



# Solutions for Change

A Transformational Approach  
to Permanently Solving Family  
Homelessness



# Our Story

- Solutions for Change began in 1999 bringing homeless moms and their kids off the streets.
- In 20 years, it's developed into a means of empowerment for nearly 1000 families.
- We provide housing, education, transformation, and workforce training.
- The program requires sobriety, work, and program compliance.



# Our Values

## Freedom from Dependence

Work is essential to empowering individuals and families to become economically independent.

## Freedom from Addiction

Homelessness cannot be solved without addressing addiction. Half or more of all homelessness is directly correlated with substance abuse and addiction.

## Freedom in Community

Connections serve as both a safety net and a source of support and encouragement for individuals attempting to overcome homelessness.

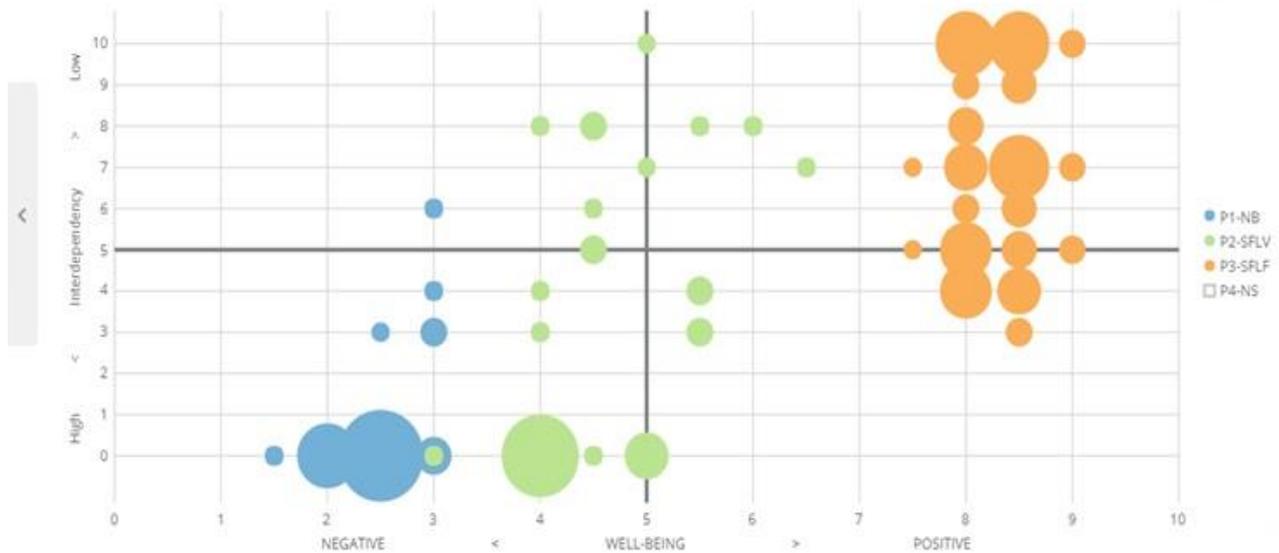
# Our Solution



# Our Data

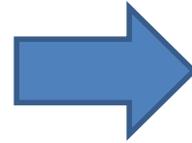
## Social Impact vs. Interdependency - Active Enrollment

Jan 15, 2019 - Jan 15, 2019



# Dependency vs Empowerment

- Drug Treatment Programs
- Incarceration
- Homeless Shelter
- DV Program
- Child Welfare



Where do we go to prevent relapse and recidivism?

# Gaps in the Capacity Building of the Vulnerable

## Failing to Fill the Gap

- Increased Costs
- Increased Vulnerability
- Results in Dependency

## Filling the Gap

- Decreases Costs
- Increases Capacity
- Results in Empowerment

# What Nexus is there Between Homelessness and Human Services?

- 78% percent of homeless adults grew up in a household with a person with drug or alcohol dependence;
- 64.6% endured psychological abuse as a child;
- 40.2% reported having someone other than a parent as a primary caregiver;
- **37.5% had experienced homelessness as children.**
- 19% percent were in foster care as children;
- **100% experienced family-based instability, conflict, and trauma.**
- **24% experienced homelessness with their family prior to experiencing homelessness on their own.**
- 44% percent identified removal from family and placement in foster care.

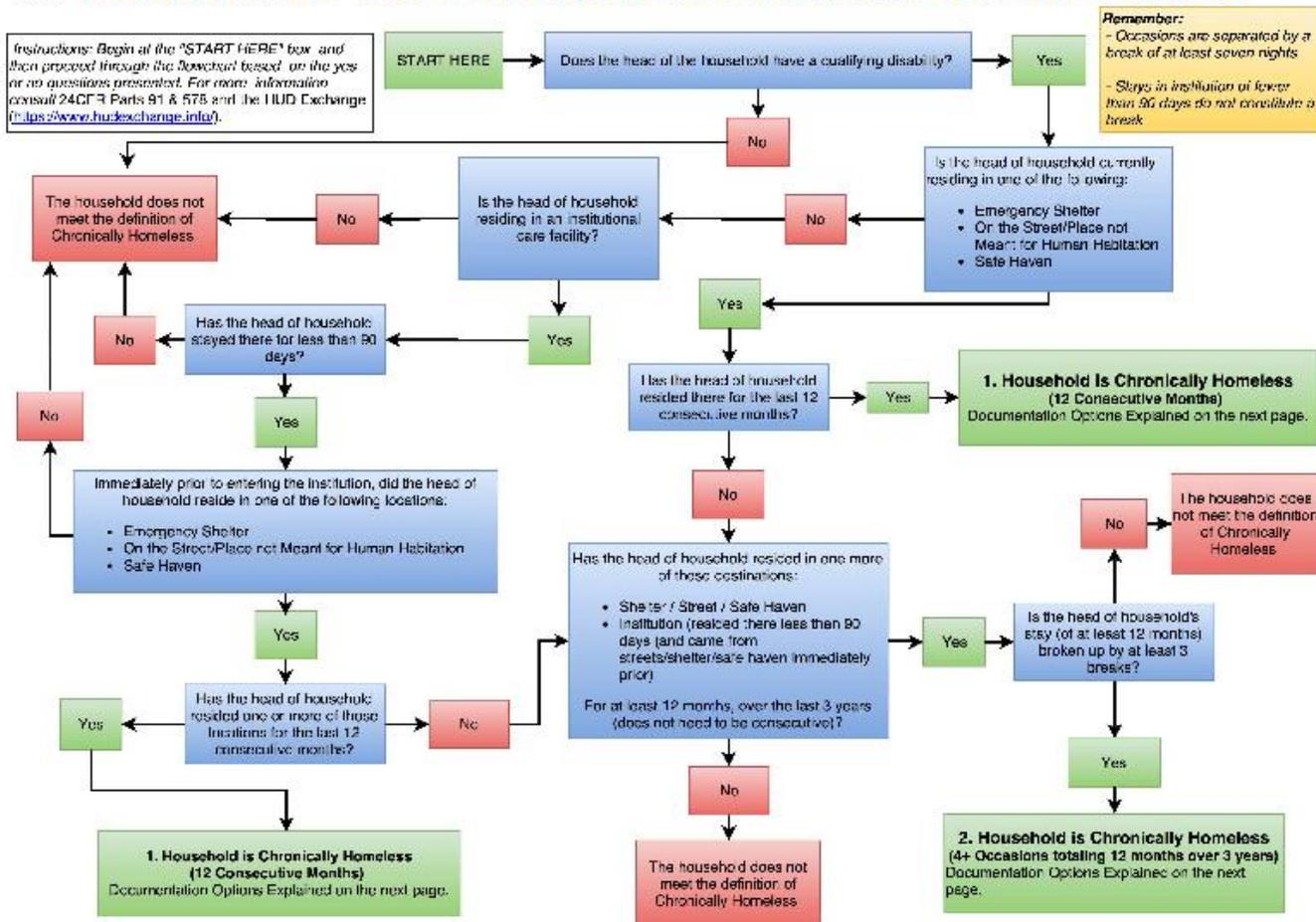
The Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved , Johns Hopkins University Press

Early Family Experiences Lead to Youth Homelessness, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

# Housing First



## Flowchart of HUD's Definition of Chronic Homelessness



# Housing First

## Cities Can't Build Their Way Out of Homelessness

“Housing First assures cities can solve the homelessness and cost-of-living crisis by funding enough subsidized housing. No city can build its way out of either problem with subsidized housing because it is subject to the laws of supply and demand. If apartments are made available at below-market rents, demand for those units will always outstrip supply. For every low-rent apartment that the city builds, another thousand people will be standing in line, in perpetuity. New York has been building “affordable housing” since 1934 and still has a wait list of 270,000 families.”

Christopher Rufo  
Discovery Institute

# Housing First

## The Cost Is Human Potential

“Today’s system forces a cycle of waiting until people have suffered long enough to deserve services. The lack of help and resources means that many of today’s homeless youth are almost certain to be tomorrow’s homeless adults. The result is not just greater costs for government but the catastrophic—and all too avoidable—loss of human potential.”

Matt Morton / Anne Kim

Progressive Policy Institute

# Housing First

## Governmental Structures Perpetuate Poverty

“Structural challenges are increasingly the cause for poverty and being trapped in poverty. What needs to be known is that it is *government’s* structure that has produced these challenges:

- Housing policies that have eliminated the availability of inexpensive housing, anywhere;
- Welfare policies that breeds dependency;
- Licensing, minimum wage, and other labor policies that have blocked the poor from opportunity;
- Education policy that produces illiterate graduates who can’t function in the real world;
- Homelessness policies that lock-in addiction and dependency.”

Mary Theroux  
Independent Institute

# Recommendations

- Create new programs within human services departments that focus on the needs of families and children experiencing homelessness.
- Measure increased earnings and reduction of reliance on means tested benefits for parents, and academic achievement and reduced CPS involvement for children.
- Create programs that focus on transformation within supportive communities for those transitioning out of initial interventions as bulwarks against recidivism and relapse.