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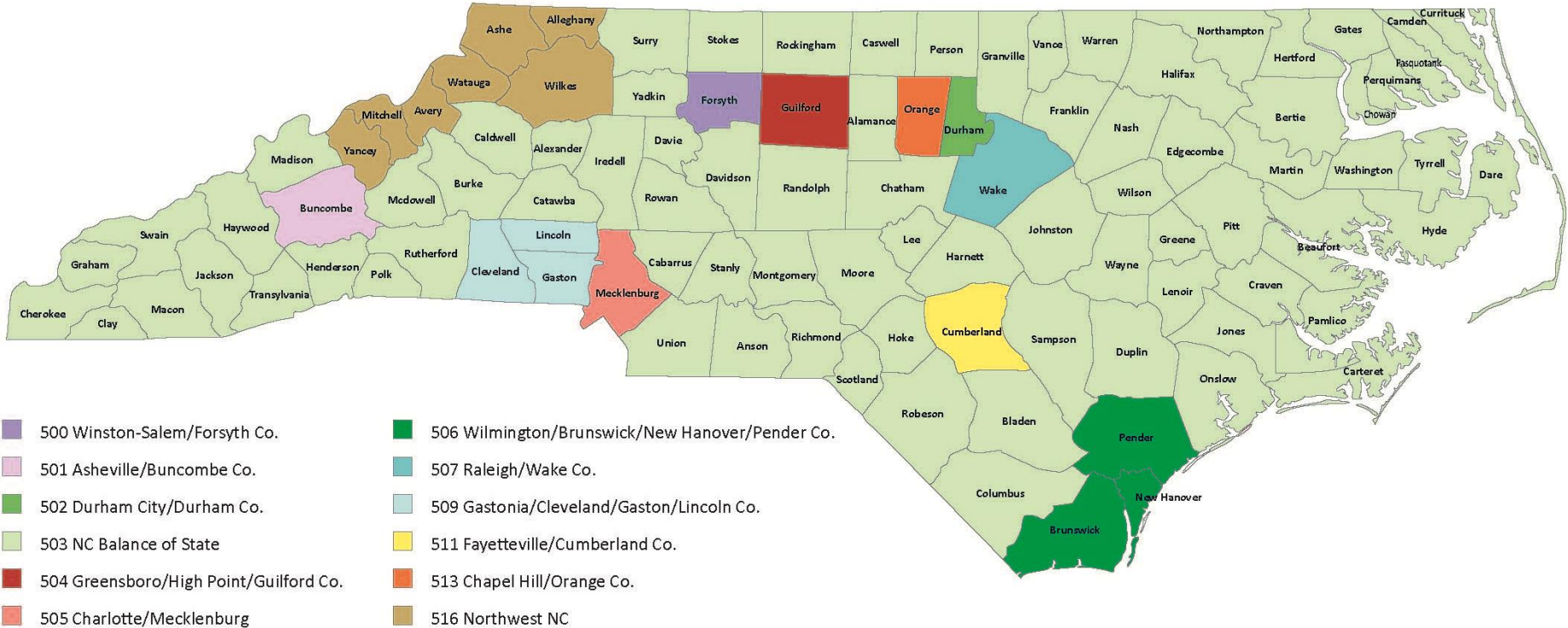


**North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness**

securing resources • encouraging public dialogue • advocating for public policy change

919.755.4393 • [www.ncceh.org](http://www.ncceh.org)

# There are 12 Continuums of Care (CoC) in North Carolina.



# COC Functions

## CoC Management

- Governance
- System Operations
- Coordinated Assessment
- Written Standards
- Performance Expectations and Monitoring
- Funding Priorities

## System Planning

- Identifying Gaps in system and addressing
- Funding Priorities
- Connecting to mainstream service systems
- Partnering with ESG

## Data Collection

- Data Collection for HEARTH measures
- Designating an HMIS Lead Agency

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)  
Homeless Assistance Grants

**Continuum of Care Program (CoC)**

Nationwide competition

Grants administered by HUD.

**Eligible Activities:**

- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Rapid Re-Housing
- HMIS
- Supportive Services (Coordinated Assessment)
- Transitional Housing

**Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG)**

Block grant (State & 6 Entitlements: Raleigh, Wake, Charlotte, Durham, Forsyth, and Greensboro)

Grants administered by State or entitlement.

**Eligible Activities:**

- Emergency Shelter
- Rapid Re-Housing
- Outreach
- Prevention
- Coordinated Assessment
- HMIS

The CoC Program is designed to:

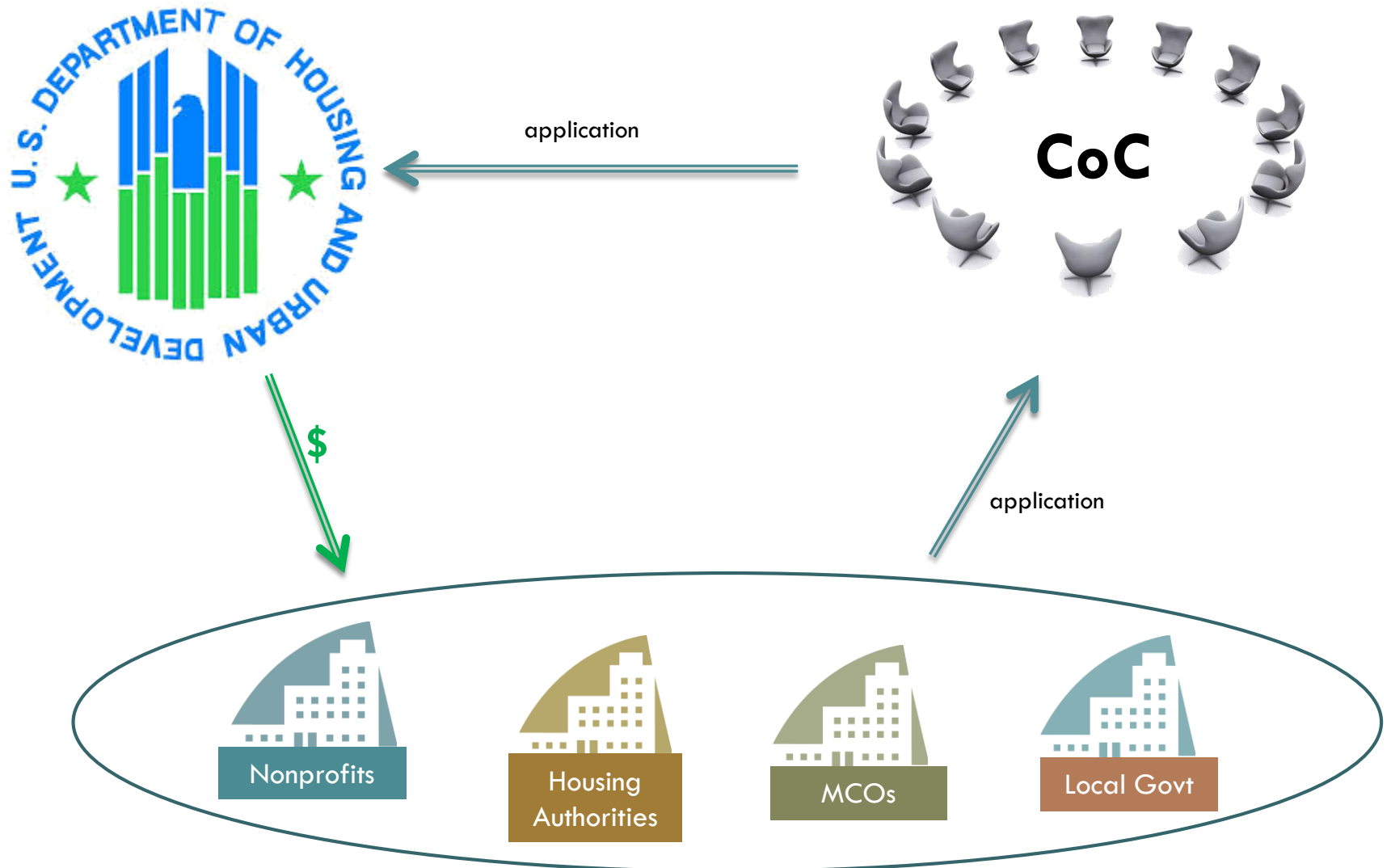
- Promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness;
- Provide funding for efforts to quickly re-house individuals and families who are homeless, which minimizes the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness;
- Promote access to and effective use of mainstream programs;
- Optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

Recognizing that the community will need to be fully engaged in order to achieve the intended purpose of the CoC Program, the interim rule requires communities to establish a Continuum of Care in order to receive CoC Program funding.

# CoC regulated by HUD as a way to apply for competitive funds

- ❑ Created in 1994 in NOFA
- ❑ HEARTH updated in regulations and gave new responsibilities
- ❑ Made up of agencies serving homeless households directly or indirectly
- ❑ Self-determined geographic area
- ❑ Agencies cannot apply individually, only through CoC

# CoC Program Funding & Application



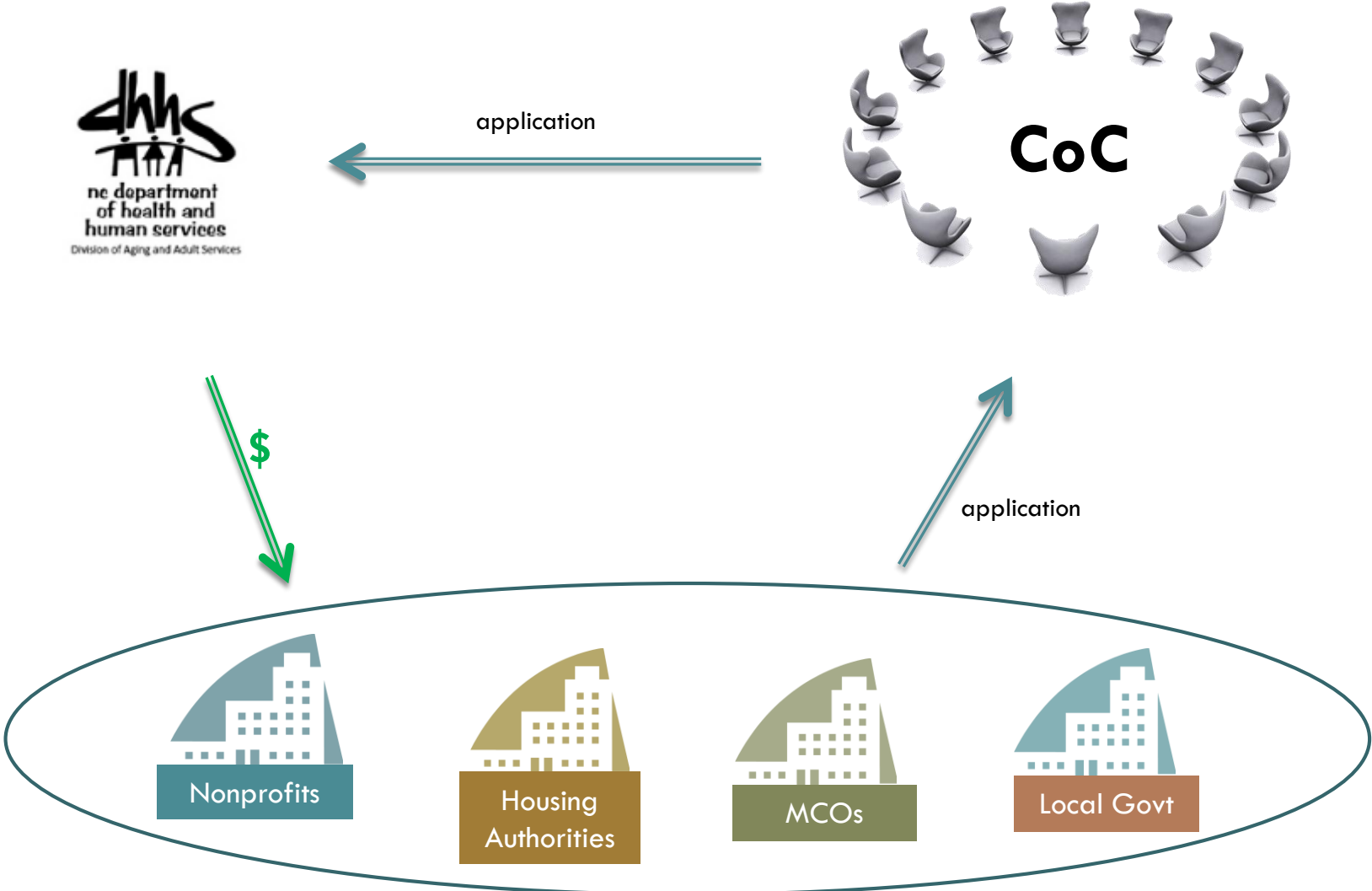
# ESG: Emergency Solutions Grants

## Purpose:

- Provide assistance to rapidly re-house persons who are currently homeless
- Assist in meeting the costs of operating emergency shelters
- Restrict the increase of homelessness through the provision of preventive programs and activities



# State ESG Program Funding & Application



# Keys to Ending Homelessness

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- Affordable Housing
- Appropriate Services
- Adequate Income

# Ending Homelessness Means

“ensuring that individuals and families who become homeless return to permanent housing within 30 days.”

HEARTH Act Purposes – Sec. 1002(b)



# The Time is Right: Momentum to End Homelessness

- Cost-Effective Evidence-Based Practices
- HEARTH Legislation
- Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness
- Mayors Challenge to End Veterans Homelessness
- New System Performance Measures

How should we invest  
our limited resources?

# Housing First: A New Approach



vs.



# Retool the Crisis Response System

## **Federal Strategic Plan Objective 10:**

Transform homeless services to crisis response systems that prevent homelessness and rapidly return people who experience homelessness to stable housing

US Interagency Council on Homelessness

[www.usich.gov](http://www.usich.gov)

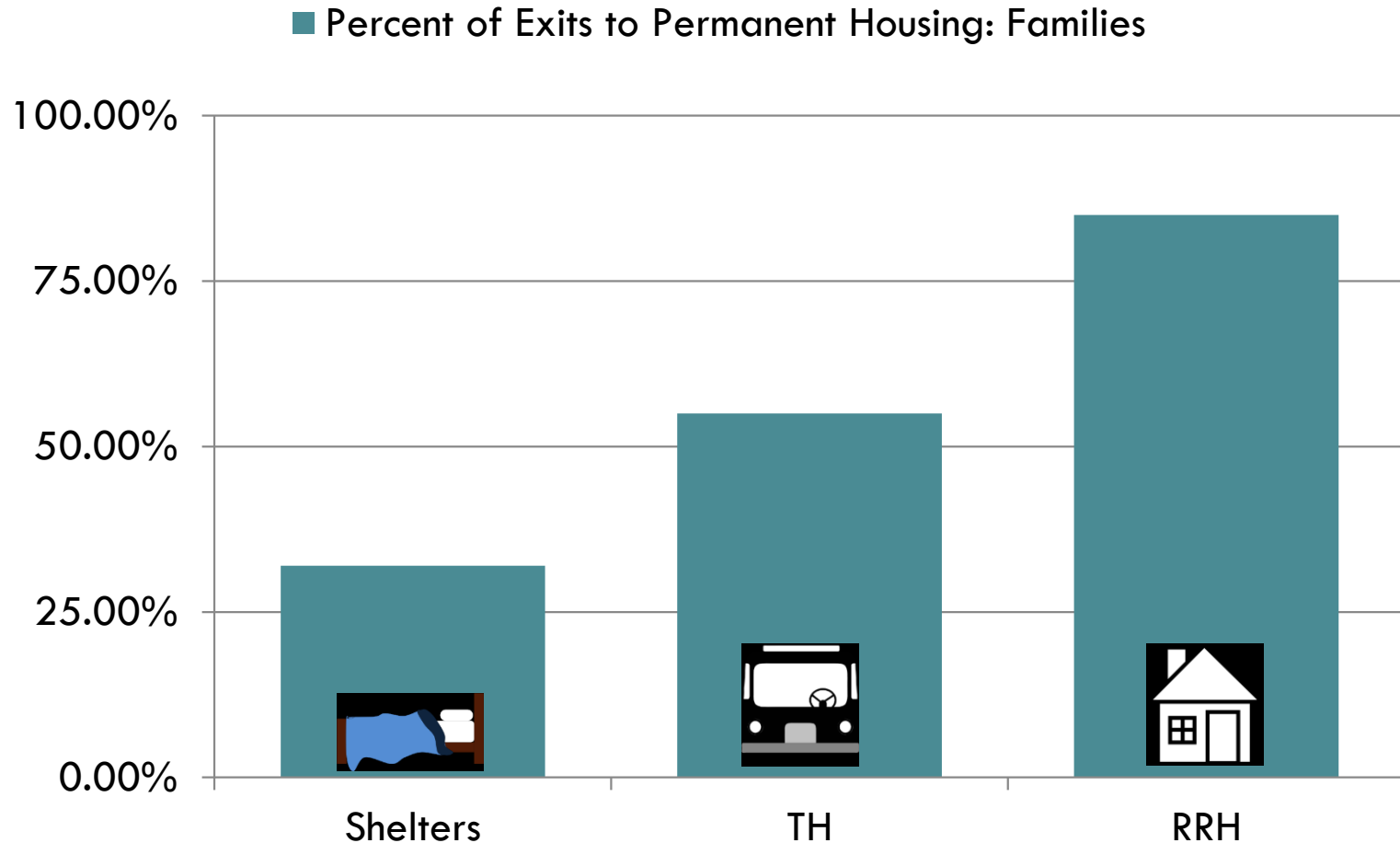


# Barriers to Housing at the Household Level

Barriers to <u>Getting</u> Housing	Barriers to <u>Keeping</u> Housing
Criminal History Credit History Housing History Financial Resources	Financial Barriers income & budgeting Behavioral Barriers mental health substance use tenancy skills

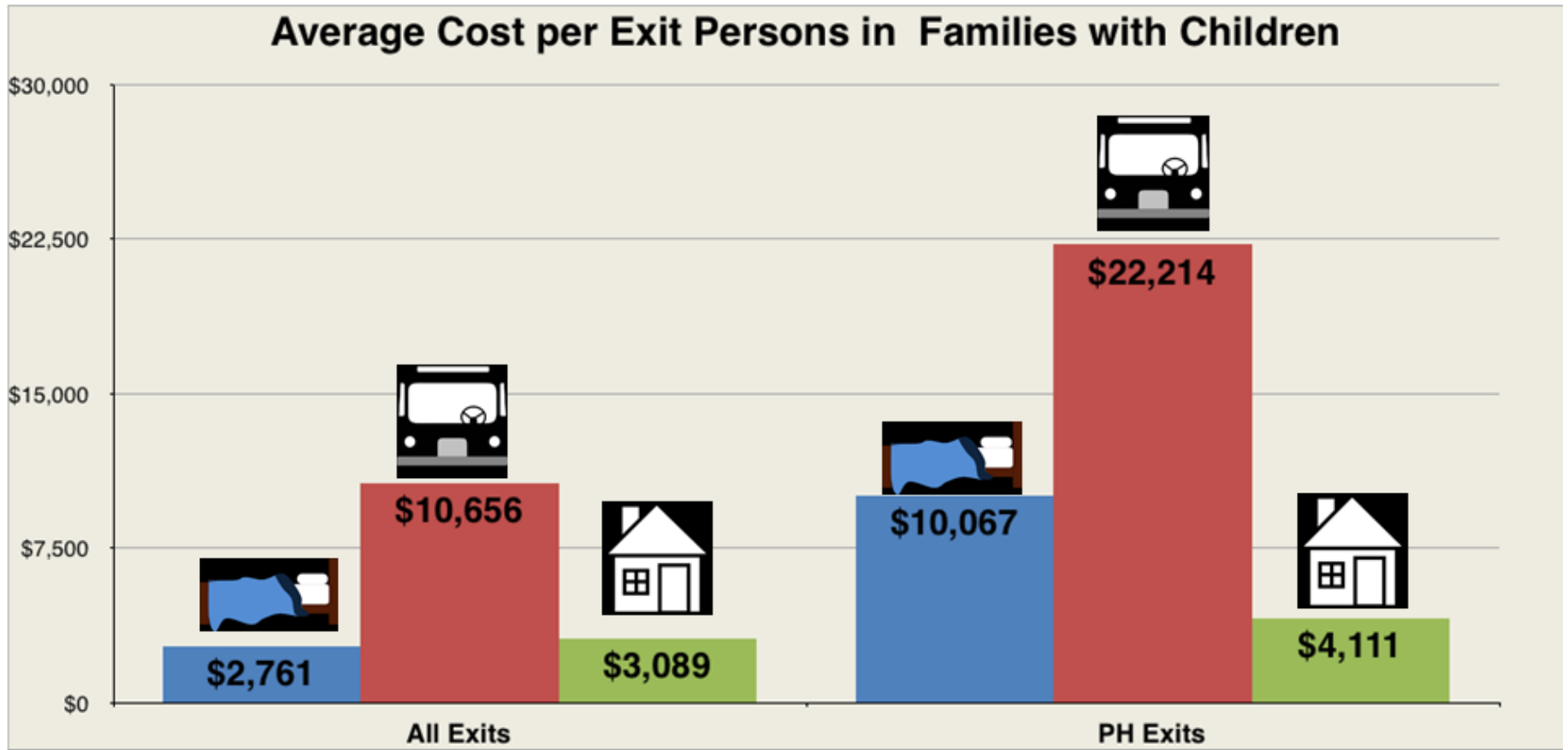


# Rapid Re-Housing Programs have the highest average rate of exits to permanent housing.



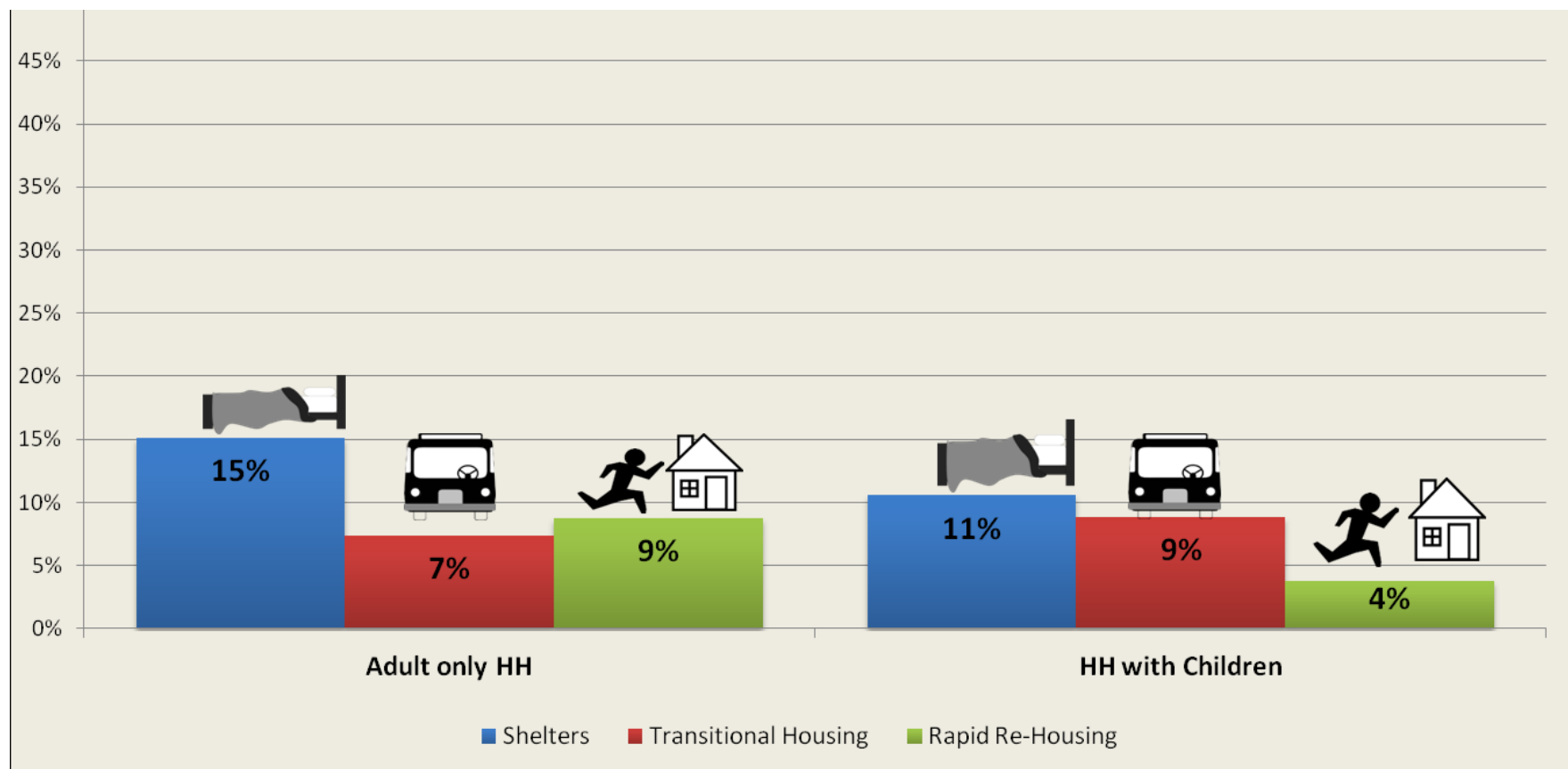
Source: Data from 14 Continuums in seven states that prepared Evaluators for NAEH Performance Improvement Clinics in 2011-2012 (Katharine Gale Consulting/Focus Strategies)

# Rapid Re-Housing Programs are cost effective.



**Source:** Data from 14 Continuums in seven states that prepared Homeless System Evaluators for NAEH Performance Improvement Clinics in 2011-2012 (Katharine Gale Consulting/Focus Strategies)

# Program types have similar rates of return.



**Source:** Data averaged from seven Continuums in four states that prepared Homeless System Evaluators for NAEH Performance Improvement Clinics in 2011-2012 (Katharine Gale Consulting/Focus Strategies)

# Two Recommendations for Moving Forward

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- Invest in Solutions
- Invest in System Oversight

The ultimate goal is to resolve housing crises quickly and safely.



# Focus on Permanent Housing

## Prevention/Diversion

Emergency Shelter

Transitional Housing

## Rapid Re-Housing

## Permanent Supportive Housing



# The homeless service system is made up of key program components.

- Prevention/Diversion
- Emergency Shelter (ES)
- Transitional Housing (TH)
- Rapid Re-housing (RRH)
- Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

# Emergency shelters provide a safe place while households have a housing crisis.

- Emergency Shelter

“any facility with overnight sleeping accommodations, the primary purpose of which is to **provide temporary shelter for the homeless** in general or for specific populations of the homeless.”

- Purpose is to provide a safe place for people to stay while finding the solution to a housing crisis.



# Emergency Shelters face some unique challenges.

- **System flow-** Making sure that people are able to be connected to housing resources and programs to exit the shelter system into housing
- **Prioritizing beds-** Utilizing diversion so that people with other safe places to go can utilize those resources.
- **Program rules-** Keeping program rules balanced to keep everyone safe while not creating unnecessary barriers to accessing help.

# Transitional Housing's role in the system is changing.

- Transitional Housing

“a project that is designed to provide housing and appropriate supportive services to homeless persons to facilitate movement to independent living within 24 months, or a longer period approved by HUD.”

- Studies find that TH is more expensive and is less successful in moving people into permanent housing than other interventions.
- Introduced as an intervention when housing readiness was a priority.

# Transitional housing programs are in transition.

- Programs can be redesigned to fit a new system:
  - Transition in Place Models
  - Reducing eligibility barriers
  - Reducing length of stay
  - Targeting specific populations as needed in the system
  
- CoCs are looking at the role they want TH to play in their systems.

# Rapid Re-housing creates flow by getting households back into housing.

- Rapid Re-housing-

Programs that provide short term rental assistance and services with the primary goal of moving homeless households back into permanent housing as quickly as possible.

- Core components include:

- Housing Identification

- Rent and Move In Assistance

- Case Management and services with a focus on connecting to mainstream service systems.



Rapid Re-Housing is a different type of intervention that faces challenges in program design.

- **Flexibility in program design-** RRH works best when the program is able to provide as little or as much assistance to secure permanent housing.
- **Developing relationships with landlords-** Provides a crucial link to allow programs to serve households with various barriers to getting and keeping housing.
- **Program Eligibility-** RRH programs often place eligibility requirements on their program as a way to insure success. Research shows RRH is effective with a number of different, challenging populations.

# Funding for RRH can come from a variety of sources.

- ESG
- CoC
- HOME
- TANF
- CDBG
- Private Donors

# Permanent Supportive Housing is the intervention for high need households.

- Permanent Supportive Housing

A program that provides long-term housing subsidies and flexible, long-term services to households with disabilities.

- Provides households who have disabilities and high barriers to getting and keeping housing with the necessary supports to stabilize in housing.

# Permanent Supportive Housing has some unique challenges.

- **Eligibility requirements-** HUD is encouraging PSH programs to utilize a Housing First approach and decrease eligibility requirements.
- **Lack of Turnover-** Programs are looking at graduation models to increase turnover in PSH programs for those who are willing and no longer need the long-term services.



# CoCs are looking at funding sources beyond HUD funding for PSH.

- CoC Funding
- HUD-VASH
- Medicaid funding for tenancy services
- Public Housing Authority preferences for units and/or vouchers



# We are an Evolving System



# Contact NCCEH

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