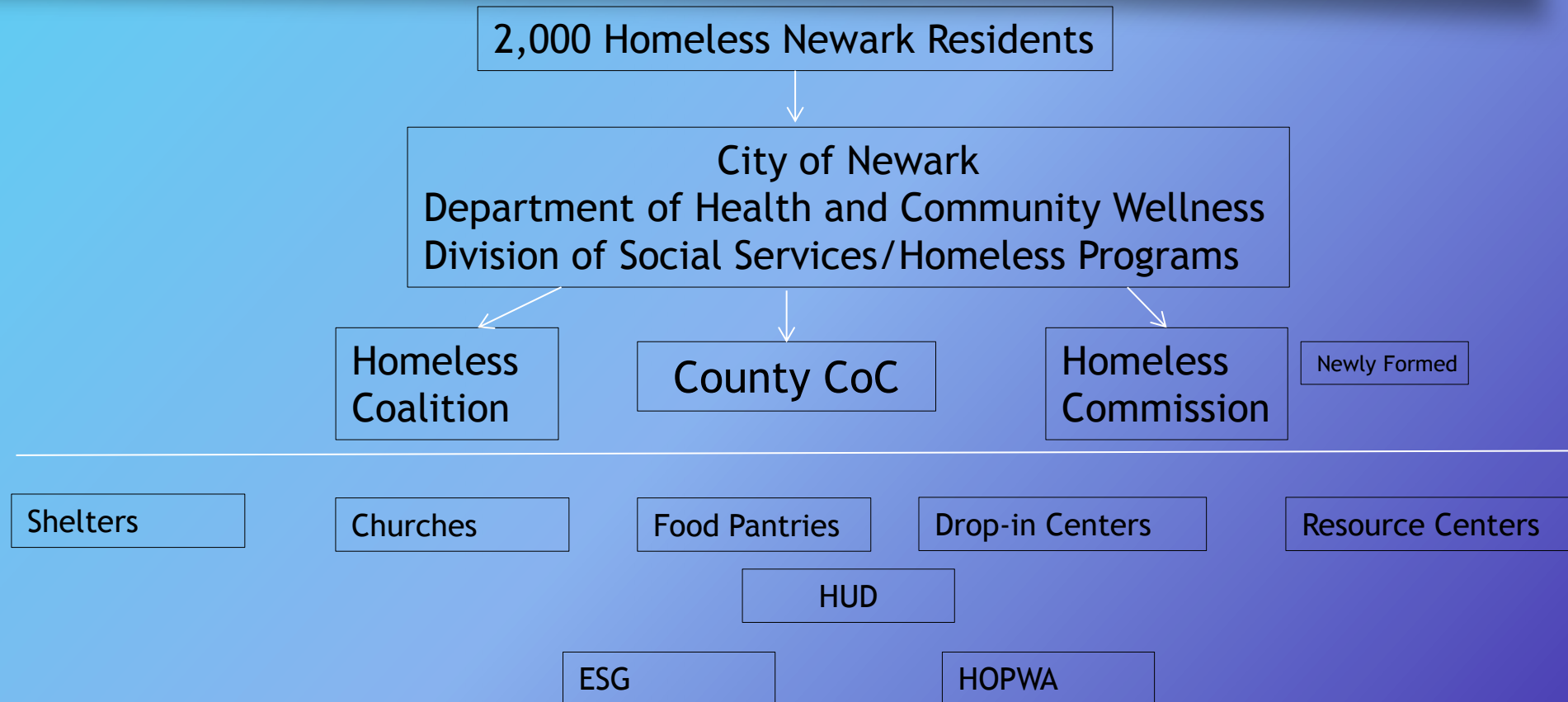
Capacity

- Essex County has 43 shelters
(including welfare shelters and shelters in HMIS only)*
- 27 shelters in Newark *
- Of those 27, **only 7 allow walk-in sheltering**
- Restrictions and protocols keep over 400 persons out of shelters

400 + “unsheltered persons” sleep on the streets or places unfit for human habitation because of multiple barriers.

* (Confirmed with Essex County)

City of Newark Homeless Resources



Resources Provided through (DHCW) Social Services Team



	ESG	HOPWA	STATE	FEDERAL	CITY OF NEWARK	GAP (Remaining Unsheltered)
OVERVIEW / ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES	SHELTER OPERATIONS AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES - CASE MANAGEMENT - TRANSPORTATION - RAPID RE-HOUSING - HOMELESS PREVENTION	LONG-TERM RENTAL ASSISTANCE FACILITY OPERATIONS (Serves people living with HIV)	HOUSING VOUCHERS - DCA	MAINSTREAM HOUSING VOUCHERS - SECTION 8 79 COLLABORATED WITH NEWARK HOUSING AUTHORITY	SHELTER OPERATIONS AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES - CASE MANAGEMENT	SHELTER OPERATIONS AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES - CASE MANAGEMENT
DOLLARS/ BUDGET	\$560,000	\$5,867,175	N/A	\$1,000,00	\$2,500,000	\$3,372,600
# OF PEOPLE SERVED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 RAPID REHOUSING • 138 HOMELESS PREVENTION • 397 SHELTER BEDS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 519 BUDGETED • 493 ACTUAL 	17 out of 45	ENROLLED 44 ON FAMILY WAITLIST	180 UNSHELTERED RESIDENTS	220 UNSHELTERED RESIDENTS

Barriers and Restrictions to Sheltering



- Limited funding sources/capacity
- Severe mental illness
- Substance abuse
- Lack of LGBTQ safe havens
- Physical disability
- Underage youth (Foster care time-outs, persons dismissed from private families, etc.)
- Domestic violence
- Prison release

The Cycle and Cost of Chronic Homelessness



Source: United States Interagency Council on Homelessness
(usch.gov)

Cost of Homelessness to Taxpayer



Emergency Room Visits = \$18,500 - \$44,400
per year

(Avg. of 5 visits)

Reduced by 61% if placed in permanent
housing

Hospital Visits = \$9,000 per visit
(Avg. of 3 night stay)

Healthcare costs reduced by 59% if placed in
permanent housing

<https://www.greendoors.org/facts/cost.php>



The Feeling of Isolation



How did we get here?



- On December 13, 2017 the City of Newark partnered with a third-party operator to open a **temporary, no-barrier, extreme weather shelter** targeting the approximately 400 unsheltered homeless in the city.
- **This was historic.** The city had never before taken on the homeless issue in such a proactive manner.
- By January 4, 2018 the shelter was operating at 219% of expected capacity and on some nights housed 230 to 250 of the 400 unsheltered homeless in Newark. During this time of historic cold weather, we saved lives.
- The shelter was slated to close on March 31, 2018, but the city kept it open due to continuing cold and unpredictable weather and extreme demand - **the final two months thanks to the philanthropic community.**
- From December 13, 2017 to August 31, 2018, 35,418 bed nights were provided to 518 unduplicated residents.
- The opening of the shelter led to unprecedented collaboration among the Newark Housing Authority, the County Continuum of Care, the Newark Homeless Coalition, the New Jersey State Department of Community Affairs, and regional HUD offices.

Accomplishments



- 79 HUD Mainstream Vouchers were just awarded (worth \$1 million) through a collaborative effort between the Newark Housing Authority and the City of Newark.
- 55 Clients were elevated out of homelessness through a variety of interventions including the following:
 - Mayor's 100 Day Jobs Program
 - Newark Housing Authority/Laborers Local 55
 - Permanent Supportive Housing Vouchers
 - Access to Jobs Through Newark Workforce Development Board
- 35 Clients were placed in shelters throughout Essex County with “in-kind” support from the network of shelters in the Essex County Continuum of Care.
- Developed and adopted City Ordinance creating Homelessness Commission

The Plan



Short Term

- Year-round sheltering through an RFP
- Strengthen partnerships with local, county, and state organizations to increase permanent housing solutions
- Homeless Commission Formed
- Identify technical assistance supports with national best practices
- Job training and employment opportunities

Medium to Long Term

- Develop a comprehensive homelessness strategic plan
- Identify innovative housing models and other affordable housing options.
- Create a financial model to leverage all public funding streams
- Explore innovative public-private funding solutions (e.g. Social Impact Bond)
- Job training and employment opportunities

Targeted Outcomes



Outcomes

- Year-round shelter availability
- Creation of sustainable long term housing placements
- Supportive services which enhance self sufficiency and reduce homelessness
- Additional services which increase permanent housing opportunities
- Development and implementation of job training programs and employment opportunities
- **REDUCE HOMELESSNESS IN NEWARK TO ZERO!**



COLLABORATION AT WORK - NEWARK HOUSING AUTHORITY HIRES HOMELESS RESIDENTS



Newark resident Shante Rovinsky works to prepare apartments in a program sponsored by the Newark Housing Authority and Laborers Local 55 that trains the homeless in the construction trades, at Bradley Court in Newark.

Source: www.nj.com/essex/index.ssf



Newark resident John Robinson works to prepare apartments in a program sponsored by the Newark Housing Authority and Laborers Local 55 that trains the homeless in the construction trades, at Bradley Court in Newark.

Source: www.nj.com/essex/index.ssf

What did we learn?



The City does not want to supplant our homeless services providers who have been doing this work for decades, but rather support and increase their capacity while focusing on a comprehensive system to address homelessness and the creation of permanent, affordable housing opportunities, and the support services necessary to create sustainable daily living.

Public Funds/Resources Involved



- City dollars
- Other agency and partner dollars, in-kind, vouchers, etc.
- Key partners
- Grants
 - Federal
 - State
 - Private Foundations



I alone cannot change the world,
but I can cast a stone across the
waters to create many ripples.

~Mother Teresa~

Opportunities to Engage (Fund)



- Support for the creation of a comprehensive strategic plan
- Support for outreach and housing of the unsheltered homeless community
- Collaboration and support for the creation of innovative affordable housing models for the homeless population
- Support to bring best practices from other cities.

Thank You



We Hope You Will Join Us.