

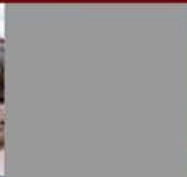


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THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT



FLEXIBLE RESOURCES, DATA-DRIVEN SOLUTIONS:
USING HMIS AND HEARTH TO END HOMELESSNESS

Governance and Capacity Building for Rural Areas





Presenter

- Patricia Gabel, RCAC





Learning Objectives

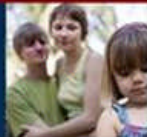
- Workshop will explore the unique challenges that rural areas face in terms of organizational management, capacity building, decision-making, and planning.
- Panelists and participants will discuss different approaches and techniques for
 - assessing needs,
 - coordinating services across areas within and across large geographic regions, and
 - developing planning solutions that specifically address the issues of persons in rural areas.
- Resources





Section 1

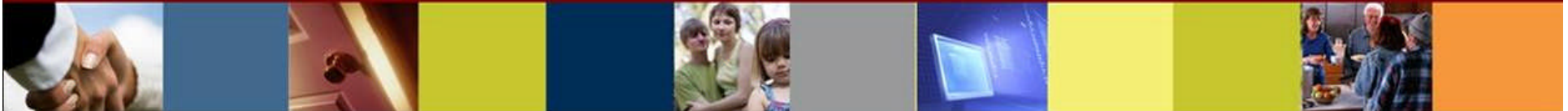
Assessing Needs in Rural Areas





Rural Homelessness Challenges

- Rural homelessness and housing instability, like urban homelessness, is most often the result of poverty and a lack of affordable housing.





Rural Homelessness Challenges

- Underlying factors often include:
 - Family issues such as domestic violence, substance abuse, and mental illness.
 - Limited access to transportation
 - Limited availability of social service agencies that may solve housing problems and reduce the factors that contribute to the cause.
 - Fewer shelters in rural areas – homeless persons are less likely to live on the street or in a shelter
 - May live in a car or camper
 - May live with relatives in overcrowded or substandard housing.





Rural Homelessness Challenges

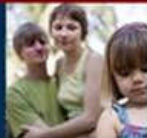
- Approach to ending homelessness must account for the differences between rural and urban homelessness
 - “hidden” population with higher percentage of families
 - coordination constraints endemic to rural areas
 - NIMBY (Not in my back yard): Community can often easily ignore these more hidden rural areas





Rural Homelessness Challenges

- Planning activities must be conducted differently in rural areas
- Results of rural activities (a strategic plan, a count of homelessness, an inventory of services, system performance results, etc.) might look very different from urban area results





Coordination with Other Planning/Needs Assessment Documents

- Consolidated Plans
- Housing Elements
- Ten-Year Plans to End Chronic Homelessness
- State Interagency Councils for the Homeless





Collaboration with Mainstream Housing and Service Programs

- Public Housing (Section 8, Housing Choice Vouchers)
- HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- USDA Rural Development funds
- Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC)
- Medicaid
- Temporary Assistance to Need Families (TANF)
- Food Stamps
- SSI/SSDI





Utilization of Additional Resources

- Colleges and vocational educational institutions
- School districts
- Religious leaders
- Business leaders
- Police/law enforcement
- Prison/jail/correctional facility representatives
- Key Informant Survey
 - Identifying informants
 - Survey content





Tools to Aid in Resource Assessment

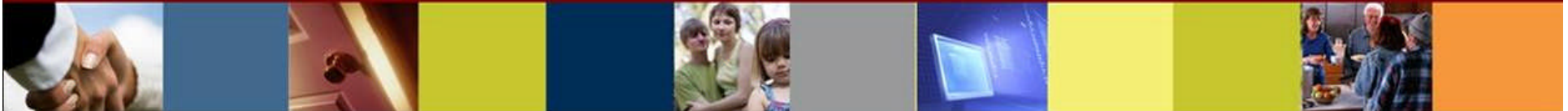
- Point-in-Time Counts
- Housing Inventory Count
- HMIS
- Performance Measures





Point-in-Time (PIT) Count

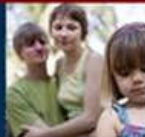
- Method to count the number and types of people who are homeless





PIT – Effective Strategies for Rural Areas

- Actively solicit a wide range of partners to assist with data collection.
- Keep the count methodology as simple as possible.
 - Increases the number of individuals qualified to assist with data collection and help ensure a higher response rate.





PIT – Effective Strategies for Rural Areas

- Conduct workshops on completing the count for area volunteers and agencies.
 - Increases consistency in the administration of the survey during the count and builds capacity over time.
 - Provide a printed copy of instructions for all interviewers
 - Serves as a reference guide when working with their clients or out in the field searching for homeless individuals and families.





PIT – Effective Strategies for Rural Areas

- Offer a toll-free phone line dedicated to the count effort
 - The phone line can provide technical assistance for volunteers participating to help complete the count
 - Allow community members to provide tips on the whereabouts of homeless individuals in their area.





PIT – Effective Strategies for Rural Areas

- Talk to homeless and recently homeless individuals in the area.
 - Can provide information about the location of other homeless individuals
 - May be willing to accompany partners to help conduct the count.





PIT – Effective Strategies for Rural Areas

- Advertise PIT well in advance using many methods
 - Media and mainstream providers
 - Toll – free number for homeless persons and informants to call
 - Canvass churches and service organizations
 - Law enforcement provides notice and tips to locate





Housing Inventory Count (HIC)

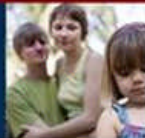
- The HIC is designed to gather information about all the beds and units in a designated service area, such as a Continuum of Care (CoC), currently categorized by five Program Types.
 - Complete inventory of emergency shelter, transitional housing, safe haven, HPRP Homeless Assistance, and permanent supportive housing beds available in CoC
 - Includes all HUD and non-HUD funded residential programs which provide housing to homeless and formerly homeless persons.





HIC (continued)

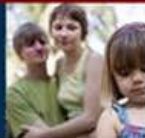
- Rural experience might be different to complete inventory
 - Requires coordination over geographic area
 - Must include collaboration of partner agencies





Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

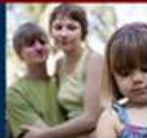
- HMIS is a locally administered, electronic data collection system that stores client-level information about people who access the homeless service system
- Rural experience might be different to manage or participate in a HMIS
 - Bringing geographically isolated programs under HMIS
 - Strengthening program data gathering





Performance Measures

- Performance measures such as the Annual Performance Report (APR) are required by funders to record beneficiary data
- Rural experience might be different to complete information captured such as number of clients served, average length of stay, permanent housing exits, and recidivism rates

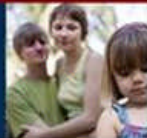




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Section 2

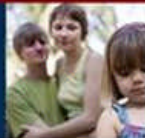
Coordinating Services in Rural Areas





Barriers to Coordination

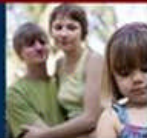
- Barriers to providing services across large and unconnected geographic areas include:
 - Transportation
 - Isolation
 - Geographic
 - Language and cultural
 - Shortage of Services





Rural Service Delivery Models

- Building a service delivery model in rural areas requires:
 - Technical assistance
 - One-on-one assistance via toll-free telephone line, email, web
 - Information
 - Capacity building information resources such as funding summaries and best practices
 - Grants

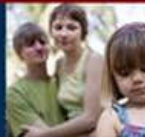




Rural Service Delivery Models (continued)

1. Centralized services model

- Co-locate services in a single facility
- Centralize services so they are located in one town, or one area of town
- Works best for
 - Rural areas not participating in a CoC
 - Smaller CoCs made up of mostly rural areas
 - CoCs where a regional town or urban center are located relatively close by





Rural Service Delivery Models (continued)

2. Specialized services model

- Sets up large and diverse referral systems
- Drawback is the difficulty of arranging transportation

3. Hub and spoke model

- Concentrates services in a central location
- Uses mobile sources to take services out to remote locations

...combination of three models

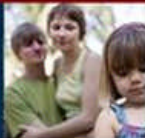




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Section 3

Developing Rural Planning Solutions





Developing Planning Solutions

- Design to specifically address the issues of persons in rural areas
- Consider several factors when defining a continuum's geographic area
 - Maximize partners and resources
 - Include key agencies and providers involved in the delivery of homeless services and their service/planning areas
 - Include the jurisdiction(s) that have control over mainstream resources
 - Identify and include methods by which homeless persons access services





Developing Planning Solutions (continued)

- Consider several factors (continued)
 - Acknowledge coordination needed to address potentially divergent problems and interests
 - Must balance two factors as geographic boundaries created





Lead Organization

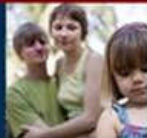
- Select strong lead organization
 - Requirements
 - Strong leadership
 - Access to resources
 - High visibility
 - Biggest challenge in rural areas
 - Develop capacity of a weak lead
 - Peer to peer networking model promoted by HUD





Planning Process

- Identify potential stakeholders
 - Engage isolated and dispersed groups
 - Broad participation important to reduce isolation and expand capacity
- Coordinate with state and local agencies, housing and service programs and local institutions as previously described

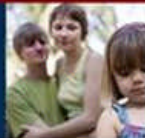




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Section 4

Resources





Homelessness Financial Resources

- Various Federal programs other than McKinney-Vento can be used to enhance the overall supply of affordable housing in rural areas.
 - HOME: HOME funds are distributed each year to all states and participating jurisdictions (PJs). State HOME funds usually are administered by the State's Office of Community Development or a similar agency
 - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program: CDBG funds are allocated to every state primarily for activities that benefit persons with low or moderate-incomes.





Homelessness Financial Resources

- Section 515 (USDA Rural Rental Housing Program): This program provides low-interest loans to finance the purchase, construction, or rehabilitation of affordable multifamily housing or congregate housing for families, elders, and people with disabilities who have very low, low, or moderate incomes.
- Section 538 (USDA Rural Rental Housing Guaranteed Loan Program): This program provides guaranteed loans (for up to 40 years) for housing developers to construct, acquire, and rehabilitate rural multifamily housing.





Homelessness Financial Resources

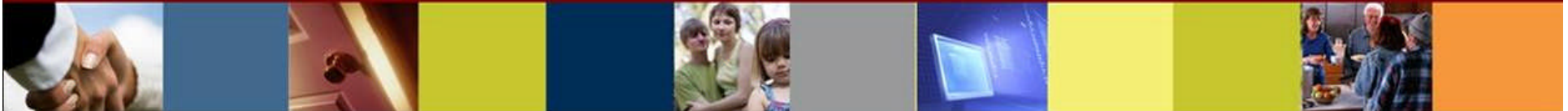
- Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities: This HUD program provides funding to nonprofit organizations to construct, rehabilitate, or acquire supportive housing and is available to very low-income persons with a household member who has a disability. The program also provides on-going rental subsidies to the tenants to maintain affordability.





Homelessness Financial Resources

- Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program: Income-eligible individuals and families are given a voucher and are able to find their own rental housing, including single-family homes, townhouses, and apartments. Housing choice vouchers are administered locally by Public Housing Agencies (PHAs).





Homelessness Financial Resources

- Project-Based Section 8 Voucher Program: This program is a component of the Housing Choice Voucher Program. It works in essentially the same way except that the assistance is linked to a particular unit if the owner meets certain conditions.
- USDA Multi-Family Housing - Rental Assistance Program (Section 521) Residents of multi-family housing complexes built under both the Rural Rental Housing Program (Section 515) and the Farm Labor Housing Program (Section 514) are eligible to apply for the Rental Assistance Program.





Questions/Comments?





Homelessness Financial Resource Websites:

- <http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD>
- <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/>
- <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/>
- <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/wap.html>
- <http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ricpubs/housing.html>
- <http://www.enterprisecommunity.org/>





Building Effective Coalitions handbook

hudhre.info/documents/BuildingEffectiveCoalitions.pdf

Point-in-Time Count of unsheltered homeless detail

hudhre.info/documents/counting_unsheltered.pdf

Demonstrates statistical extrapolation

hudhre.info/documents/3rdHomelessAssessmentReport.pdf

Housing Inventory Count description

hudhre.info/documents/eHICfaqs.pdf





Sample Housing Inventory Count Instructions

hudhre.info/documents/2008_HIC_Instructions.pdf

HMIS collaboration examples

hudhre.info/documents/HMIS_AdvcgData11Cmties2009.pdf

Case studies and examples of planning and service delivery in rural homeless

ruralhome.org/storage/documents/voicesfall2007.pdf





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