



Homelessness 101

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Learning Objectives

- Understand definition of homelessness, services, system level mapping, and data management structures that exist
- Review and discuss national level initiatives to end homelessness across Federal agencies and departments and understand intersectionality of these initiatives
- Review and discuss how homelessness is measured using HMIS and provide a framework for understanding how HMIS fits into the data universe

Key Questions We Want to Answer

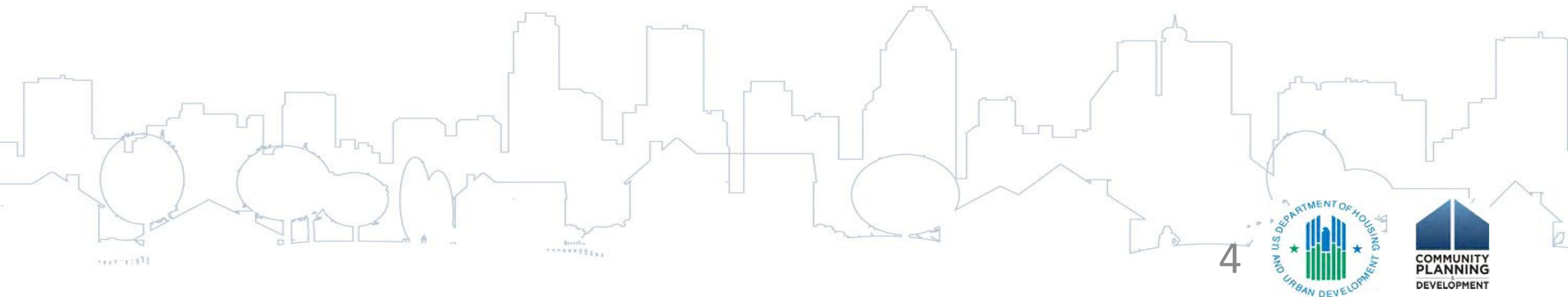
- How do we define homelessness?
- How do we end homelessness?
- Who is working to end homelessness?
- How do we measure our progress in ending homelessness?

Let's take a poll!

Using your smart phone (it might already be in your hand!) log into:

www.menti.com

Use code: 92 88 63



Homelessness 101

- What leads a person to experience homelessness?
 - Breakdown of support systems
 - Economic disparities / poverty
 - Mental health / substance use
 - Violence
 - Medical issues
 - Early life experiences
 - Incarceration
 - Racial inequities
 - Rent burdened / housing affordability
 - What is the definition of homelessness?
-
- The word cloud visualizes factors associated with homelessness. The most prominent word is 'homeless'. Other significant words include 'drugs', 'addiction', 'abuse', 'junkies', 'choice', 'dirty', 'begging', 'cold', 'violence', 'mental-illness', 'addicts', 'junkie', 'alcohol', 'street', 'tramp', 'debt', 'prison', 'belonging', 'nothing', 'm', 'arsholes', 'hon', 'abused', 'i', 'sleeping', 'free', 'assaulted', 'smell', 'afraid', 'anger', 'dark', 'safer', 'cup', 'noble', 'bottom', 'system', 'mentally', 'taxpayers', 'housing', 'lazy', 'taken', 'desperation', 'money', 'neglect', 'compassion', 'sad', 'laziness', 'store', 'unhappy', 'unsafe', 'physical', 'social', 'crime', 'burden', 'alcoholics', 'road', 'issues', 'self', 'rock', 'heroin', 'drunk', 'headlice', 'poxy', 'cycle', 'backgrounds', 'empathy', 'wino', 'ignorant', 'rain', 'banks', 'ian', 'ness'. The background features faint outlines of city buildings and a logo for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.



HUD Homeless Definition

Four Categories of homelessness

Category 1: Literally Homeless

- I. Primary nighttime residence that is public or private place not meant for human habitation;
- II. Living in a publicly or privately operated shelter (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotel/motel paid by another entity)
- III. Exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for less than 90 days and who resided in a shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately prior to entering that institution

HUD Homeless Definition

Category 2: Imminent Risk

- I. Residence will be lost within 14 days of application for assistance
- II. No subsequent residence has been identified
- III. Individual or family lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing

Category 3: Other Federal Statutes

****Must have HUD approval to serve!****

- I. Homeless under other Federal Statutes;
- II. Have not had lease in past 60 days;
- III. Have experienced persistent housing instability; and
- IV. Can expect to continue such housing instability for extended period of time

HUD Homeless Definition

Category 4: Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence

- I. Is fleeing or attempting to flee their housing or the place they are staying because of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions related to violence that has taken place in the house or has made them afraid to return to the house, including:
 - Trading sex for housing
 - Trafficking
 - Physical abuse
 - Violence (or perceived threat of violence) because of the youth's sexual orientation
- II. Has no other residence; and
- III. Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

HUD Homeless Definition

Chronic Homelessness Definition

- Must have a qualifying disability
- Living in a place not meant for human habitation or emergency shelter
- Has been homeless for a year, or has experienced four episodes of experiencing homelessness in the past three years, adding up to one year

What constitutes an “episode” or “occurrence” of homelessness?

- Episodes are separated by a break of at least 7 nights

[Defining Chronically Homeless Final Rule](#)
[Flowchart to HUD’s Chronic Homelessness Definition](#)

What does homelessness look like in the U.S.?

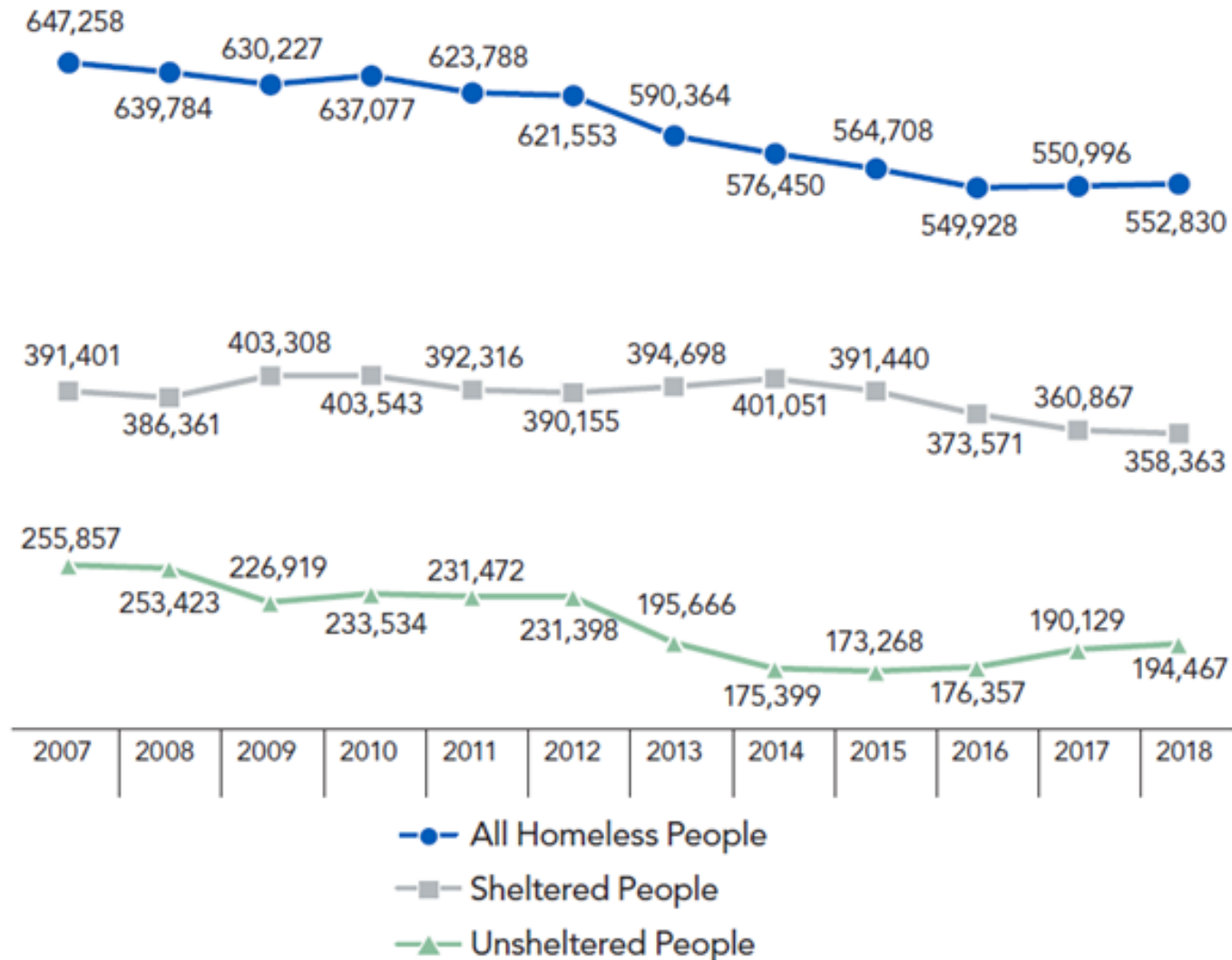
On a single night in January 2018*:

- **552,830** people experienced homelessness
- 65% stayed in sheltered locations
- 35% stayed in unsheltered locations
- 2/3 of these individuals were single adults
- 1/3 of people were part of a family unit

* <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2018-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

EXHIBIT 1.1: PIT Estimates of People Experiencing Homelessness

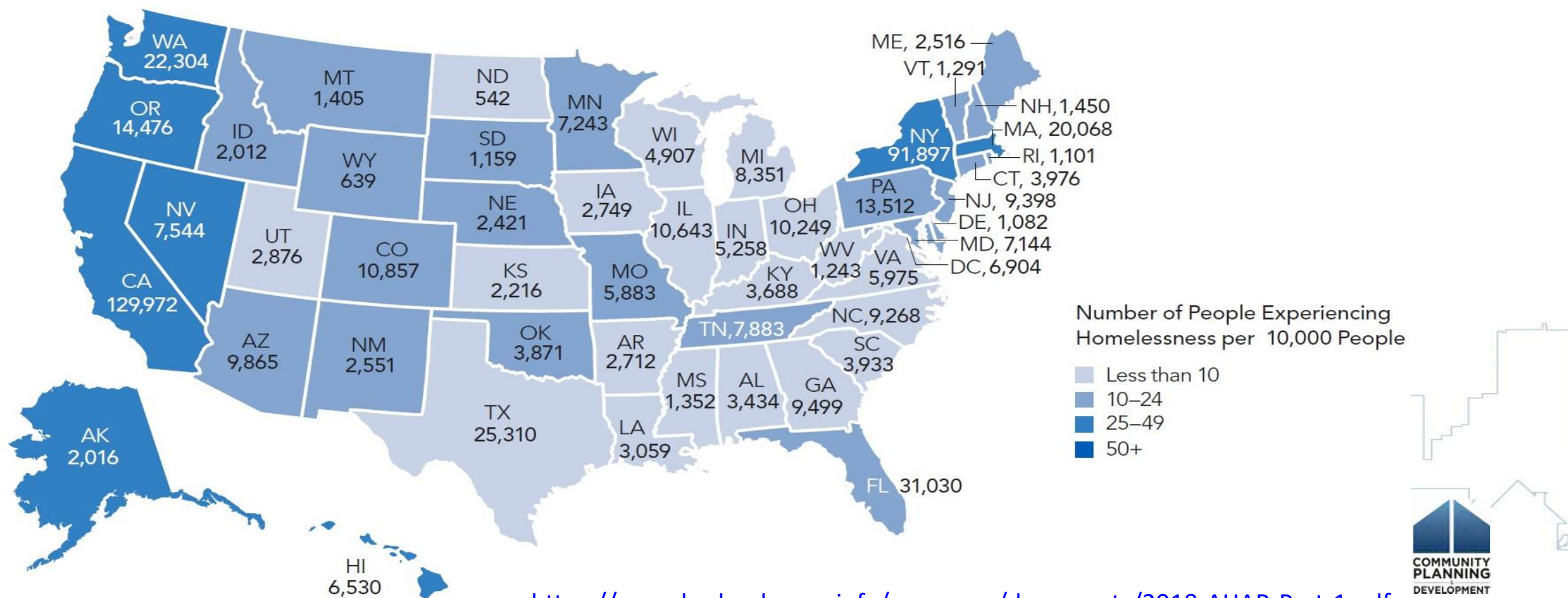
By Sheltered Status, 2007–2018



What does homelessness look like in the U.S.?

EXHIBIT 1.6: Estimates of Homeless People

By State, 2018

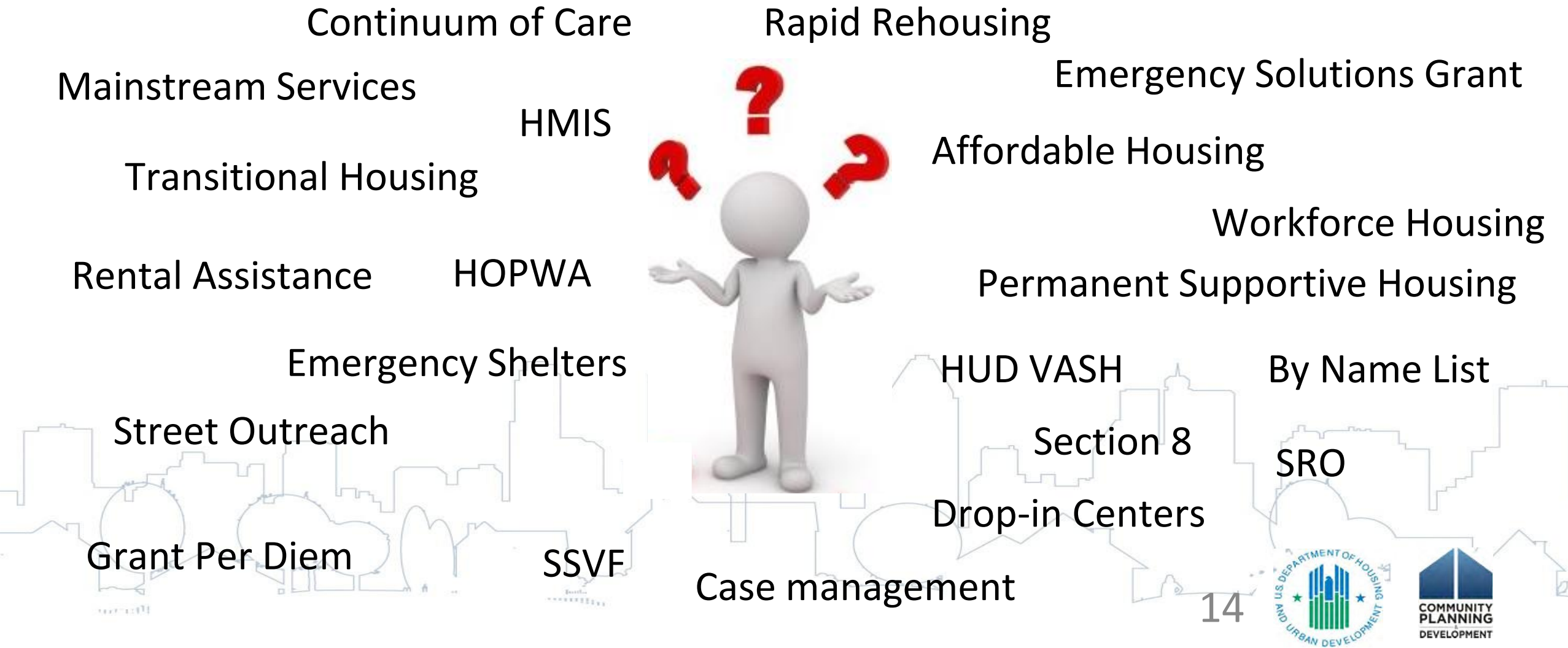


<https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2018-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

So what now? How do we end homelessness?



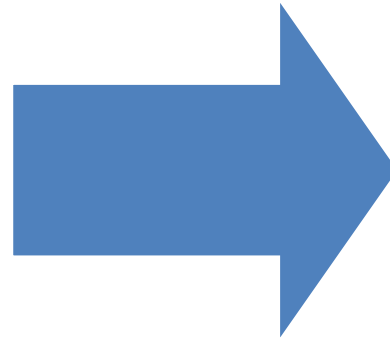
How do we end homelessness?



Shifting to Systems Approach

Moving from:

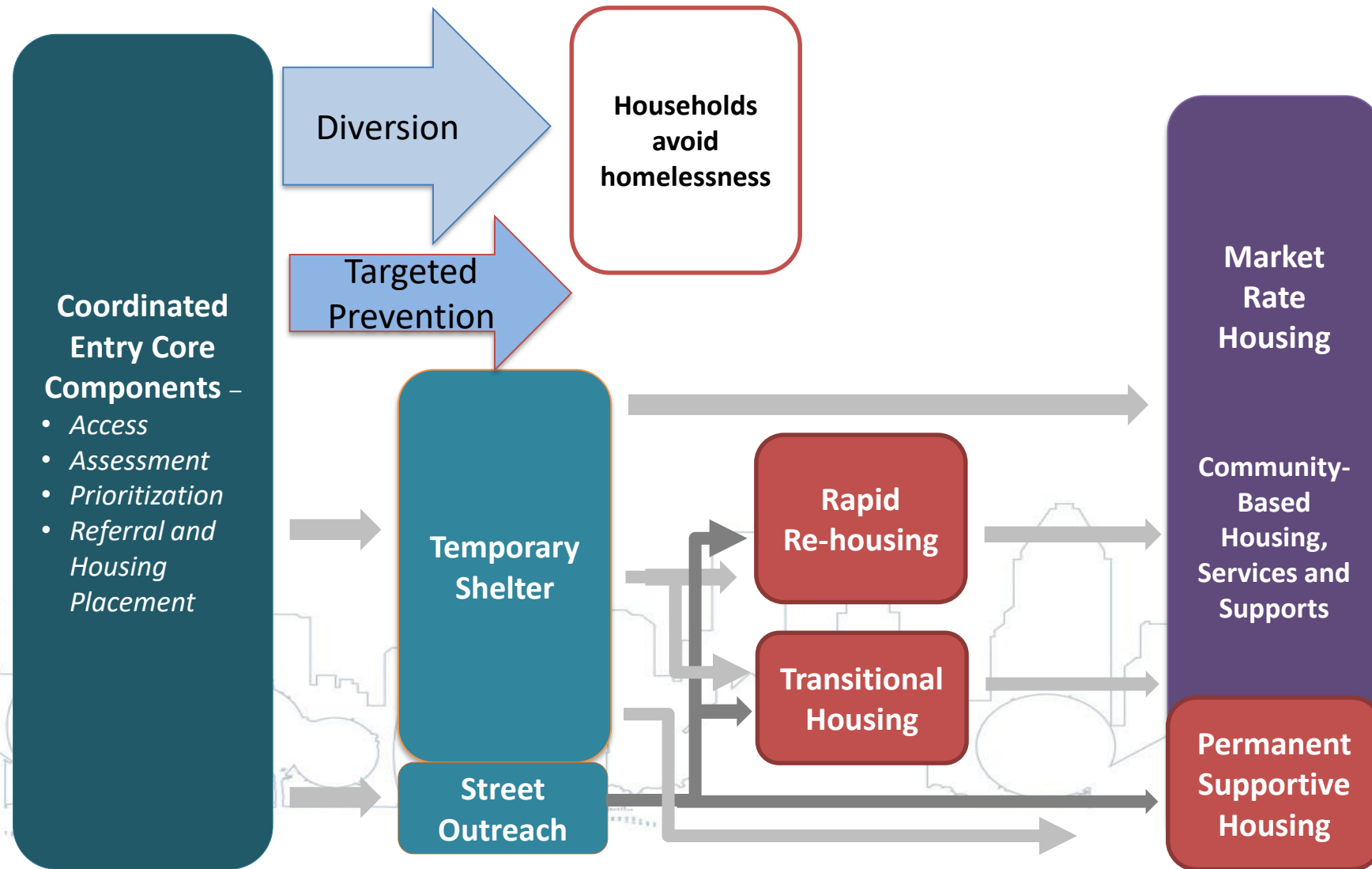
Agency Performance
Unique Agency Intake
Planning in Silos
Haphazard Decisions
Housing Readiness
Automatic Project Renewal
Outdated Program Models
Housing the Next In Line
My Program



Transforming to:

System Performance
Coordinated Entry
System Action Plan
Data Driven Decisions
Housing First
Higher Performing Program Funding
Best Practices
Prioritizing/Serving the most Vulnerable
Our System

Coordinated Entry



Systems supporting the end of homelessness

- Continuum of Care
 - Coordinated Entry Systems
 - Housing First
 - By-name lists
- Opening Doors
 - 10 year plans
- Mainstream systems
- Data & reporting – Homeless Management Information Systems
- Other community collaborations

A community's response to homelessness must shift from an accumulation of individual programs to *systems* designed to end homelessness.

Who is working to end homelessness?

Federal Partners involved in ending homelessness:

- Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Department of Justice (DOJ)
- Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- Department of Veterans Administration (VA)
- United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)

System Performance Measures

Measure 1: Length of time persons remain homeless

Desired outcome: reduction in the average and median length of time persons remain homeless

Measure 2: The extent to which persons who exit homelessness to permanent housing return to homelessness

Desired outcome: reduction in the percent of persons who return to homelessness

Measure 3: Number of homeless persons

Desired outcome: reduction in the number of persons who are homeless

System Performance Measures

Measure 4: Jobs and income growth for homeless persons in CoC Program-funded projects

Desired Outcome: Increase the percent of adults who gain or increase employment or non-employment case income over time

Measure 5: Number of persons who become homeless for the first time

Desired Outcome: Reduction in the number of persons who become homeless for the first time

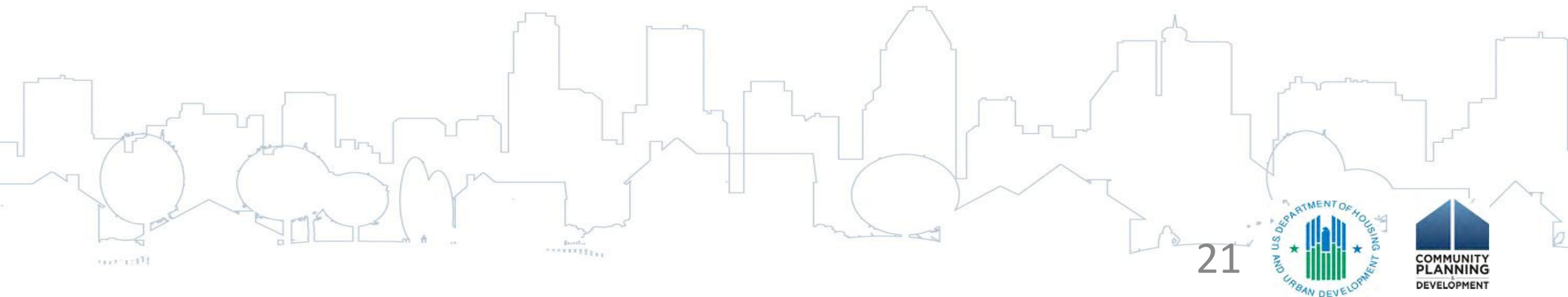
Measure 6: Homelessness prevention and housing placement of persons defined by Category 3 of HUD's homeless definition in COC-funded projects

Desired Outcome: Reduction in the percent of persons defined as homeless under Category 3 of HUD's homeless definition who return to homelessness

System Performance Measures

Measure 7: Successful housing placement

Desired Outcome: Increase in the percent of persons who exit to or retain permanent housing



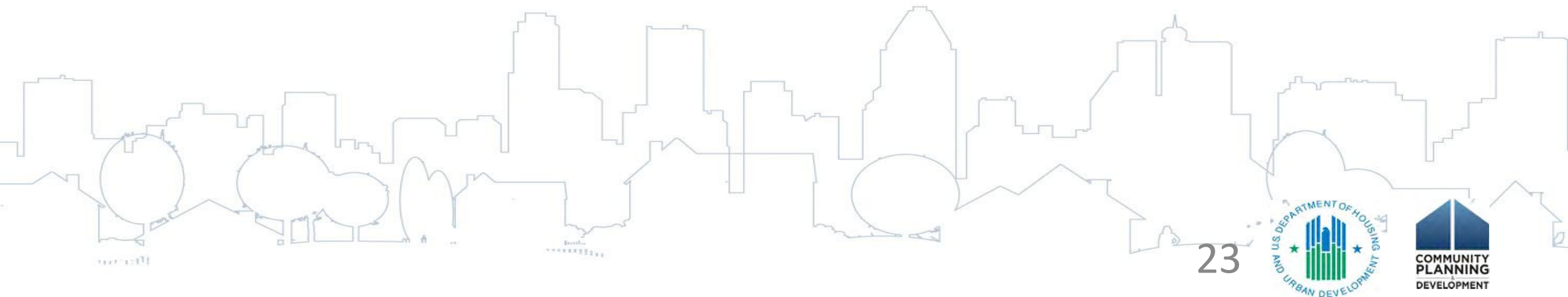
Reduce the
number of people
becoming
homeless



SPM resources

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/system-performance-measures/#guidance>

What do we need to meet these desired outcomes?



How do we measure our progress?



How do we measure our progress?



How do we measure our progress?



How do we measure our progress?

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

- Information technology system used to collect client-level data and data on provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and persons at risk of homelessness
- Inclusive of data across funding streams:
 - Continuum of Care
 - Emergency Solutions Grant
 - Housing Opportunities for Persons Living with AIDS (HOPWA)
 - HUD Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH)
 - HHS Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY)
 - HHS Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)
 - VA Grant Per Diem (GPD)
 - VA Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)
 - VA Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV)
 - Other funding streams

Who does not use HMIS?

Domestic Violence Service Providers

- Comparable Databases: an alternative and separate database designed to collect client-level information for Domestic Violence Service Providers
 - No Personally Identifying Information (PII) is shared outside these closed databases; data only shared in aggregate form
 - Subject to additional privacy and security protocols through the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

Other Service Providers

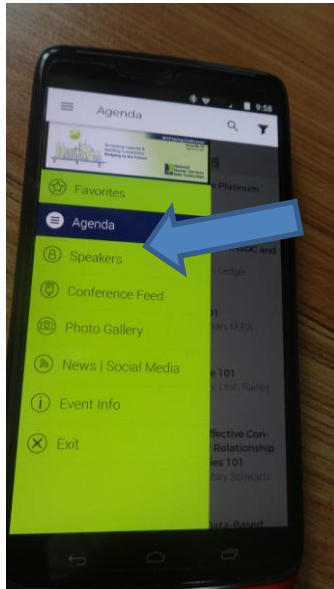
- Communities of Faith
- Privately-funded service providers

Questions?

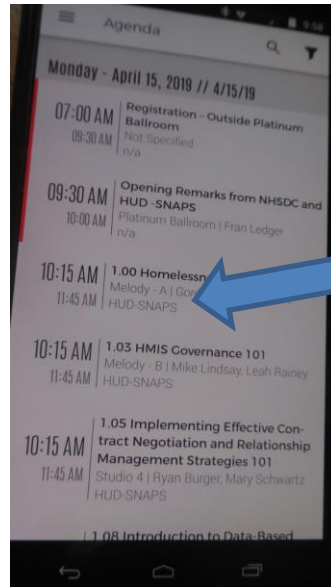


Evaluate This Session on Your Conference App! (It takes 5 minutes to complete)

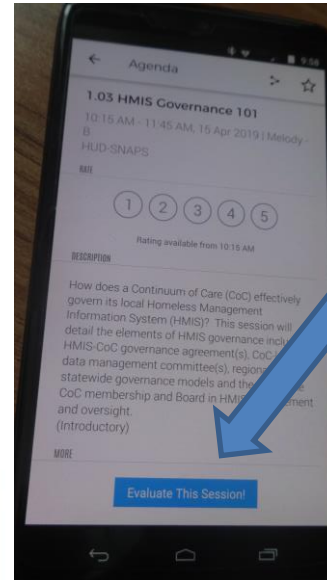
1) Select “Agenda”
from the
navigation menu.



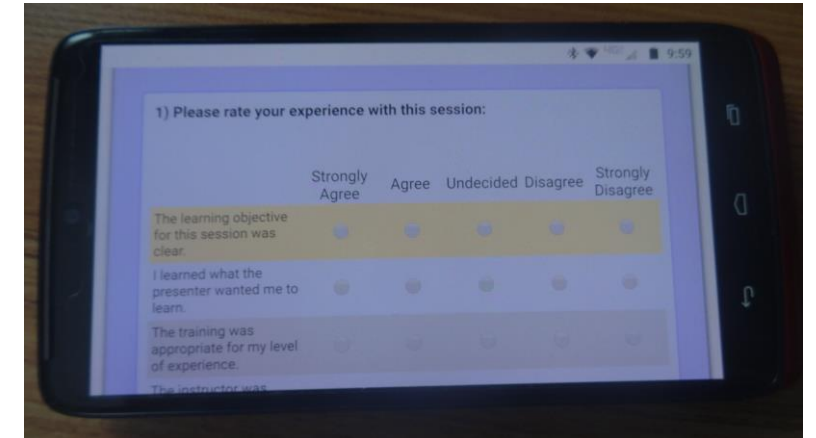
2) Select the name
of the session.



3) Select the blue
“Evaluate This
Session”.



4) Complete the
Evaluation and
Select “Finish”.



TIP:

Turn your phone horizontally to see rating options.

30



Thank you!

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