Housing Improves Health Outcomes & Reduces Costs

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The Issue

- Homeless frequent users present complex, co-occurring social, health and behavioral health problems.
  - Chronically ill homeless individuals bounce in & out of high-cost services, yet health outcomes do not improve
  - Mortality rates among homeless adults are 3 or more times greater than that of the general population. ("State of Homelessness in America 2012," National Alliance to End Homelessness and Homelessness Research Institute)
  - Require more comprehensive, integrated interventions encompassing medical and behavioral health care, intensive case management and housing
Opportunity

- **ACA**: comprehensive solutions needed to effectively bend health care cost curve and improve quality of care

- Across country, leading hospitals, FQHCs, housing developers and homeless service providers are **collaborating in innovative ways** to improve health outcomes of identified high users of public systems and effectively address social & economic complexities of homelessness
The Solution: Health AND Housing

- **Integrating care management and supportive housing** stabilizes most chronically ill homeless patients, reduces use of ED and inpatient readmissions, health care cost savings, and inspires communities to work together.

- High utilizing individual becomes a tenant in supportive housing, average hospital cost savings are $3,022 per patient per month, or 88% of prior costs. *(Crisis Indicator, Economic Roundtable. August 2011)*
The Solution: Improved Health Outcomes

- In Denver, 50% of tenants placed into SH improved their health status, 43% improved mental health outcomes, and 15% reduced substance use (Perlman and Parvensky, 2006)

- In Seattle, a 30% reduction in alcohol use among chronic alcohol users in SH (Larimer et. al., 2009)

- In San Francisco and Chicago, significantly higher survival rates for individuals with HIV/AIDS in SH compared to control groups (Martinez & Burt, 2006; Sadowski et. al., 2009)
## FUSE Initiatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project 25: San Diego</strong></td>
<td>SH, services and discharge program to Top 35 chronically homeless - and some of most frequent users of ERs and other public resources</td>
<td>$4.2m (2010); $1.8m (2011). 55% reduction in ER visits, in-patient hospitalizations, ambulance transports and arrests</td>
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| **The Frequent Users of Health Services Initiative (FUHSI) six-year, $10 million** | TA for new approaches to address comprehensive health & social service needs of frequent users of EDs & decrease avoidable ED visits & hospital stays. Six 3-year SH pilots. | - 61% decrease in ED visits  
  - 62% decrease in inpatient days  
  - 59% decrease in ED charges  
  - 64% decrease inpatient admits |
| **DESC: Seattle**            | Targets frequent users of hospitals, jails and other institutions; 75 per year in SH; Vulnerability Assessment Tool | Systems Costs prior to SH: $8.16m; after one year housing: $4.08m  
  • 56% of this in Medicaid payments  
  • County jail bookings down 45%  
  • Jail days down 48%  
  • Sobering center usage down 91%  
  • Shelter usage down 93% |