

Federal/State Policy and Funding Trends

**RHISCO Convening
April 21, 2010**



Shifting Federal & State Emphasis

- ❑ Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP)
 - Targeted prevention ('but for'), rapidly ending homelessness, housing stabilization
- ❑ Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act
 - CoC, ESG, Rural programs
- ❑ Federal strategic plan
- ❑ State shifts driven by:
 - Federal priorities, funding
 - ICHAH priorities (e.g., PSH goal, family homelessness prevention, discharge planning)

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

- ❑ Provided \$1.5 billion under the Homelessness Prevention Fund for homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities
- ❑ Established as Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP)
- ❑ Notice published 3/19/09

HPRP: Program Intent

- ❑ Focus of HPRP is housing stabilization
- ❑ Provides temporary financial assistance and/or services to help persons gain housing stability
- ❑ Temporary assistance as a bridge to long-term stability
- ❑ Intent is to serve persons who:
 - Are homeless or would be homeless **but for** this assistance
 - Can remain stably housed **after** this temporary assistance ends

HEARTH Act: Overview

- Enacted May 20, 2009
- Changes HUD's McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance programs
- First significant reauthorization since 1992
- Three Categories:
 - Emergency *Solutions* Grant (new 'ESG')
 - Continuum of Care
 - Rural Housing Stability Program

HEARTH: Major Changes

- More Administrative Funding
- Emphasizes
 - Prevention
 - Rapid Re-Housing
 - Chronic homelessness
- Focus on Outcomes
- Rural Flexibility



HEARTH: Major Changes

- Greater focus on CoC-level performance measures – such as...
 - Length of time homeless
 - Repeat spells of homelessness
 - Overall reduction-number of homeless families/individuals
 - Job/income growth for homeless families/individuals

HEARTH: Timeline

- ❑ Most changes take effect in the NOFA released in Spring/Summer 2011
- ❑ Not this NOFA or the next (Spring or Summer 2010)
- ❑ Regulations later in 2010
- ❑ Public comment period

HEARTH: Continuum of Care *Program (competitive)*

Old

- 3 programs
- Supportive Housing Program (SHP)—including permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, safe havens, and supportive services only projects
 - Shelter Plus Care (SPC)—rental subsidies for permanent supportive housing
 - Mod. Rehab./SRO—seldom used, provides long-term rental subsidies for moderate rehabilitation of single room occupancy buildings

New

- Single Continuum of Care program
- Includes all of the eligible activities of the 3 former programs
 - More flexibility for mixing and matching eligible activities
 - Explicitly specifies re-housing services as an eligible activity
 - Up to 10 percent for admin. Costs (previous amount was 5% for SHP and 8% for SPC)
 - Reasonable costs for staff training

HEARTH: Continuum of Care

Application (competitive)

Old

- Providers in community jointly apply for funding
- Stakeholders in community review and rank applications
- Application has two parts
 - Exhibit 1 is the community wide part, which includes information about the number of homeless people, community resources and gaps, and capacity to administer homeless assistance
 - Exhibit 2 includes individual project applications

New

- Similar to existing process.
- Application will be submitted by Collaborative Applicant, which will be eligible for 3% of the communities award for admin.
- Application will be more focused on performance, including:
 - Reducing lengths of homeless episodes
 - Reducing recidivism back into homelessness
 - Reducing the number of people who become homeless

HEARTH: Additional Requirements

- ❑ Projects that serve families cannot refuse to serve families because of the age of the children (i.e. must serve families with adolescent children)
- ❑ Projects must identify person who will be responsible for coordinating child's education

HEARTH: Incentives

Old

- ❑ Communities that score well on their application are eligible for a bonus permanent supportive housing project.
- ❑ In some years, the bonus project had to serve individuals without children experiencing chronic homelessness.

New

Communities that score well will be eligible for a bonus for proven strategies, including—

- Permanent supportive housing for individuals or families with children experiencing chronic homelessness
- Rapid Re-Housing that serves homeless families
- Other activities that HUD determines are effective at reducing homelessness
- Communities that fully implement a proven strategy can receive a bonus to do whatever they determine is necessary

HEARTH: RHISCO Implications

- Funding focus on homelessness prevention, permanent supportive housing, and Rapid Re-Housing (cont. of HPRP programs)
- Bigger role for Collaborative Applicants – BoS & local
- Rural Housing Stability Program

HEARTH: RHISCO Implications

- Funding focus on homelessness prevention, permanent supportive housing, and Rapid Re-Housing (cont. of HPRP programs)
- Flexible use of funds-local decision-making
- Bigger role for Collaborative Applicants – BoS & local
- BoS CoC: Increased focus on local program (ESG & CoC) *and* system performance
 - Preventing homelessness and reducing lengths of stay in homelessness
- Continued emphasis on data collection via HMIS