

HEARTH ACT

*ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
CONFERENCE*



Our Mission

Advancing housing solutions that:



Improve lives
of vulnerable
people



Maximize
public
resources



Build strong,
healthy
communities

Context

National Context

(in no particular order)

10 year plans to end homelessness

Federal Plan Opening Doors

ARRA \$ for Rapid Rehousing & Prevention

Efforts to end chronic homelessness

HEARTH Act

HEARTH Act



“To establish a Federal goal of ensuring that individuals and families who become homeless return to permanent housing within 30 days.”

**Hearth Act Purposes
Sec. 1002(b)**

HEARTH Goals

- **Focus on performance**
 - **Reduce new episodes of homelessness**
 - **Reduce lengths of homeless episodes**
 - **Reduce returns to homelessness**

HEARTH Act

- **Changes HUD's McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance programs which fund the Continuum of Care**
- **First significant reauthorization since 1992**
- **Enacted May 20, 2009**
- **Most changes took effect in the NOFA released in Spring/Summer 2011**
- **Enacted in M-V 2012 Notice of Funding Availability**

Substantial Changes

HEARTH Act amends and reauthorizes the McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance Act including:

- A consolidation of HUD's competitive grant programs
- The creation of a Rural Housing Stability Assistance Program
- A change in HUD's definition of homelessness and chronic homelessness
- A simplified match requirement
- An increase in prevention resources
- An increase in emphasis on performance

HEARTH Act

- **The HEARTH Act impacts our entire community**
 - **Continua of Care funding**
 - **\$33M total for Arizona in 2011**
 - **Impacts *ALL* homeless programs including those not funded by Continua of Care**

HEARTH Act

HUD's Values that have guided the regulations:

- **Serve the homeless in the best ways possible**
 - **CoCs must evaluate system-wide performance to ensure housing/services needs are being met**
- **Comprehensive local collaborative, coordination, and decision making**
 - **Joint funding decisions, centralized assessment and intake**
- **Data collection and performance**
 - **HMIS, performance measures, program monitoring**

Major Changes

- **Emphasizes**
 - **Prevention**
 - **Rapid Re-Housing**
 - **Chronic homelessness**
- **Focus on Outcomes**
 - **Shift away from Transitional Housing**
- **Coordinated Assessment and Entry**
- **Rural Flexibility**
- **More Administrative Funding**

HEARTH Regulations

- **Emergency Solutions Grant Program**
- **Definition of Homelessness (final)**
- **Consolidated Plan Conforming Amendments**
- **Homeless Management Information System Requirements**
- **Continuum of Care Program**
- **Rural Housing Stability Program**

Definitions

Definition of Homelessness

- **Extends the present definition to include:**
 - **Persons temporarily in an institution who had been in a place not fit for human habitation.**
 - **Households imminently losing their housing (within 14 days.)**
 - **Unaccompanied youth who have not lived independently and will continue to experience instability.**
 - **Persons fleeing domestic violence.**

At Risk of Homelessness

Individual and family who:

- **Income below 30% & lacks sufficient resources or support networks**
- **Meets one of the following conditions:**
- **Moved due to economic reasons 2 or more times during 60 days prior to application for prevention assistance**
- **Living in home of another person due to economic hardship**
- **Current housing will be terminated within 21 days after application**

At Risk of Homelessness

Cont...

- ❑ **Lives in hotel or motel or SRO or efficiency apt**
- ❑ **Exiting publicly funded institutions or system of care**
- ❑ **Lives in housing characteristics associated with instability**
- ❑ **Child or youth who meets other federal homeless definitions**
- ❑ **Child or youth homeless under McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act and parents/guardians live with them**

Chronically Homeless

- **An individual or family (with an adult head of household) who is:**
 - **Homeless & lives in a place not meant for human habitation, safe haven, or in shelter, and**
 - **Homeless & lives in place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an ES for at least 1 year or 4 occasions in last 3 year (each occasion at least 15 days) and**

Chronically Homeless

- **Can be diagnosed with one of more conditions:**
 - **Substance use disorder, development disability, serious mental illness, PTSD, cognitive impairments from brain injury, or chronic physical illness or disability;**
 - **Individual residing in institutional care fewer than 90 days and homeless prior to institutional care**

Chronically Homeless – Category 1

- **Individual or family who lacks fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and is:**
 - **An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human being**
 - **Individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter**

Chronically Homeless – Category 1

Cont...

Individual or family who lacks fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and is:

- **Individual who resided in a shelter or place not meant for human habitation & exiting an institution where he/she temporarily resided**
- **The individual must have been homeless prior to entering the institution**
- **“temporarily resided” now means a period of 90 days or less**

Chronically Homeless – Category 2

- **Individuals or families who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence provided that:**
 - **Residence will be lost within 14 days of date of application and;**
 - **No other residence identified & lacks resources or support network to obtain Permanent Housing**

Chronically Homeless – Category 3

- **Unaccompanied youth under 25 years, or families with children and youth who do not qualify under this definition, but who are defined as homeless under Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, Head Start Act, Violence Against Women Act, Public Health Services Act, Food and Nutrition Act, Child Nutrition Act**

and

Chronically Homeless – Category 3

- **Must meet all 3 eligibility criteria:**
 - **Have not had a lease, ownership interest, occupancy agreement in PH during the 60 days prior to application**
 - **Experience persistent instability – 2 or more moves during 60 days prior to application**

Chronically Homeless – Category 3

- **Expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time because of:**
 - **chronic disabilities, physical or mental health conditions, substance addiction, histories of domestic violence or childhood abuse, presence of a child or youth with disability, OR**
 - **2 or more barriers to employment**

Chronically Homeless - Category 4

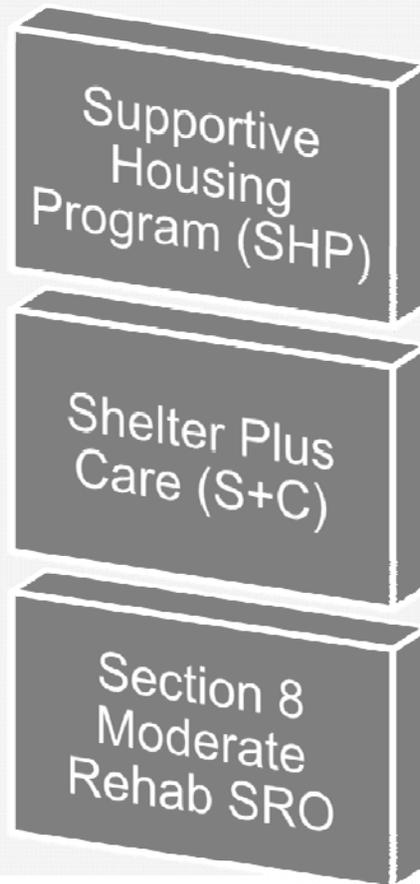
- Any individual/family who is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member, including a child, that has either taken place within the individual's or family's primary nighttime residence or have made the individual or family afraid to return to their primary nighttime residence and
- Has no other residence and
- Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing

Continuum of Care

Continuum of Care Program

- **Purpose**
 - **Community-wide commitment to ending homelessness**
 - **Re-house people experiencing homelessness while minimizing trauma and dislocation**
 - **Access mainstream services**
 - **Optimize self-sufficiency**

Old vs. New Competitive Grant



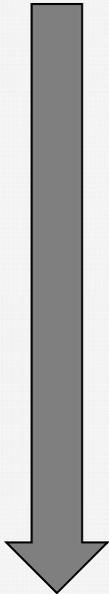
Goals

Application will be more focused on performance, including:

Lengths of homeless episodes

Recidivism back into homelessness

Number of people who become homeless



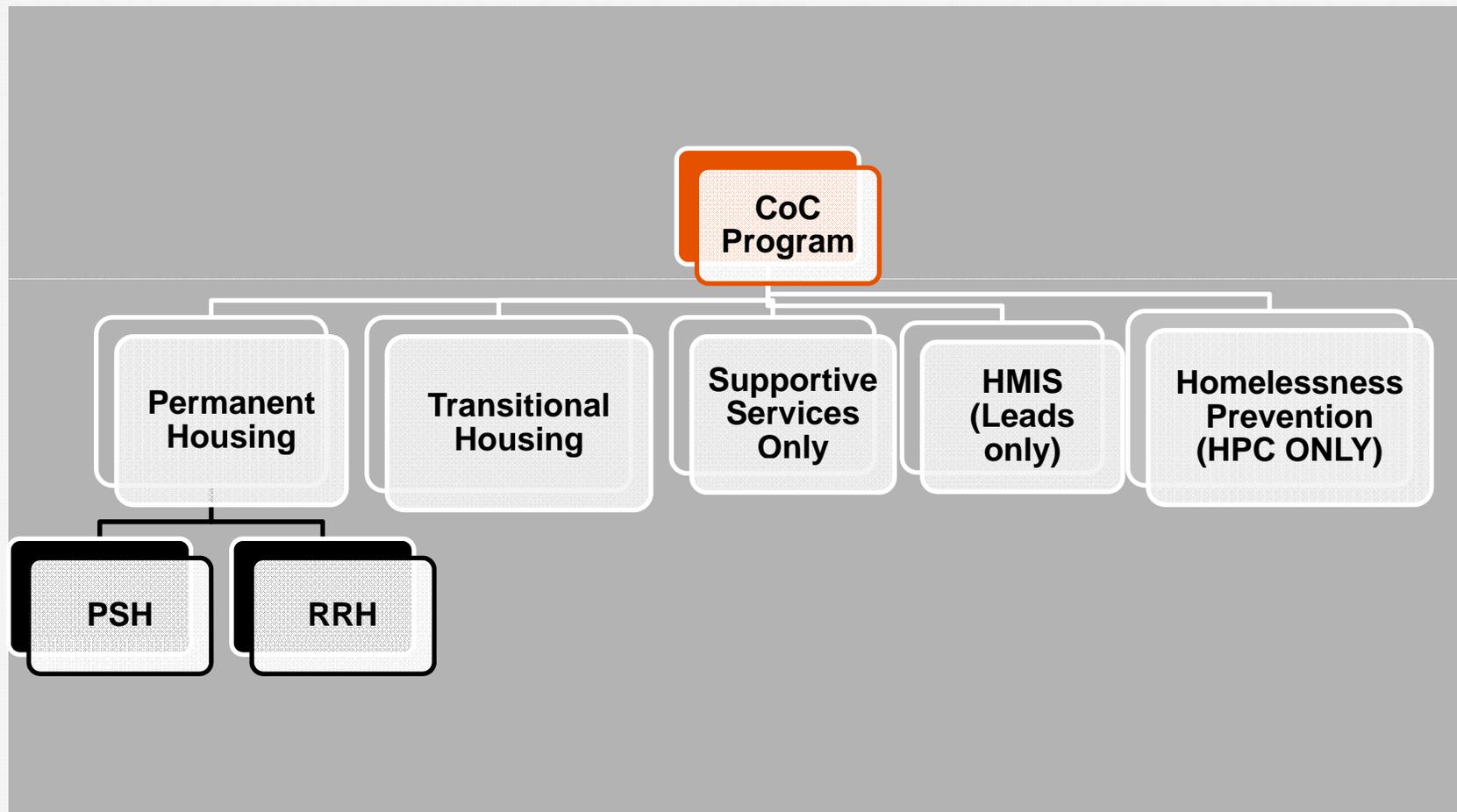
Applicants

- **HEARTH seeks to consolidate competitive programs into one CoC Program:**
 - **SHP**
 - **SPC**
 - **Safe Havens**
 - **Mod/Rehab**
- **Collaborative Applicant –The entity which submits the applicant on behalf of a recognized continuum of care.**
- **Unified Funding Agency – A collaborative applicant that also receives and distributes funds.**

New Funding for CoC Planning

- **The collaborative applicant, and only the collaborative applicant, may apply for up to 3% of the CoC's Final Pro Rata Need (FPRN) amount to fund CoC planning activities.**
- **FPRN: the higher of PPRN or renewal demand (HHN)**

Program Components & Eligible Costs



High Performing Communities

- **To achieve high performing designation, community must demonstrate:**
 - **Mean length of episodes of homelessness is less than 20 days or has decreased by 10% from the year before**
 - **Fewer than 5% of people exiting homelessness become homeless again in the next 2 years or the rate of recidivism back into homelessness declines by 20% from the year before**

High Performing Communities

Cont...

- **Encouraged people who are homeless to participate in homeless assistance services**
- **If designated a high performing community in the past, effective at reducing the number of people who became homeless in community**

Emergency Solutions Grant

Emergency Solutions Grants

“While emergency shelter remains an important component of the ESG program, the new Emergency Solutions Grants program places a greater focus on homelessness prevention for persons at risk of homelessness and rapid re-housing assistance for homeless person.”

Interim Rule – Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing: Emergency Solutions Grant Program and Consolidated Plan Conforming Amendments 12

Emergency Solutions Grant

- **Renames Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG) program**
- **Requires coordination with Continuum of Care**
- **Requires participation in HMIS**
- **Distributed to states, cities, and counties**

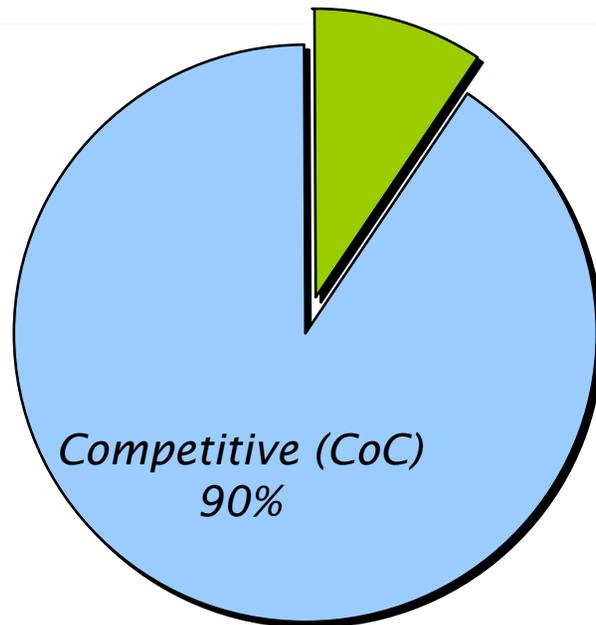
Emergency Solutions Grant

- **ESG program is required to spend at least 40% on prevention.**
- **Administrative fee is increased to 7.5%**
- **Expanded eligible uses:**
 - **Prevention and rapid rehousing activities**
 - **Family support services for homeless youth, victim services and mental health services may be funded in outreach.**

Formula and Competitive Funding

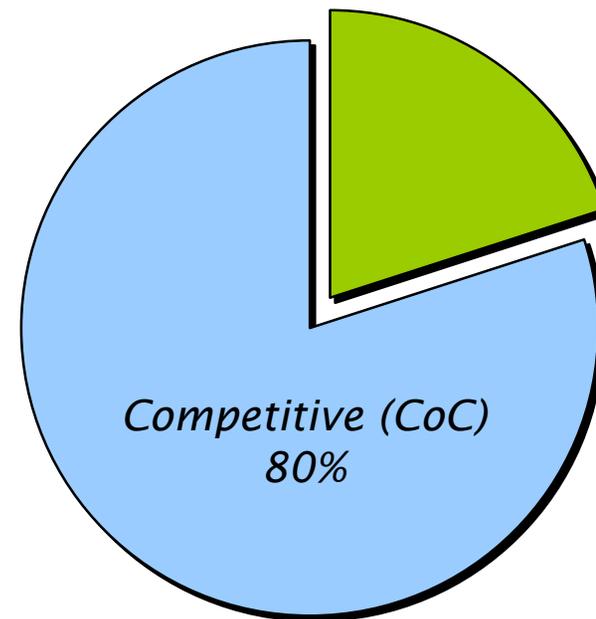
Old (2008)

Formula (ESG)
10%



New

Formula (ESG)
20%



Emergency Solutions Grant

- **Provide recipients with programmatic framework to:**
 - **Maximize community-wide planning & strategic use of resources**
 - **Improve coordination & integration with mainstream services, capitalize on existing strengths, & increase efficiency**
 - **Improve coordination within homeless services,**
 - **Build on lessons learned from years of practice & research**
 - **Expand resources & services available for prevention**

Emergency Solutions Grant

Cont...

- **Realign existing programs & systems to focus on shortening homelessness**
- **Direct funding to the most critical services to achieve long-term housing stability & reduce recidivism**
- **Standardize eligibility determinations & improve targeting of resources**
- **Improve data collection & performance measurement**
- **Tailor ESG to particular strength & challenges of community**

Emergency Solutions Grant

- **System Coordination with CoC**
 - **Allocating funds for eligible activities**
 - **Developing performance standards**
 - **Evaluating outcomes of ESG assisted projects**
 - **Developing funding, policies and procedures for administration and operation of HMIS**

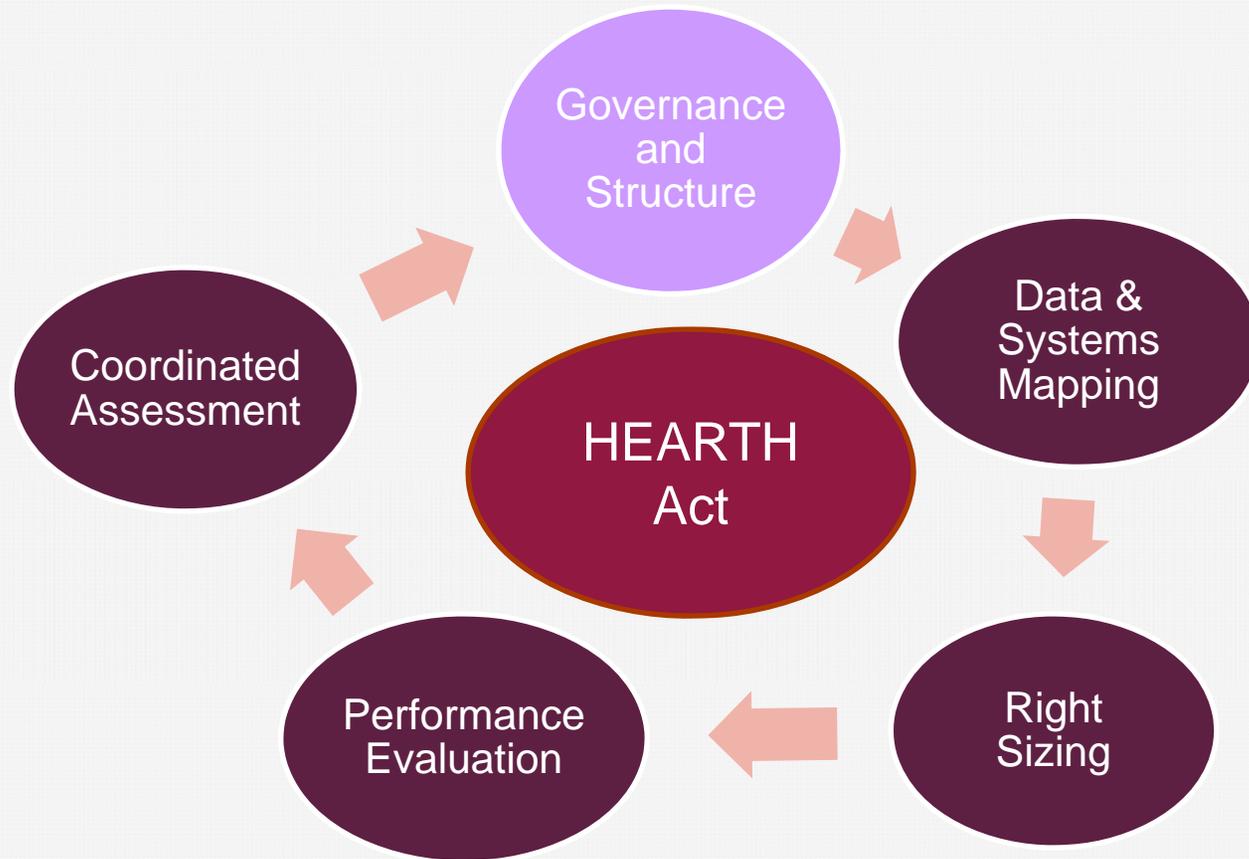
Emergency Solutions Grant

- **Centralized/Coordinated Assessment**
 - **Proposed requirement for ESG to assess eligibility and needs of households who seeks homeless assistance**
 - **Assessment must be developed and implemented by CoC**
 - **HUD will establish minimum requirements**
 - **Must be signed off by HUD**
 -

ESG Eligible Activities

- **5 Components**
 - **Street Outreach**
 - **Emergency Shelter**
 - **Homelessness Prevention**
 - **Rapid Re-housing**
 - **HMIS**
- **Administration**

HEARTH Act Roadmap



Next Steps

- **The regulations went into effect on August 30, 30 days after they were officially published in the Federal Register.**
- **Individuals and organizations are encouraged to submit comments to HUD to provide feedback on HUD's interpretation of the HEARTH Act as it relates to the CoC program. Public comments are due October 1.**
- **HUD will subsequently publish a final regulation on the consolidated CoC program.**

mechanics outcomes
just.do.it fight yes housing performance.based
not.me
blood.out.of.stone
mine tough necessary
less finally scary are.you.kidding
money cutting.from.the.bone
looking.under.every.rock
need.more.money control
move.money agree
capacity don't.hard.enough.already
loss.of.service

what.if.we.added.more

what.if

what.if.we.defunded.programs

what.if.we.stopped.paying.for

what.if.we.started.paying.for

what.if.we

what.if.we.consolidated

what.if.we.closed

what.if.we.opened

what.if.we.focused.on

What's Next?

- **As providers shift their philosophy from managing homelessness to ending homelessness...**
 - **How do we change our models?**
 - **How do we change our funding?**
 - **What's the impact on service delivery?**
- **As the system continues to evolve...**
 - **How do we ensure dollars are aimed at high performing models & interventions?**
 - **Are we actually reducing # of homeless?**

Additional Information

Statute and regulations

www.hudhre.info/hearth

www.endhomelessness.org

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