

Partners Ending Homelessness



A Systemwide Approach to Solving Chronic Homelessness



NATIONAL BEST PRACTICES LIKE THE HOUSING FIRST MODEL BETTER SERVE THE CHRONICALLY HOMELESS WHILE CREATING COST SAVINGS AND EFFICIENCIES ACROSS THE SYSTEM.

WHY WE BECAME INVOLVED

In 2013, more than 1,500 individuals or families experienced homelessness in Guilford County, North Carolina. Approximately 143 of these were characterized as chronically homeless, which is defined as continual homelessness beyond one year concurrent with a disabling medical condition. While chronic homelessness accounts for a small percentage of the total homeless population,

these individuals utilize approximately 75 percent of the emergency services and public costs associated with community homelessness each year, which were estimated at \$4.29 million in 2013 alone. National best practices like the Housing First model better serve the chronically homeless while creating cost savings and efficiencies across the system.

WHAT WE SUPPORTED

Our \$1.96 million grant to Partners Ending Homelessness, a United Way of Greater Greensboro partner agency, funded the implementation of a robust Housing First model across the Continuum of Care (CoC) in Guilford County. This involved implementing rapid rehousing and specialized in-home case management through an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team to assist clients in accessing housing vouchers and disability benefits, supported employment, healthcare options and food stamps. The grant also funded a facilitator and consultant to guide PEH's collective impact effort, which aligned more than 80 homeless service organizations across Guilford County to implement this systemic change effort.

One of the main barriers to rapid rehousing can be low affordable housing stock and a lack of landlord acceptance of housing vouchers. Phillips Foundation's work with PEH inspired the Phillips family's real estate company, Phillips Management Group (PMG), to provide several unoccupied apartment units in its Greensboro, North Carolina, portfolio

for resident placement through the Housing First initiative. This action by PMG encouraged other apartment owners to participate in the effort.

WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED AND WHAT COMES NEXT

Between 2014-2017, chronic homelessness in Guilford County was reduced by 98 percent, and 140 acutely vulnerable households gained greater health and financial stability. The community has reaped a related cost savings of nearly \$12 million to date. Out of the 143 individuals initially identified as chronically homeless, 135 have shown improved health, housing stability and financial stability for at least 12 consecutive months. The early success of Housing First in Guilford County led the community to be selected along with 73 additional communities around the country to participate in Community Solutions' "Built for Zero" initiative. Guilford County leads the movement with just a handful of other areas that have successfully or nearly achieved a "sustainable zero" in chronic homelessness, and the effort is on track to reach this goal in the near future.



98%

REDUCTION OF CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS IN 3 YEARS



140

HOUSEHOLDS GAINED GREATER HEALTH AND FINANCIAL STABILITY



\$12M

IN COST SAVINGS TO TAXPAYERS