

Justice Intersections and Homelessness



WHAT ISSUES ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU

Child well being, foster care, orphans, adverse child hood trauma, sexual abuse, domestic abuse, sex and labor trafficking, lgbtqia, runaways, gang related activity
Healthy families, education, mass incarceration, racism, classism, ableism, xenophobia, refugees, access to medical care, stigma of mental illness, access to mental health care, dental health, food insecurity, food deserts, predatory lending, predatory lawyers, discrimination in housing, fair housing, affordable housing, sexism, transportation, veterans issues, drugs and alcohol abuse, gentrification, ghettoization, prison pipeline, NIMBYism, stereotypes, voter suppression,



FIVE KEYS TO SUCCESS



Health
& Wellness



Housing
Placement
and Stability



Family &
Community
Engagement



Adult & Financial
Literacy



Job Skills
Training
& Placement

Let's talk about Low Barrier Shelters!



What is a Low-Barrier Shelter?

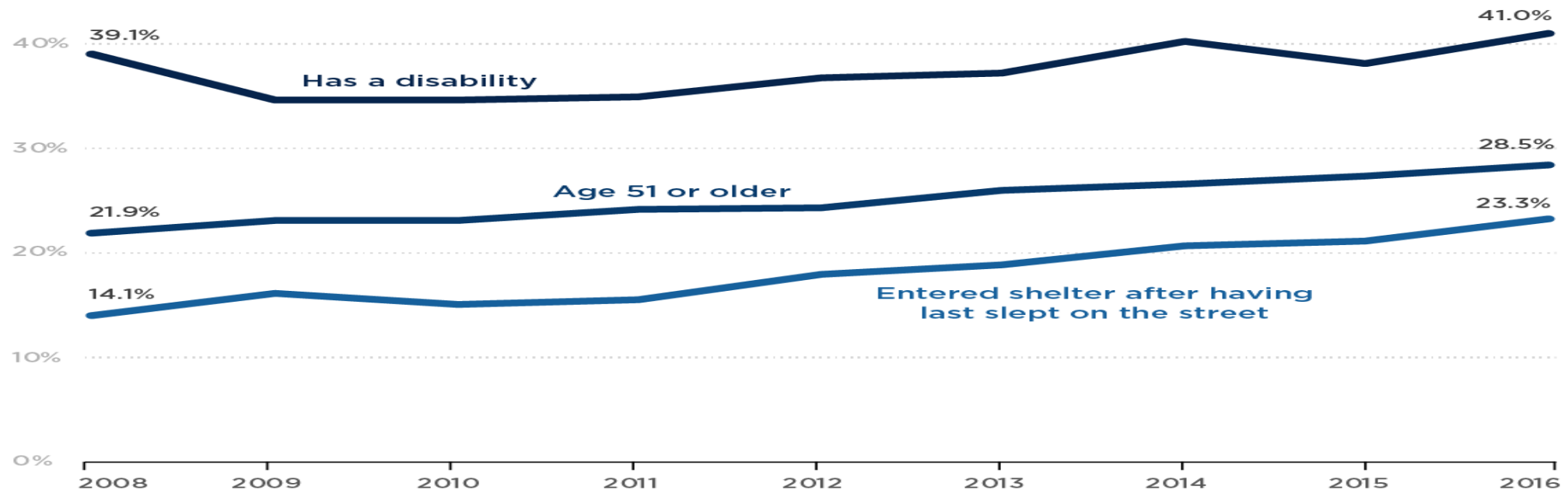
- ❖ A low barrier shelter is an immediate place to stay where people can enter and exit rapidly, with appropriate services to meet their needs.
- ❖ Low barrier shelters serve the most vulnerable population; those with disabilities, and have higher needs (mental health, substance abuse, and coming from places not meant for habitation)
- ❖ This population of people have more barriers to entering housing and will need more intensive services and support.

Who do Low Barrier Shelters serve?



People Entering Emergency Shelter Are Increasingly Likely to be Older, Have a Disability, and to Have Most Recently Slept on the Street

Share of adults in emergency shelter by age, disability status, and place last slept, 2008–2016



Source: Data on people utilizing emergency shelters over a 12-month period are from the *Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, Part 2*.

The street refers to any place not meant for human habitation, such as a park or a car.

What does an effective Low Barrier Shelter look like?



THE FIVE KEYS TO EFFECTIVE EMERGENCY SHELTER



HOUSING FIRST APPROACH

Align shelter eligibility criteria, policies, and practices with a Housing First approach so that anyone experiencing homelessness can access shelter without prerequisites, make services voluntary, and assist people to access permanent housing options as quickly as possible.



SAFE & APPROPRIATE DIVERSION

Provide diversion services to find safe and appropriate housing alternatives to entering shelter through problem-solving conversations, identifying community supports, and offering lighter touch solutions.



IMMEDIATE & LOW-BARRIER ACCESS

Ensure immediate and easy access to shelter by lowering barriers to entry and staying open 24/7. Eliminate sobriety and income requirements and other policies that make it difficult to enter shelter, stay in shelter, or access housing and income opportunities.



HOUSING-FOCUSED, RAPID EXIT SERVICES

Focus services in shelter on assisting people to access permanent housing options as quickly as possible.



DATA TO MEASURE PERFORMANCE

Measure data on percentage of exits to housing, average length of stay in shelter, and returns to homelessness to evaluate the effectiveness of shelter and improve outcomes.



HOUSING FIRST APPROACH



SAFE & APPROPRIATE DIVERSION



IMMEDIATE & LOW-BARRIER ACCESS



HOUSING-FOCUSED, RAPID EXIT SERVICES



DATA TO MEASURE PERFORMANCE



- ❖ The Gateway-Evolution Center was established on December 6, 2017. It was established through Home First funds and opened after the close of the Peachtree & Pine Shelter.
- ❖ It started with 75 beds for men, ages 18 and up. In November 2018, it grew to 100 beds.
- ❖ The Gateway-Evolution Center has two Phases; Phase I & Phase II. It has a full commercial kitchen, a barbershop, meditation room, and more.

Why a low barrier shelter?



- ❖ There are no eligibility requirements - such as identification, TB results, or substance free to obtain shelter.
- ❖ Low barrier shelters have rules; however, there is more tolerance due to the population being served. Guests are allowed to come back to the shelter intoxicated and/or having used substances as long as they are not disruptive or there is an issue of safety.
- ❖ Most guests are service resistant, some chronically homeless, and need much more support and resources BEFORE seeing a change or shift in being ready for permanent housing.
- ❖ Consider a low-barrier shelter a place for those who need second, third, fourth, or fifth chances to find their independence, end their homelessness, and start a new life again. It works!

Conclusion: Low Barrier Shelters



Most low barriers shelters are run differently with the same goal in mind:

Ending homelessness with the least amount of barriers to attaining a permanent home.

https://youtu.be/Q_1iLzKRRxE

QUESTIONS

