

September 14,  
2018



Justice  
Center

# Embracing the Challenge of Housing

Deanna Adams, Senior Policy Analyst, The CSG Justice Center

Jon Mendelson, Executive Director, Ready to Work

Brendan Phillips, Housing Resource Manager, Nevada County

# Overview

---

**Housing and the Stepping Up Initiative**

---

**Ready To Work San Joaquin**

---

**Stepping up on Homelessness in Nevada County:  
Building Bridges to Housing**

---



**Justice  
Center**

# The Stepping Up Initiative Framework



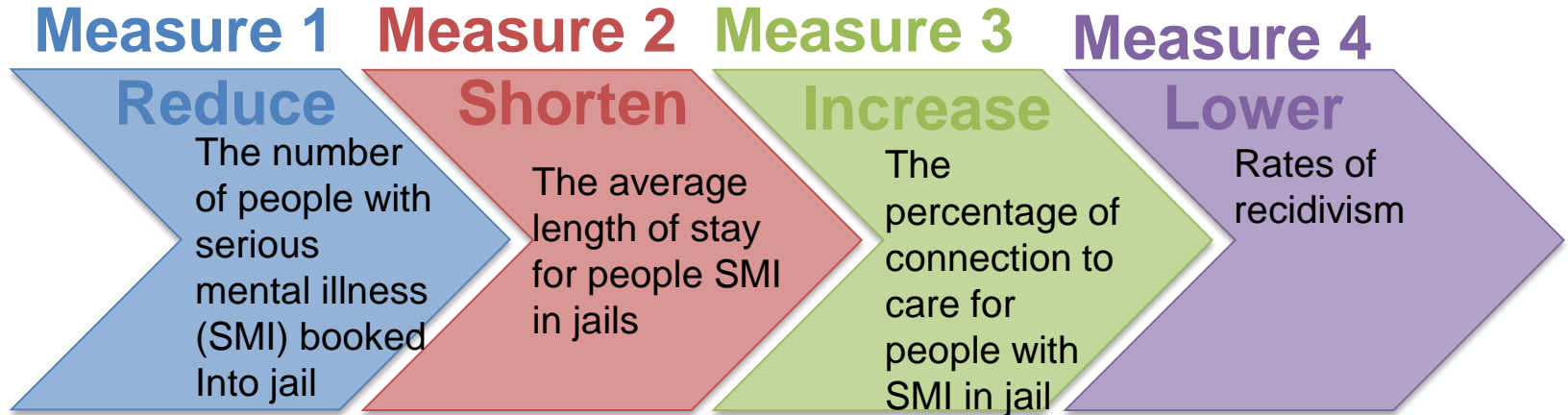
1. Is your leadership committed?
2. Do you have timely screening and assessment?
3. Do you have baseline data?
4. Have you conducted a comprehensive process analysis and service inventory?
5. Have you prioritized policy, practice, and funding improvements?
6. Do you track progress?



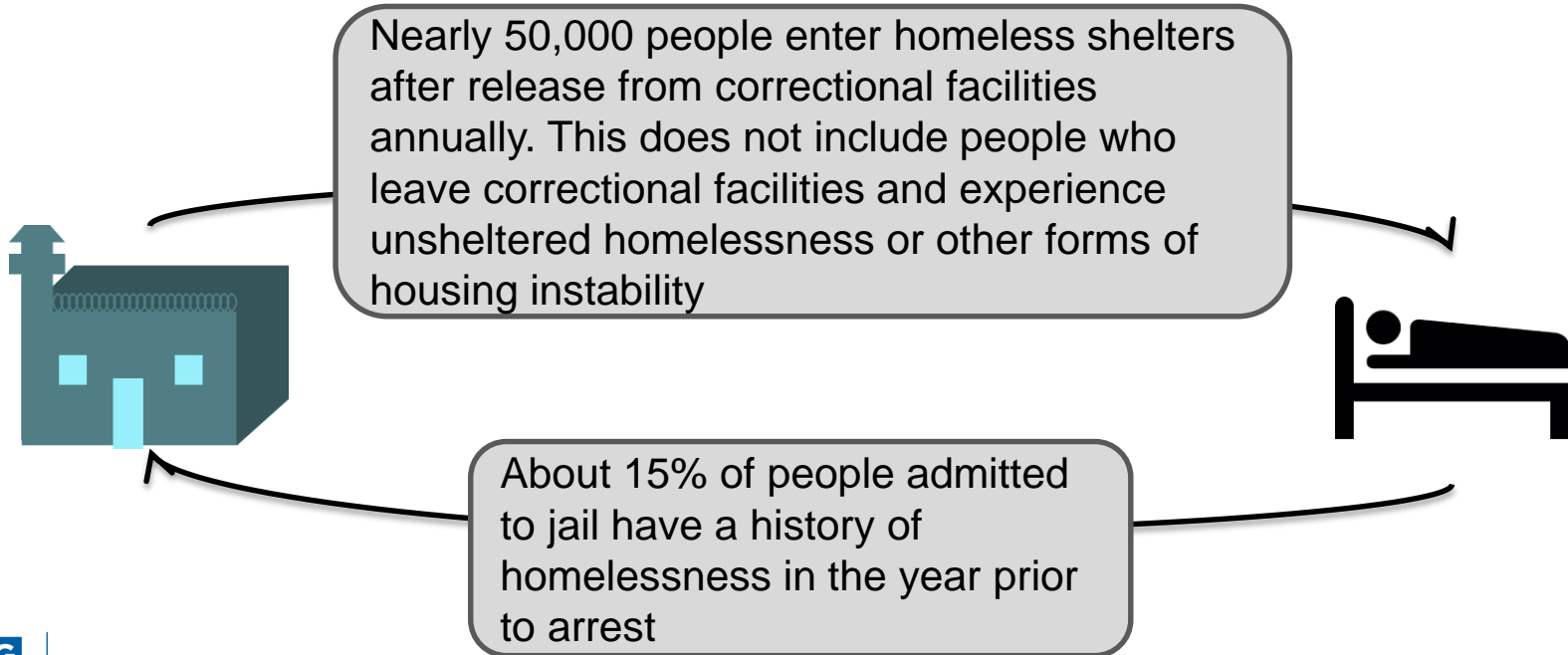
Justice  
Center

Access the Stepping Up Toolkit online at: [stepuptogether.org/toolkit](http://stepuptogether.org/toolkit)

# Stepping Up Goals Based on Four Key Measures



# Homelessness and Incarceration



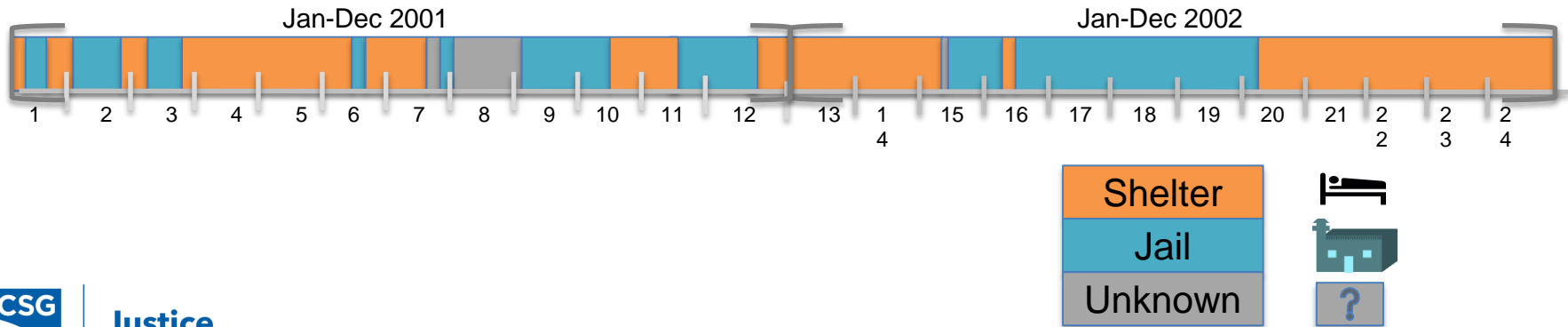
Justice  
Center

Sources: United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, "Connecting People Returning from Incarceration with Housing and Homelessness Assistance," March 2016; Greg A. Greenberg and Robert A. Rosenheck, "Jail Incarceration, Homelessness, and Mental Health: A National Study," *Psychiatric Services* 59, no. 2 (February 2008).

# A Subset of Individuals Cycle Regularly Between Jails and Homelessness

County data matches have identified a cohort of individuals who experience homelessness and jail involvement as a revolving door

## Frequent User Case Study



Justice  
Center

Sources: Angela A. Aidala and William McIlister, "Frequent Users Service Enhancement 'FUSE' Initiative," New York City FUSE II (2014); Corporation for Supportive Housing, "Supportive Housing for Frequent Users of the Homeless, Criminal Justice, and Health Care Systems," presentation at NCHV Annual Conference, (May 31, 2013).

# Housing Instability and Criminal Justice Involvement



Law enforcement policies and practices criminalize behaviors associated with homelessness



Lack of stable housing prevents or reduces consideration for jail diversion



Lack of stable housing upon exit from jail increases risk of recidivism



Criminal history serves as a barrier to housing, contributing to housing instability, homelessness



Justice  
Center

# People with SMI Need Housing Plus Services

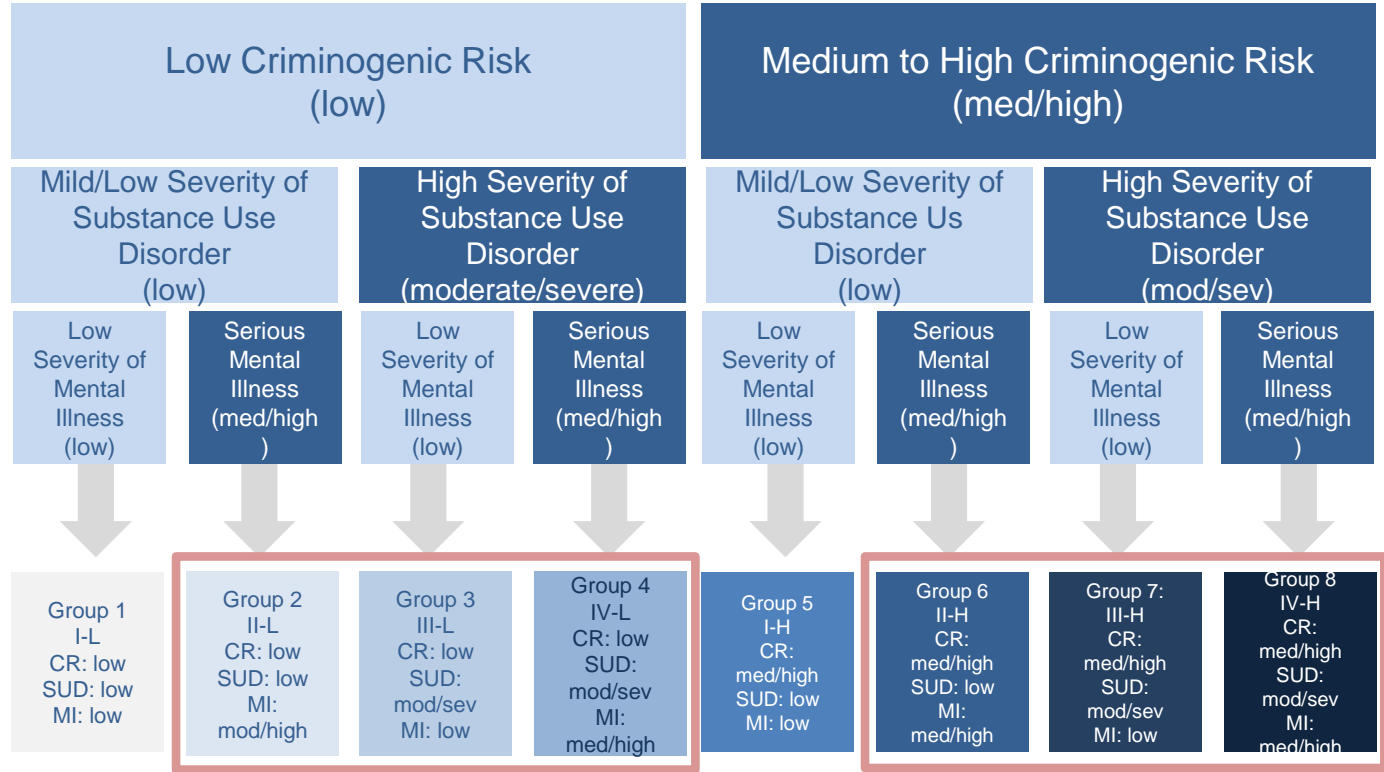
The housing needs among people with SMI must address:

- **Affordability** – People with SMI may be low-income or on fixed income and therefore cannot afford rent on the private market through incomes
- **Services Needs** – People with SMI may need assistance with maintaining housing (finding housing, paying rent, housekeeping, activities of daily living)





# Evidence-Based Framework for Targeting Interventions



Justice Center

# Assessing for Housing Needs and Risk

Properly assessing housing need and risk of homelessness is key to matching clients to appropriate services.

Screening Questionnaire, developed as part of the National Reentry Resource Center:

- ▶ 24 questions, mostly yes-no
- ▶ Can be used in-whole or in-part
- ▶ Easily integrated into existing screening and assessment processes
- ▶ Non-stigmatizing language
- ▶ Screens for housing risk, specialized population status, and wraparound service needs

Available at: <https://csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc/publications/assessing-housing-needs-and-risksa-screening-questionnaire/>.



About Projects Resources Facts &

## Assessing Housing Needs and Risks: A Screening Questionnaire

August 8, 2017

This questionnaire from the National Reentry Resource Center is intended to help reentry professionals better assess an individual's unique housing needs and risk of homelessness upon returning to the community. Departments of correction, reentry service providers, service intake coordinators, case managers, and others should use the questionnaire as a supplement to any existing intake or case planning processes. Adequately assessing housing needs and coordinating service delivery between partner organizations closes service gaps, improves continuity of care, and reduces the likelihood of a client falling through the cracks.

Used in conjunction with other housing tools and services, this questionnaire can help reentry service providers improve clients' housing success and create a foundation for improved reentry success and reduced likelihood of recidivism.

[View or download the questionnaire.](#)

### Assessing Housing Needs and Risks: A Screening Questionnaire

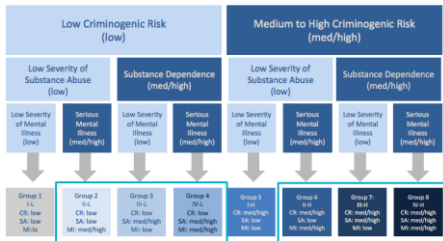
NOTE TO USER: THIS SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE IS INTENDED TO BE USED AS A SUPPLEMENT TO ANY EXISTING INTAKE OR CASE PLANNING PROCESSES. ADEQUATELY ASSESSING HOUSING NEEDS AND COORDINATING SERVICE DELIVERY BETWEEN PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS CLOSING SERVICE GAPS, IMPROVES CONTINUITY OF CARE, AND REDUCES THE LIKELIHOOD OF A CLIENT FALLING THROUGH THE CRACKS.

THIS SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE IS INTENDED TO BE USED AS A SUPPLEMENT TO ANY EXISTING INTAKE OR CASE PLANNING PROCESSES. ADEQUATELY ASSESSING HOUSING NEEDS AND COORDINATING SERVICE DELIVERY BETWEEN PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS CLOSING SERVICE GAPS, IMPROVES CONTINUITY OF CARE, AND REDUCES THE LIKELIHOOD OF A CLIENT FALLING THROUGH THE CRACKS.



Justice  
Center

# Framework for Prioritizing Resources



## Subgroupin

Low criminogenic risk/ some significant BH treatment



Divert from criminal justice system without intensive community supervision if connected to appropriate treatment and supports

## Subgrouping

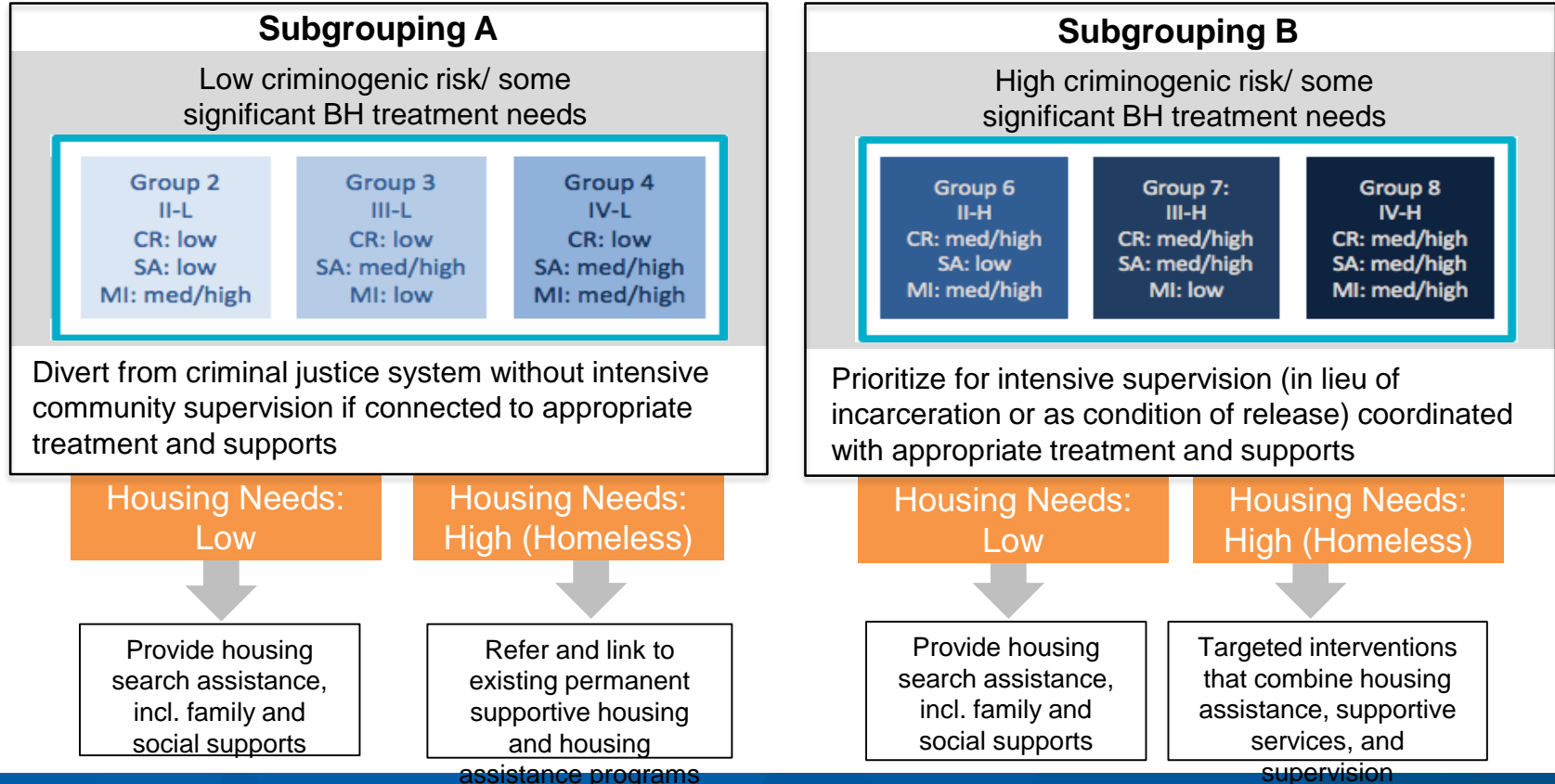
High criminogenic risk/ some significant BH treatment needs



Prioritize for intensive supervision (in lieu of incarceration or as condition of release) coordinated with appropriate treatment and supports



# Prioritizing and Targeting Housing Interventions





**Justice  
Center**

# Thank You!

Join our distribution list to receive  
CSG Justice Center updates and announcements!

[www.csgjusticecenter.org/subscribe](http://www.csgjusticecenter.org/subscribe)

For more information, contact Deanna Adams at [dadams@csg.org](mailto:dadams@csg.org).

*The presentation was developed by members of The Council of State Governments Justice Center staff. The statements made reflect the views of the authors, and should not be considered the official position of The Council of State Governments Justice Center, the members of The Council of State Governments, or the funding agency supporting the work.*

# The Challenge We Face

The resources for the re-entry population comprise a short list, especially for those who are homeless.

# No way to become housed, no way to stay housed

- Short timetable of traditional transitional housing units (30-90 days)
- Do not meet definition for homeless support services when exiting jail or prison
- Once on the street, rapid re-housing programs offer only short term support (30-90 days)
- Even with income, housing is unavailable (<2% vacancy rate, landlords asking for income 3 times rent)
- Lack of income to pay rent on an ongoing basis (significant barriers to obtaining rent assistance through Housing Authorities or obtaining employment)

Embrace the Challenge  
by  
Focusing on Solutions





Ready to Work addresses homelessness and recidivism by taking a comprehensive approach to housing and service delivery.

# The RTW philosophy

Reducing homelessness among any population requires housing and income to maintain that housing over the long-term.

Ready to Work focuses on providing homeless individuals, especially those being released from incarceration, the tools and resources to earn an income, complete an education, and become certified in a job-ready skill.

With the ability to earn an income, individuals have a better chance of maintaining housing stability and avoiding cycles of crime and poverty.

A boost into permanent housing in the form of short-term subsidy helps reduce barriers to entry into the housing market.

# How RTW “works”

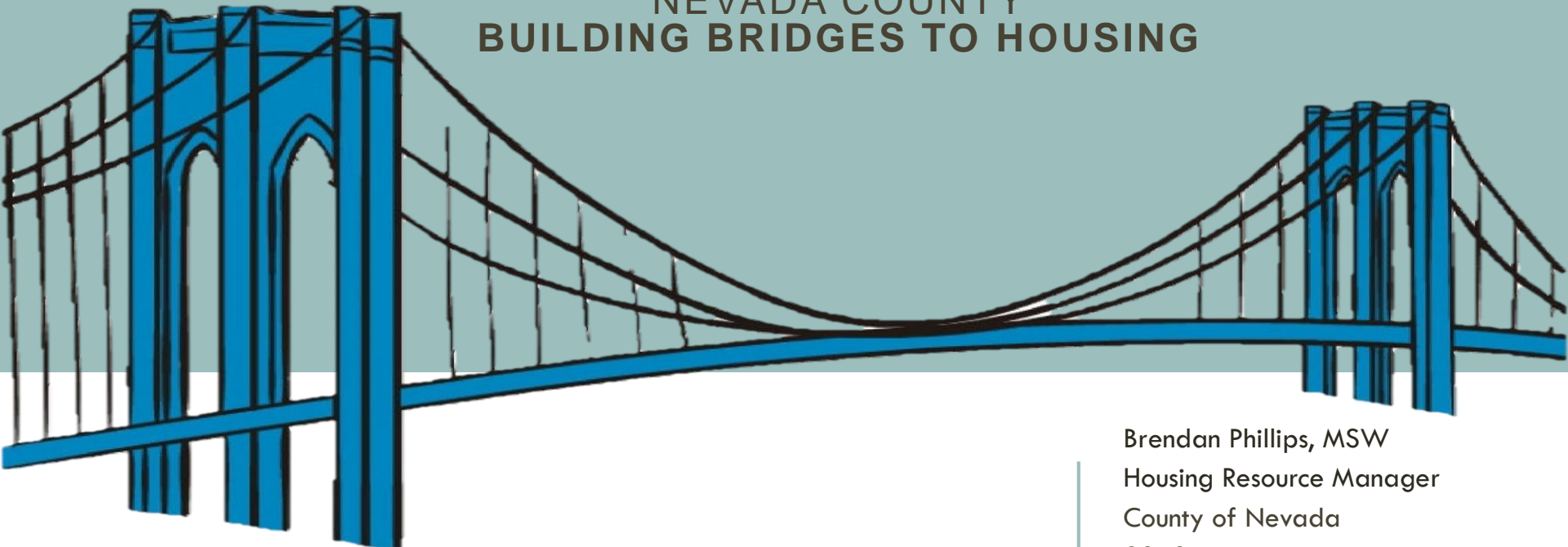
- RTW is a private 501c3 nonprofit aligned to fill identified need gaps and leverage the core competencies of existing agencies
- Provides the stability of long-term transitional housing
- Connects to existing education and work training programs, and underwrites their cost to clients
- Offers in-house opportunities to work and earn an income
- Requires continued participation in counseling and group sessions that support wellness, recovery, and personal growth
- Provides direct financial support to program graduates searching for permanent housing

# Making it happen

- **Private dollars** (large donors with a recurring commitment)
- **Public dollars** (Community Corrections Partnership, Community-Based Transitional Housing program)
- **Social Enterprise dollars** (client work crews pay for themselves, and long-term generate program income for the corporation)
- **Referral partners** (Collaborative Courts, Probation Office, homeless service providers, outreach teams)
- **Support service partners** (job training programs, educational programs, counseling and health care providers, clothing and food providers, etc.)
- **Employers** (Caltrans, cities of Lodi and Stockton, Stockton Downtown Business Alliance, Bank of America Foundation)
- **Other support** (District Attorney, Public Defender, County Supervisors, Continuum of Care)

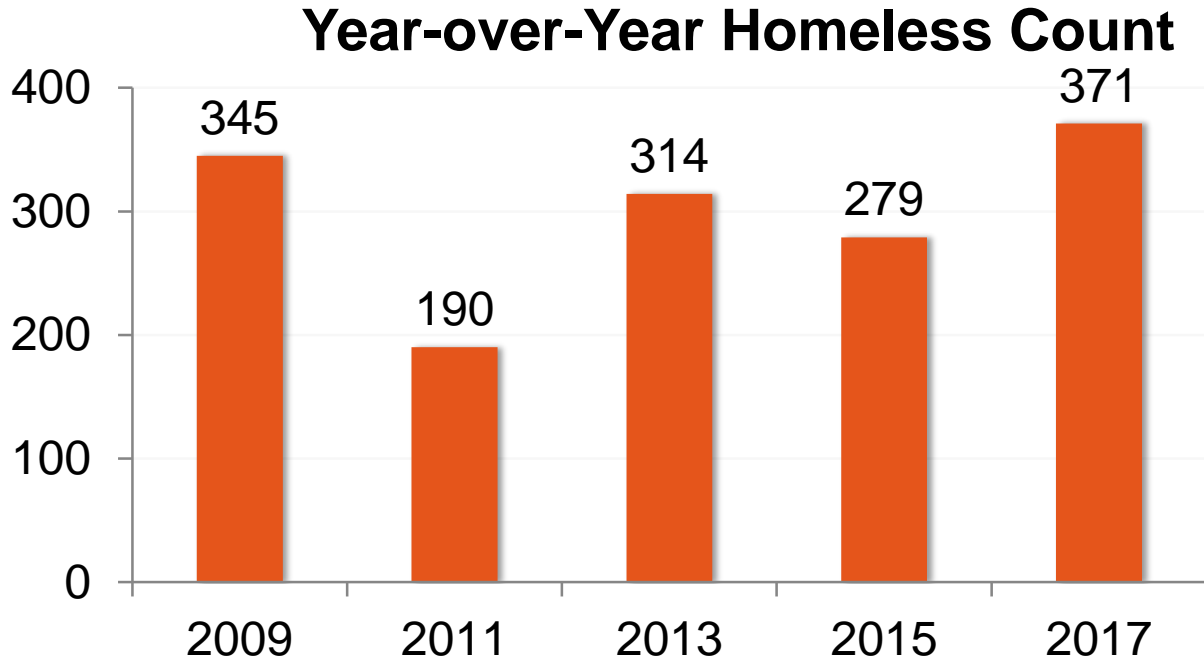


STEPPING UP ON HOMELESSNESS IN  
NEVADA COUNTY  
**BUILDING BRIDGES TO HOUSING**



Brendan Phillips, MSW  
Housing Resource Manager  
County of Nevada  
2018

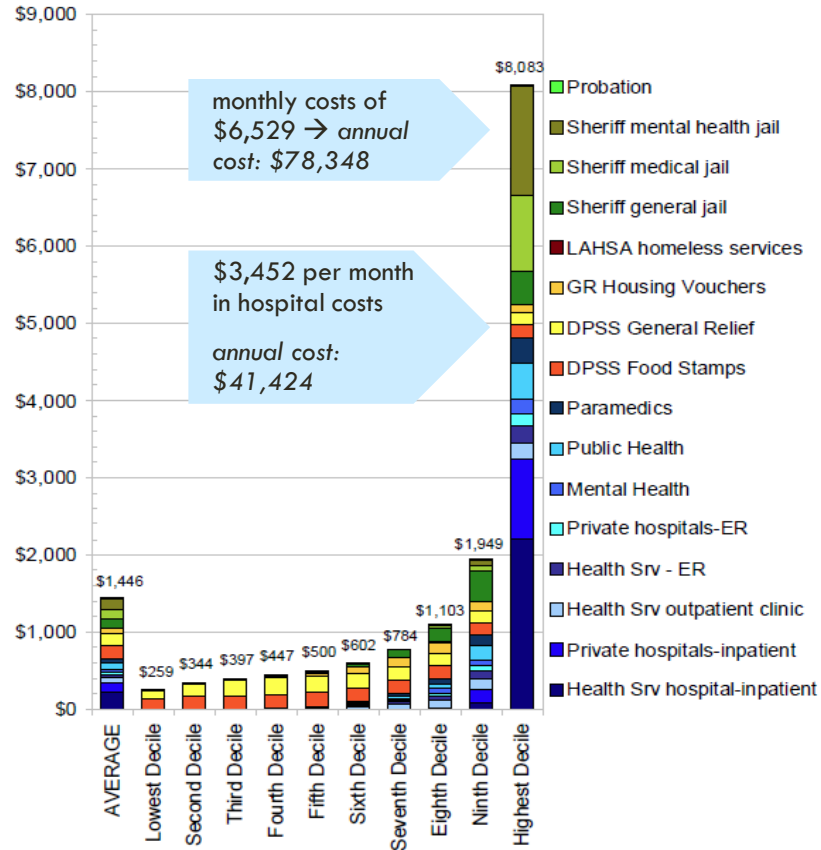
# POINT IN TIME COUNT NEVADA COUNTY 2009-2017



# People Experiencing Homelessness Are Expensive, But Not All the Same

Average Los Angeles County Monthly Costs Among Homeless General Relief Recipients: **\$2,897/month**

Source: 2,907 homeless GR recipients in LA County with DHS ER or inpatient records



# COORDINATED MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAMS:

## The HOT and HRT

**HOT** = Coordination with Law Enforcement, Court System, Jail and service providers.

Shared mission, shared data, shared successes

Reduce recidivism, reduce calls-for-service, lower costs

Housing, no return to homelessness.

**HRT** = Coordination with housing service providers and ancillary services

Creative braiding of funding for housing support

Prioritization of placement

Shared resources, expanded capacity



# BRIDGES 2 HOUSING: FLEXIBLE HOUSING OPTION WITH A HOUSING FIRST PHILOSOPHY

## Prioritizes:

- Most vulnerable (Coordinated Entry by-name list)
- High criminogenic risk and recidivism – Re-entry and Mental Health Court
- High Emergency room recidivism



## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE:

- High Quality data from multiple systems
- No Place Like Home
- Flexible Housing Continues...
- MHSA Innovation

# QUESTIONS?