Homeless Response System Gaps Analysis

Fredericksburg Regional Continuum of Care

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Today's Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Project Overview
3. Gaps Identified
4. Recommendations
5. Potential Next Steps
6. Question & Answer

Background and Introductions

In February, George Washington Regional Commission contracted TAC to conduct a gaps analysis of the Fredericksburg Regional CoC. The goal is to better understand what resource capacity you currently have against what resource capacity you would need to sufficiently respond to homelessness; and to identify strategies to address the gaps.

Consultants:

- Jenna Espinosa, Senior Associate at TAC
- Allison Singer, Independent Contractor

CoC Gaps Analysis Process

March

- Quantitative data collection and analysis

April

- Qualitative data collection and analysis
- Identify gaps

May

- Develop recommendations to address gaps
- Identify potential funding and partnerships

June

- Final report and presentation

Methodology

Quantitative Data Review

- Collected data from existing sources
  - HMIS, Point in Time Count, Housing Inventory Count, Longitudinal System Analysis, referral information, hotline data, recent grant applications, census data, housing market data, etc.
- Additional information from CoC membership survey

Qualitative Data Collection

- Conducted two listening sessions with individuals and families who are currently experiencing or recently experienced homelessness
  - Micah Ministries: 13 attendees
  - Hope House: 12 attendees
- Stakeholder interviews with 10-12 individuals, representing the CoC, service providers, and system partners
- CoC membership survey (29 responses)

Review of Gaps Analysis

Resource and Capacity Gaps

- The increasing number of households ‘at risk’ of homelessness indicates a growing need for housing assistance over time.
- While there is a growing need, most households that reach out for housing services do not get connected, likely due to the lack of capacity in resources.
- There are insufficient resources across system components (prevention, emergency shelter, street outreach, permanent housing, and naturally occurring/mainstream affordable housing).

Gaps in System Operations

- Individuals and families have difficulty accessing both emergency services and housing services.
- There are disparities related to access and outcomes particularly impacting Black households, unaccompanied youth, families, and rural and suburban households.
- Longer lengths of time homeless – low turnover in permanent housing programs, difficulty finding affordable housing, and difficulty overcoming tenant screening barriers.
- Low turnover in rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing impacts flow through the system

Recommendations

Overview

- National and local context
  - Resource pooling through public/private partnerships
  - Local/state funding will be essential
- Focused on realistic and accomplishable strategies for the homeless response system
- Building off of the community's strengths and great work already happening
- **Overarching strategy:** Increase resource capacity and system flow by focusing new or reallocating existing resources on prevention, low-barrier shelter, and permanent housing options and centralizing and coordinating existing street outreach efforts to connect with unsheltered individuals and families.

Resource Capacity

- **Prevention and Diversion:** Identify funding for prevention and diversion efforts to reduce the strain on emergency shelter.
- **Emergency Shelter:** Identify new or reallocate existing funding for low-barrier shelter options, particularly leveraging your experience with sheltering in motels/hotels.
- **Street Outreach:** Create an unsheltered homelessness task force to plan and implement housing-focused encampment resolution and street outreach practices.
- **Permanent Housing:** Partner to establish homeless set-asides in mainstream housing programs and seeking increases to state funding. Engage in affordable housing development.

System Operations

- Create a clear, low-barrier approach for households experiencing homelessness to access permanent housing resources using the existing Coordinated Entry System.
  - Resource integration
  - Increase case conferencing
  - Regular continuous quality improvement

- Implement best practices to more efficiently use existing permanent housing resources.
  - Progressive engagement approach (both at system and project level)
  - Centralize and coordinate housing identification/landlord engagement
  - Establish ‘moving on’ strategy

Potential Next Steps

Potential Next Steps

- Use the recommendations as a basis for strategic planning discussions
  - Establish a shared vision and mission
  - Prioritize which strategies to pursue
  - Consider resource capacity, existing partnerships, and alignment with short-term and long-term goals
  - Breakdown larger strategies into smaller steps
- Create an implementation plan for strategies that outlines roles and responsibilities of key entities and committees in the CoC

Question & Answer