



"Non-Congregate Shelters"

Multidisciplinary Approaches to End

Homelessness

A Continuum of Care Division Webinar Series

# About the Webinar Series

#### Purpose

These webinars provide an opportunity to engage with local and regional experts on best practices, advocacy tools and resources available to prevent and end homelessness in Riverside County.

#### **Recorded Webinars**

After the live webinar has taken place, the recording will be added to our website.

#### **Upcoming Webinars**

We are working on securing speakers for future webinars and would love to feature you or your agency.

Email <a href="mailto:CoC@rivco.org">CoC@rivco.org</a> if interested.

# Agenda for Today

| 10:00 - 10:05 AM | Welcome  | HHPWS - Continuum of Care<br>Staff: Tanya Torno, CoC<br>Director                        |
|------------------|--|---|
| 10:05 - 10:30 AM | 3 Unique Non-Congregate<br>Shelter Models  | Tyler Ahtonen, City Net<br>Karen Roper, City of Corona<br>Hafsa Kaka, City of Riverside |
| 10:30 - 10:55 AM | Crisis Stabilization Housing Program   | Tom Kirk<br>Tom Cox<br>CVAG   |
| 10:55 - 11:20 AM | Project Roomkey  | Marcus Dillard<br>Gina Marasco<br>Housing Authority                                     |
| 11:20 - 11:30 AM | Q&A: Please type your questions in the chat box. We will answer as many questions as possible at the end of the webinar. |   |



A dba of Kingdom Causes Inc.

# Non-Congregate Shelters (NCS)

April 22nd, 2021

## Agenda

- What is a Non Congregate Shelter (NCS)?
- Examples of Non Congregate Shelters in the County of Riverside
  - The City of Riverside
    - Riverside Cabin Village Shelter "The Pallet Shelter"
    - Riverside Massachusetts Action Plan "MAP" Program
    - Riverside Emergency Quarantine Facility (EQF)
  - The City of Corona
    - Emergency Motel Voucher Program
- Benefits of the Non-Congregate Model
- Q&A

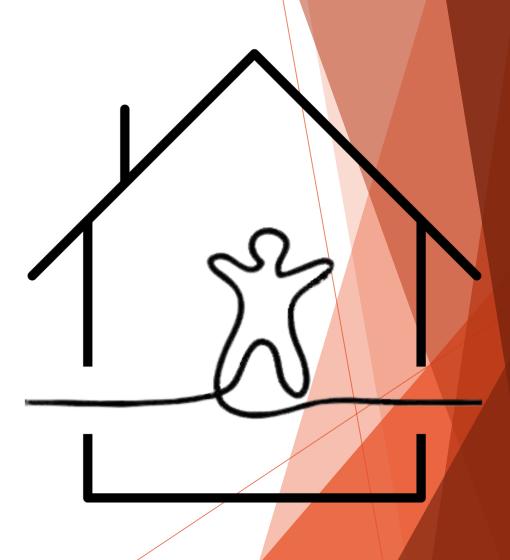


# What is a Non-Congregate Shelter?

 Non-Congregate Shelter (NCS) differs from the typical community/shared space setting shelter

 A shelter that allows for aprivate living space that separates individuals from the general community population.

 The NCS model has gained popularity due to implemented safety measures to protect the homeless community from the spread of COVID-19.

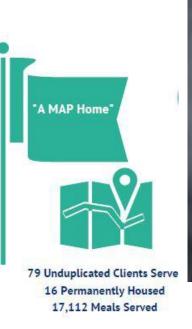


## Non-Congregate Shelters in Riverside

- City of Riverside Housing First Plan Adopted City of Riverside Housing Authority
- Hulen Campus Collaborative (HCC)
- State of California Big 13 Cities
- System of Care: Outreach, Shelter, Permanency
- 3 Major Non-Congregate Projects









Hafsa Kaka Officer of Homeless Solutions, City of Riverside

# Riverside Cabin Village Shelter - "The Pallets"

- March 2020 Present
- What is it?
  - o 30 individual Pallet shelters consisting of a section for males, females, couples and ADA Units for Homeless neighbors who have strong ties to the City of Riverside
  - o Pets welcomed! 🐾
- Where is it?
  - o 1919 Massachusetts Ave, Riverside
  - In close proximity to Riversides Access Center A homelessness supportive services center in Riverside.
- What services are provided?
  - 3 nutritious meals a day, 7 days a week
  - o 24/7 on-site staff
  - Intensive case management and wrap-around services with a housing-first approach
  - Clients are triaged and referred to the appropriate housing opportunities depending on their unique needs
  - Transportation services are provided to approved appointments



Massachusetts Action Plan - "A Map Home"

#### • What is it?

 40 Motel Rooms serving as a Emergency Shelter in response to the Massachusetts Averemediation Project. Provided shelter to the homeless residents who resided on Massachusetts Ave.

#### Where is it?

- Quality Inn Riverside, CA
- Established a relationship with the Motel Management which allowed us to operate on an independent side of the building

#### What services are provided?

- o 3 nutritious meals a day, 7 days a week
- 24/7 on-site staff including security
- Intensive case management and wrap-around services with a housing-first approach.
- Partnership with Riversides Housing Authority to provide eligible clients with **Tenant Based Rental Assistance** Vouchers, which provides 12 months of subsidized rental assistance linked with Case Management services.
- Clients are triaged and referred to the appropriate housing opportunities depending on their unique needs
- Transportation services are provided to approved appointments



# Riverside Emergency Quarantine Facility (EQF)

- May 2020 July 2020
- What was it?
  - Trailers provided by the state to serve as an alternative living situation for unhoused clients in order to shelter in place during the Covid-19 pandemic
  - Serving the most vulnerable and high-risk individuals during the COVID-19 Pandemic
    - Qualifications for these beds outlined by the CDC
- Where is it?
  - Vacant lot located near Riverside Airport
- What services are provided?
  - 3 catered meals aday, 7 days aweek. Delivered to each trailer in order for the clients to remain socially distanced.
  - Safe and secluded environment to shelter the high-risk population
  - Intensive case management and wrap-around services with a housing-first approach.
  - 24/7 staff and security on site
  - Transportation services were provided to approved medical appointments.





## Non-Congregate Shelter in Corona

- The City of Coronas Comprehensive Homeless Strategic Plan
- How it Started
  - o Inclement Weather Shelter Program
  - COVID-19 Pandemic and the change of structure
- How it's progressing
  - o Jan '20 Feb '21
    - 6782 Shelter Bed Nights
    - 5,119 Motel Room Nights
- How is it funded?
  - City of Corona General Funds



Karen Roper Homeless Solutions Manager, City of Corona

# Corona Emergency Motel Voucher Program

- January 2020 Present
- What is it?
  - 20-room emergency shelter for neighbors experiencing homelessness in Corona. Serving Males, Females, and Families who have strong ties to the City of Corona.
- Where is it?
  - Scattered Site Model.
  - City Net has created partnerships with various motels within the City of Corona
- What services are provided?
  - o 3 nutritious meals a day, 7 days a week
  - o Intensive case management and wrap-around services with a housing-first approach
  - Clients are triaged and referred to the appropriate housing opportunities depending on their unique needs
  - Transportation services are provided to approved appointments



# Benefits of the Non-Congregate Shelter Model

 Dignified shelter opportunity that give a client their own space and a clearer mindset to work on their path to self sufficiency

#### Confidence and Security

- Feeling confident and safe in their own secluded environment
- Property is more secured from theft from other shelter guests

#### Life Skills

- Maintaining a clean and hygienic environment
- Feeling a sense of responsibility over their own space
- Learning to be a good neighbor

#### Safer Alternative

 March 2020, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recognizes that non-congregate sheltering may be necessary in this Public Health Emergency to protect public health and save lives.



## Benefits of the Non-Congregate Shelter Model Client Testimonials

#### Direct quotes from clients in our Non-Congregate Shelter Programs

"Being in a NCS helps with the noise confusion. When you're able to be in a quieter environment, you're able to focus and reflect on what you need to do to move forward without the distractions of the environment making it difficult."

"Personal space is very important. I struggle with anxiety and PTSD, which make it difficult to be in shared spaces."

#### Frequently Stated Key-Words

Peace of Mind



Safety



- Controlled Environment
- Privacy



Question

Answer



CV 200







KICKSTARTING CV 200



### HOUSING FIRST – RECAP



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OUR NICHE



## HOUSING FIRST - RECAP



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**OUR NICHE** 



CV 200, ONWARD





KICKSTARTING CV 200



**OUR NICHE** 



CV 200, ONWARD

# Desert Hot Springs Cathedral Palm Springs Rancho Mirage Palm Desert Indian 10 Coachella La Quinta

## IN THE BEGINNING

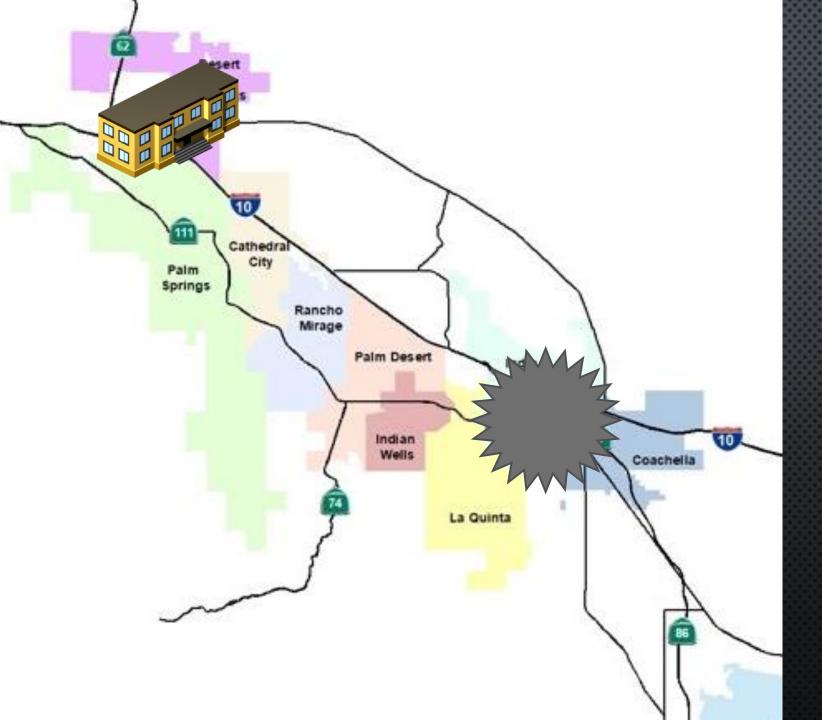
2007-2009



## IN THE BEGINNING

2007-2009

Concentration of services in the Indio area.



# ROY'S 2009-2018









## ROY'S 2009-2017





2009-2017

Helped Thousands





2009-2017

Transportation Challena $\epsilon$ 









County needed long term mental healthcare facility.





# HOUSING'SIRST



## HOUSING FIRST

2017-2020





## HOUSING FIRST

2018-2019

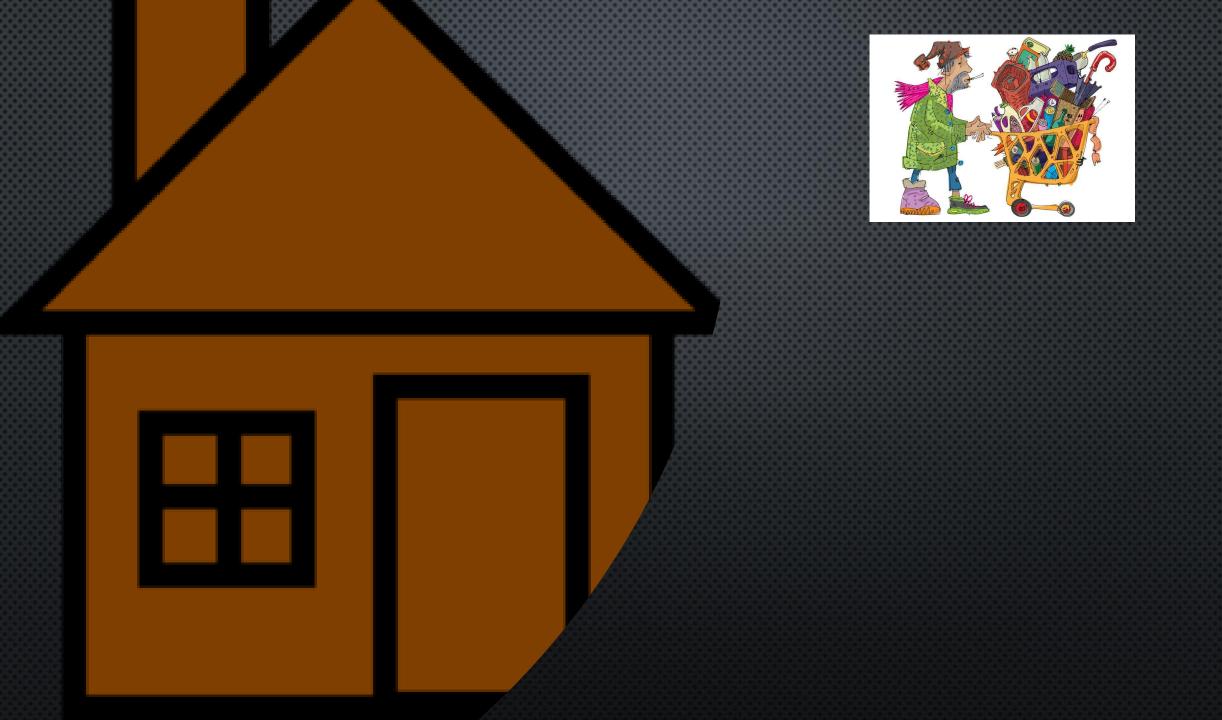
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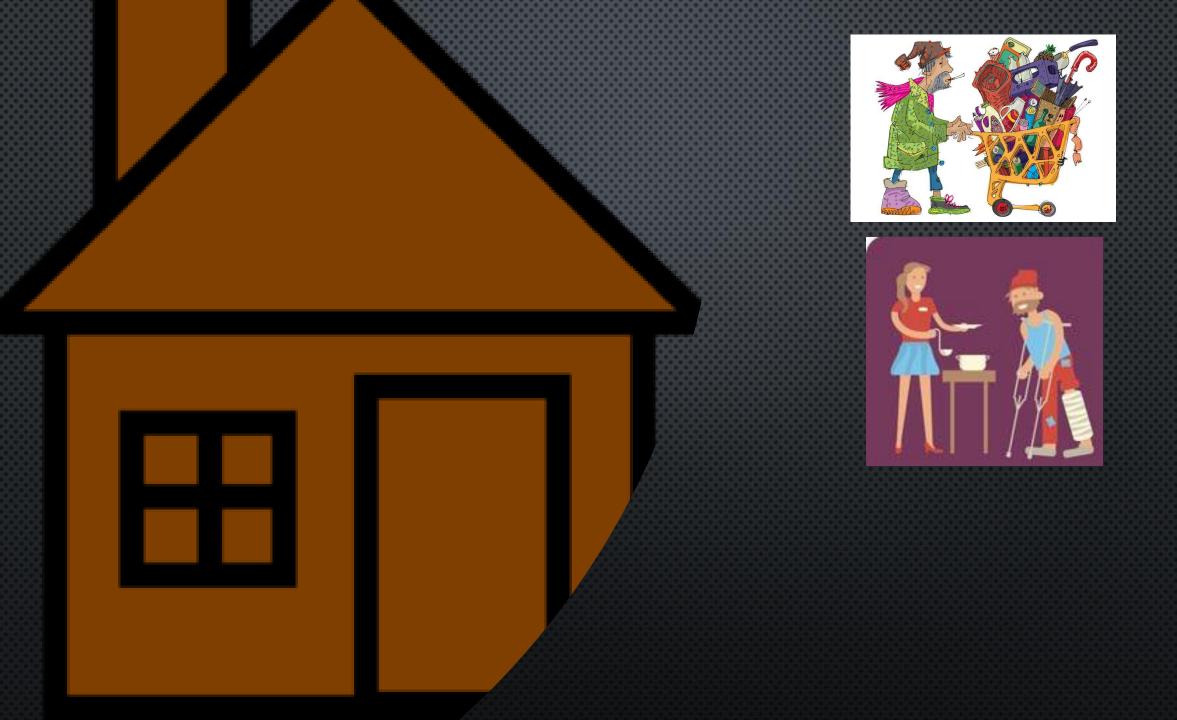


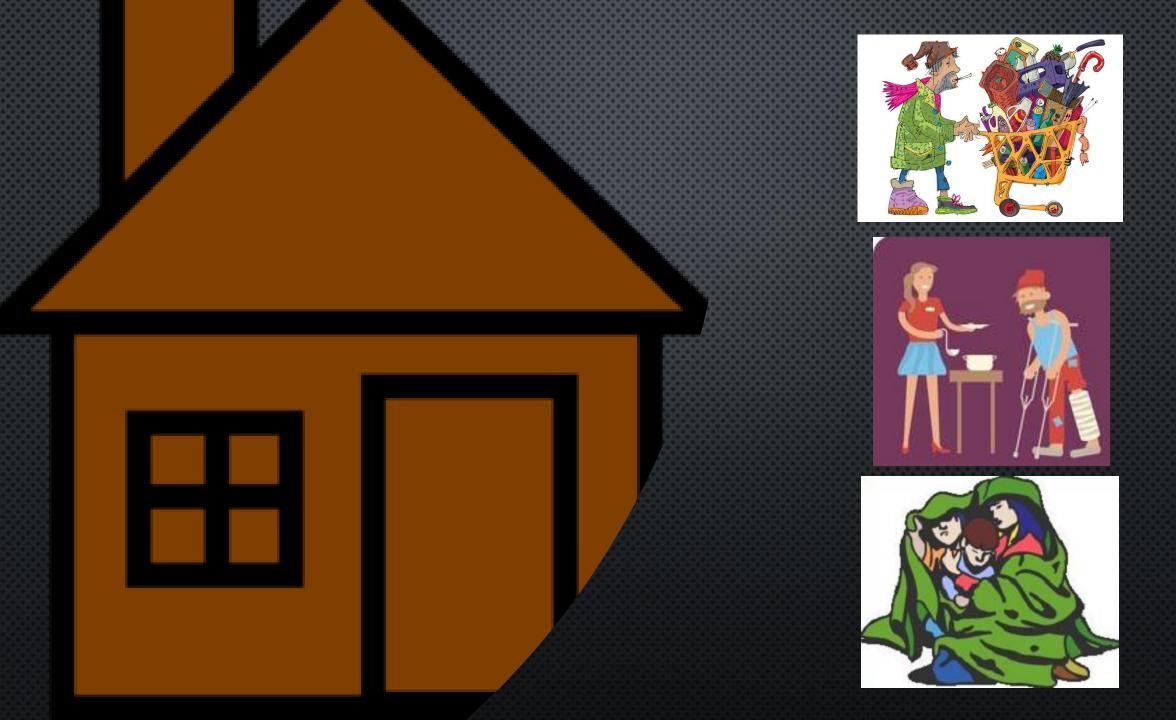


# HOUSING FIRST

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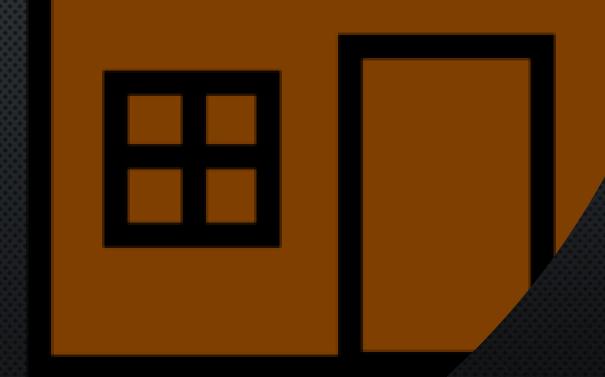








# WRAP-AROUND SERVICES





# WRAP-AROUND SERVICES





# WRAP-AROUND SERVICES





# WRAP-AROUND SERVICES



## Cathedral Palm Springs Rancho Mirage Palm Desert Indian Coachella La Quinta

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## Cathedral Palm Springs Rancho Mirage Palm Desert Indian Coachella La Quinta





























KICKSTARTING CV 200



**OUR NICHE** 



CV 200, ONWARD

## OUTLINE



#### HOUSING FIRST – RECAP



#### KICKSTARTING CV 200



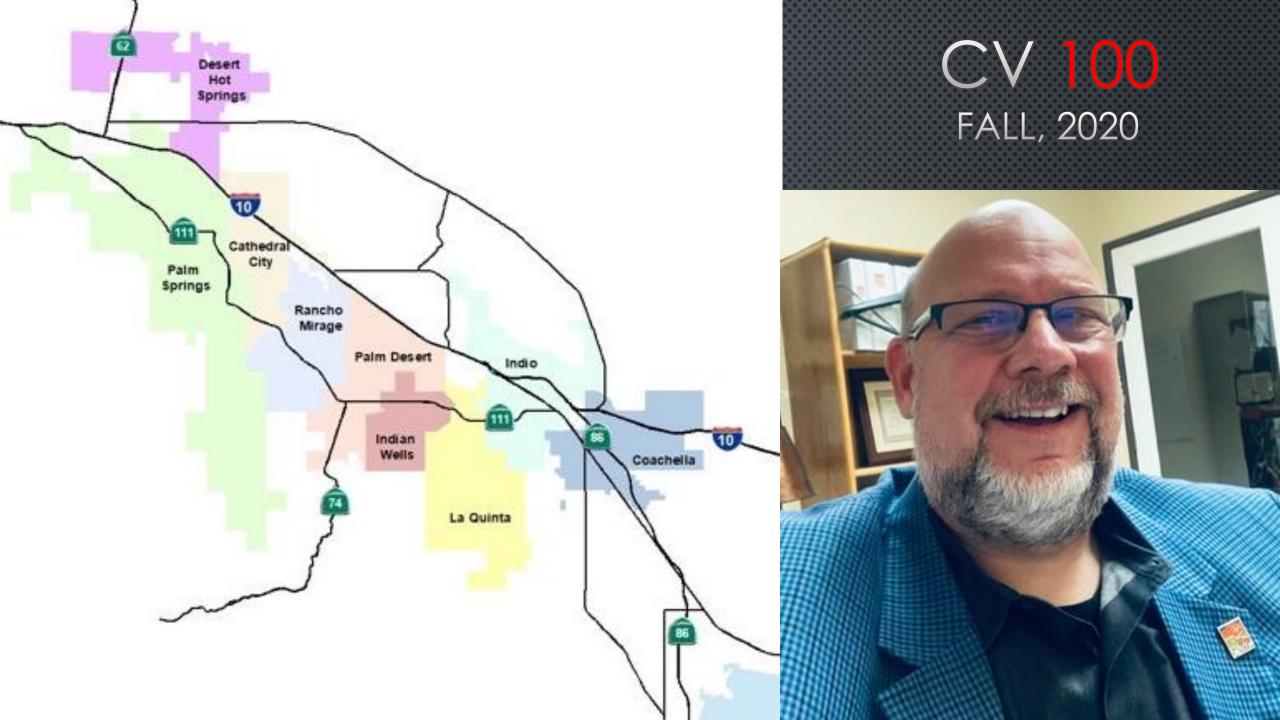
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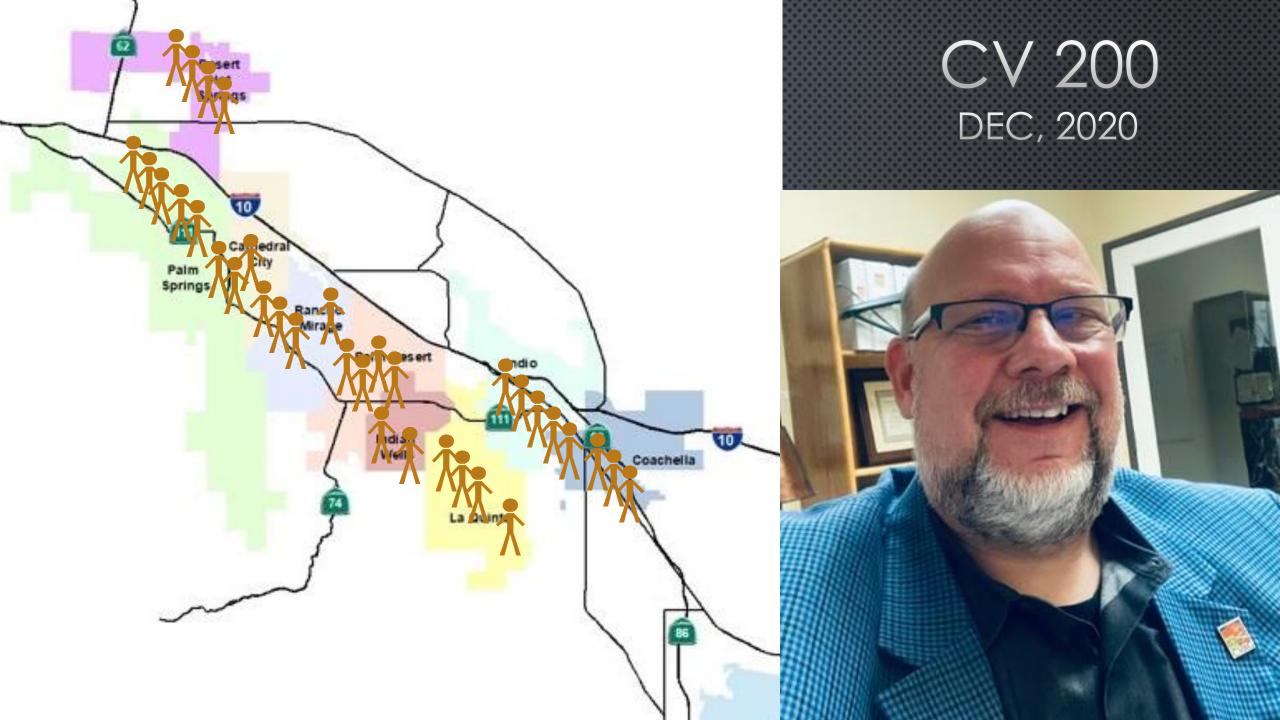


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## OUTLINE







### Desert Hot Springs Cathedral City Palm Springs Rancho Mirage Palm Desert Indian 10 Wells Coachella La Quinta

## CV 200 JAN, 2021

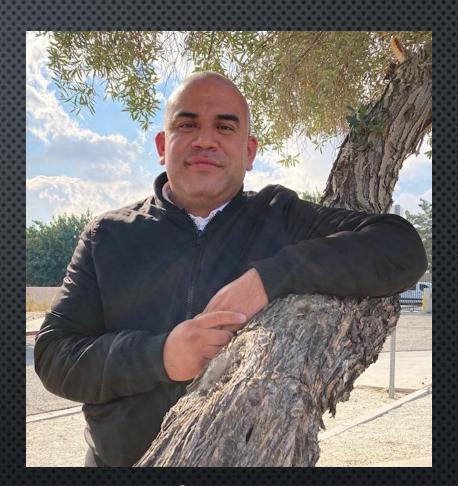


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#### RESULTS AFTER 40 DAYS

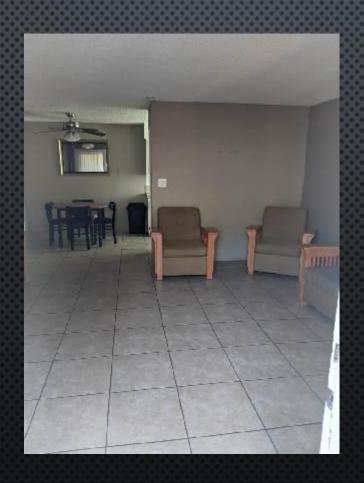


RAPID RESOLUTION ------



RAPID RESOLUTION





STABILIZATION UNITS 

#### Pets, Partners and Property



CV 200 FEB 11, 2021

STABILIZATION UNITS



STABILIZATION UNITS

CV 200 FEB 11, 2021 OTHER



CV 200 FEB 11, 2021 TOTAL EXITS



#### HOUSING FIRST – RECAP



#### KICKSTARTING CV 200



#### **OUR NICHE**



CV 200, ONWARD

## OUTLINE



#### HOUSING FIRST – RECAP



#### KICKSTARTING CV 200



#### **OUR NICHE**



CV 200, ONWARD

## OUTLINE

### CV 200 AND SHELTERS

## CV 200 AND SHELTERS









## CV 200 AND SHELTERS













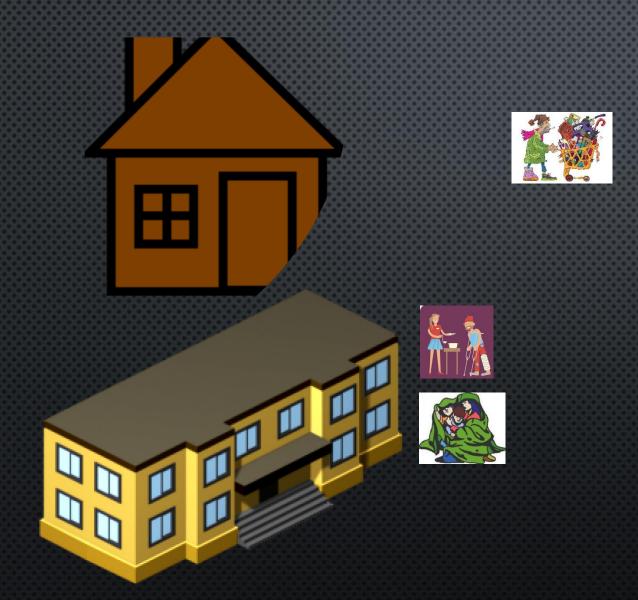










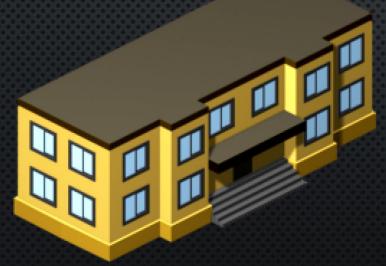




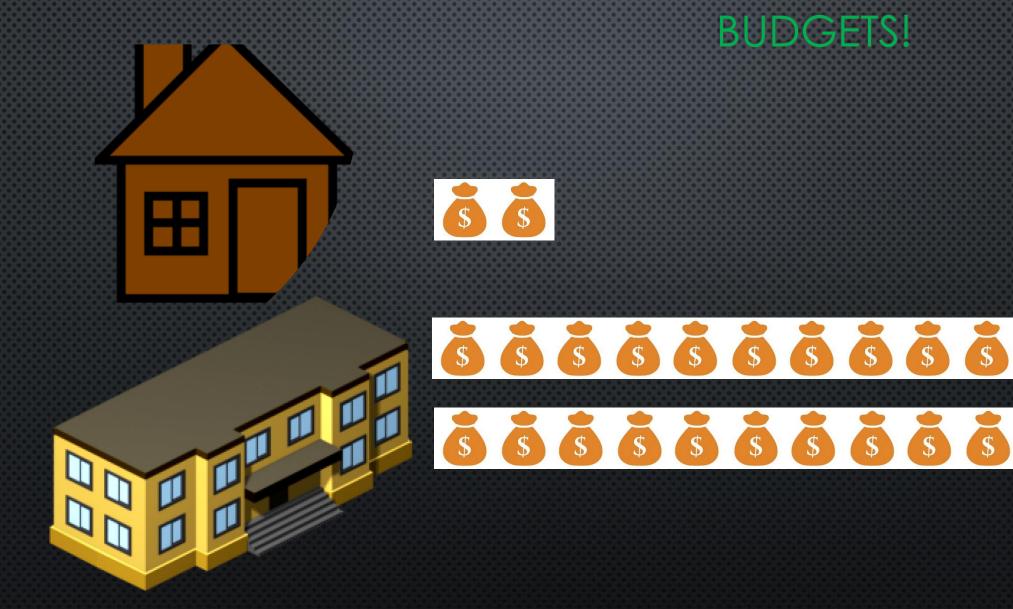


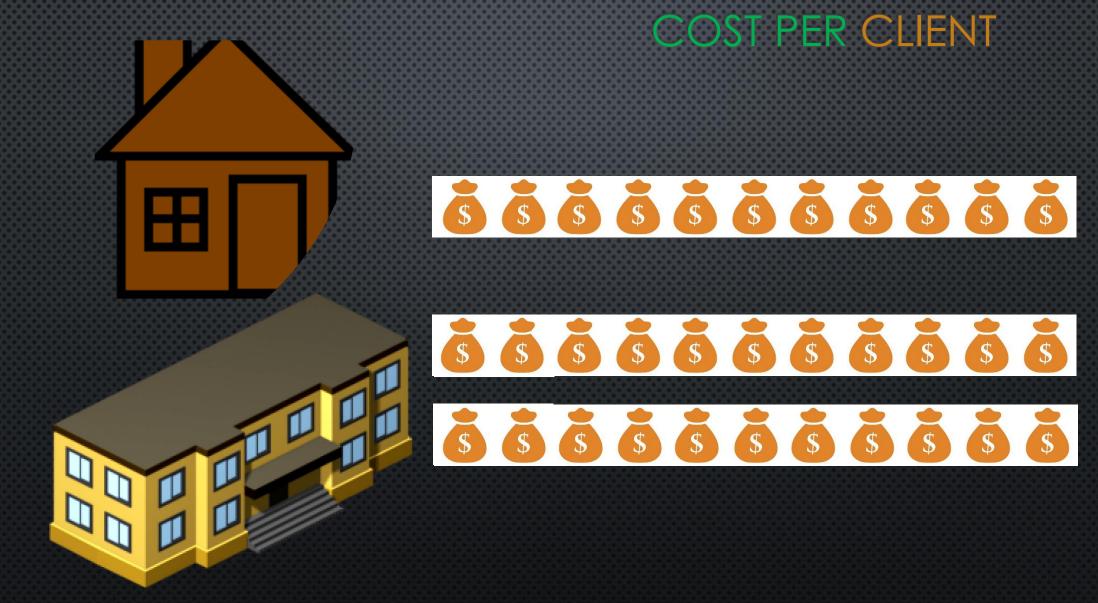












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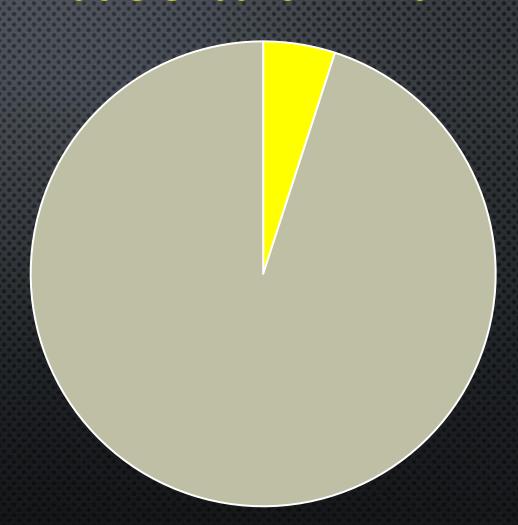


## SUCCESSFUL EXITS



## SUCCESSFUL EXITS















#### HOUSING FIRST – RECAP



#### KICKSTARTING CV 200



#### **OUR NICHE**



CV 200, ONWARD

## OUTLINE



#### HOUSING FIRST – RECAP



KICKSTARTING CV 200



OUR NICHE



CV 200, ONWARD

## OUTLINE

## BUILDING ON SUCCESS OF FIRST 40 DAYS!!

CV 200 FEB 11, 2021 20 TOTAL EXITS

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CV 200 FEB 11, 2021

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## MOBILE ACCESS CENTER

• \$250K HHAP Grant



## MOBILE ACCESS CENTER

- \$250K HHAP Grant
- Convert Bus
- 2 FTEs



# MOBILE ACCESS CENTER

- \$250K HHAP Grant
- Convert Bus
- 2 FTEs
- Encampments
- Street Outreach





# DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT & FOUNDATION

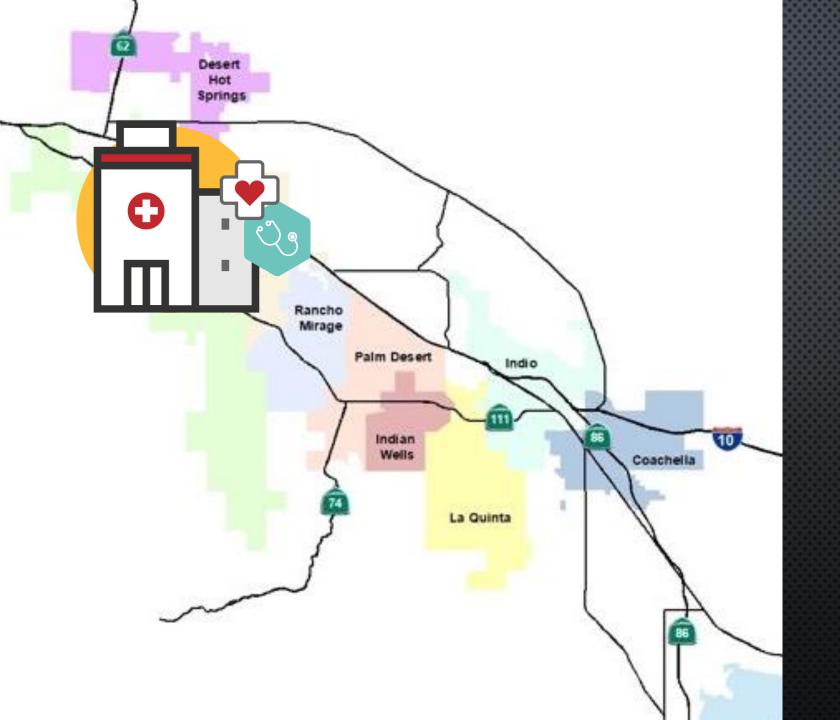
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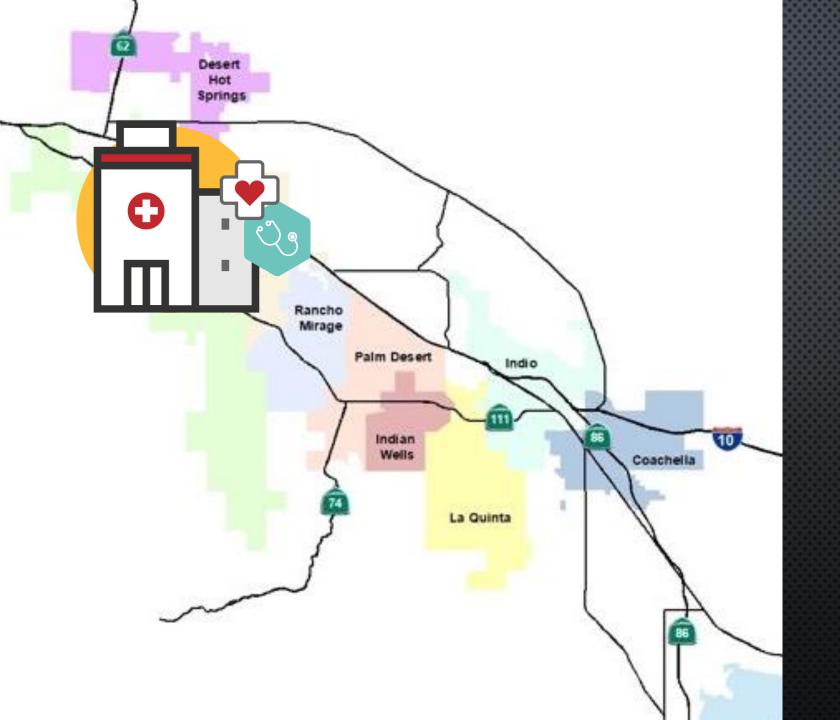


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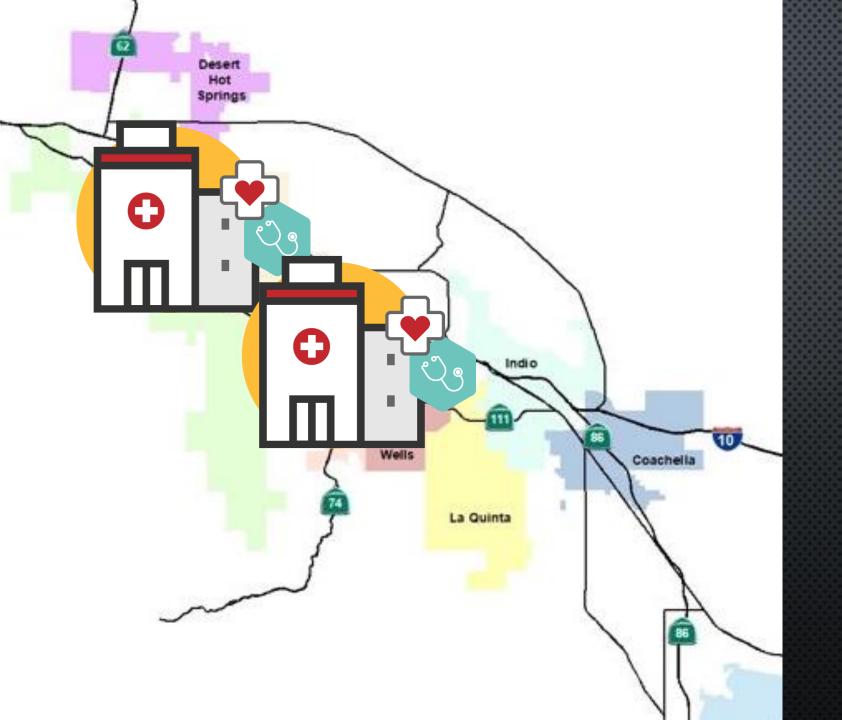


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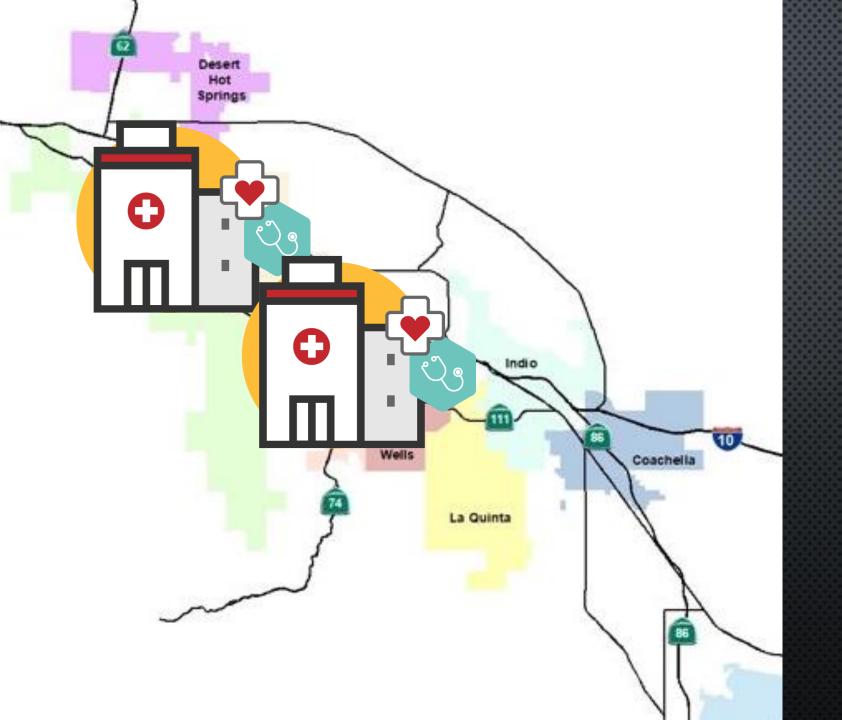


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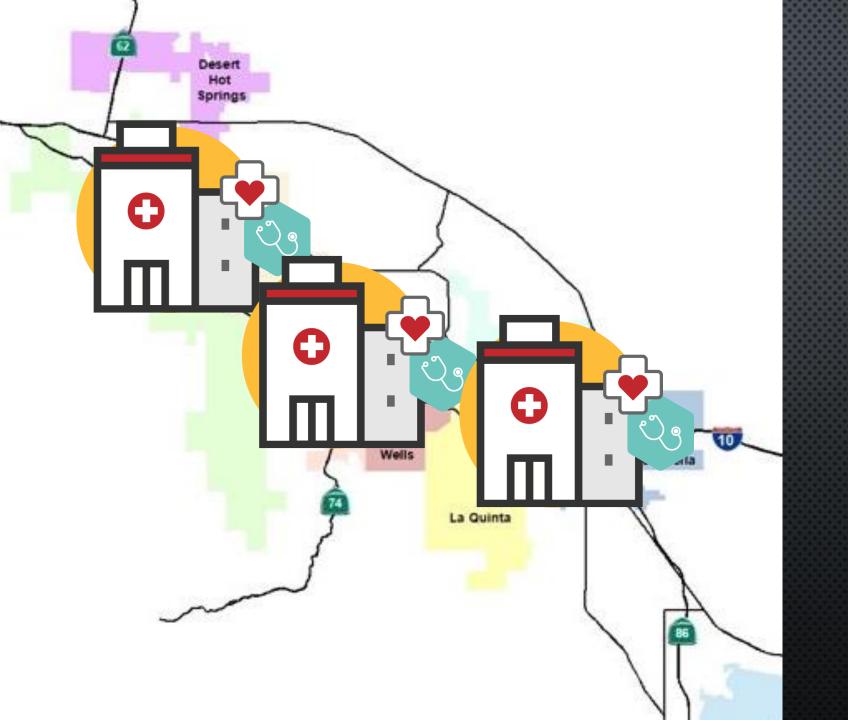


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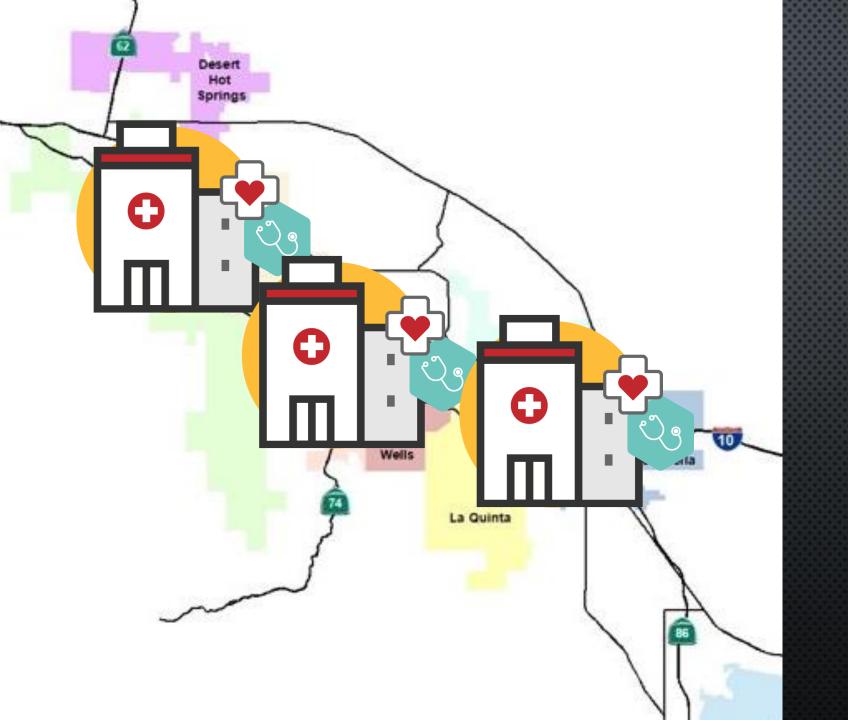


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# DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT & FOUNDATION

#### CV 200 HOSPITAL FREQUENT FLYERS

#### PROGRAM FEATURES

- Increase Rapid Resolution
- Discharge Planning
- Respite Care

#### **NEXT STEPS**

- BUILD ON EARLY SUCCESS
  - CITY/COUNTY \$
  - GRANT FOR MOBILE ACCESS CENTER
- EXPAND/TARGET: EMERGENCY ROOM FREQUENT FLIERS
  - WORK W HOSPITALS
  - SEEK CONTINUED \$ PARTNERSHIP WITH DHCD
- QUESTIONS?



# Project Room Key

Community Coverage - "We're all in this together"

#### What is Project Room Key?

- Project Room Key (PRK) is an emergency shelter program for homeless individuals
  - ► Established in response to COVID-19, this program works as a Non-Congregate Shelter with hotel placements as a form of promoting Social Distancing
- While the main goal of the program is to reduce the risk of virus transmissions, the program also involves the delivery of ongoing supportive services and housing navigation
- Overall, Project Room Key is designed to help transition our most vulnerable homeless populations into permanent stable housing and lead them to selfsufficiency and stable housing exit plans.

#### What we do

- ▶ Upon entering a client into our program, the household is assigned a Case Manager within 48 hours. At this time the Case Manager assumes primary responsibility for coordinating the household's supportive services, with a particular focus on setting goals related to obtaining and maintaining permanent housing. The Case Manager will:
- Assist the household in identifying and prioritizing the action steps needed to achieve housing stability and developing strategies to overcome barriers to success
- Develop a budget with the household to promote the retention of stable housing
- Be familiar with the program services area and actively cultivate a working knowledge of and connection to relevant area resources such as:
  - mental and physical health care professionals
  - emergency services
  - substance abuse programs
  - public benefit programs
  - childcare resources
  - educational programs
  - veteran's services or benefits
  - any additional resources needed to address participant needs and goals



The First 2-4 weeks of a client coming onto a program are the most crucial. This is the time we utilize to help the client become prepared and ready for housing by building rapport.

Always remember...

Trust is Key!

#### Steps to Success

- ▶ Step 1: Meet with the client within 24-48 hours of being put onto program
  - During the meeting, During this meeting, explain how the program works, what is expected of them, what we will be <u>assisting</u> them with, etc.
  - Verify all ID, income, and asset documentation to get an idea of a budgeting plan going
  - ▶ Set-up tasks with the client for getting any missing documentation completed for your next meeting
- Step 2: Introduce yourself again and touch base on the tasks set-up the previous week
  - Sign client up for Credit karma and get a credit report this helps with the housing search
  - Connect client to Workforce or Social Security if disabled
  - Find out client's top 3 cities of choice to live in and sign them up for all Section 8 and Affordable housing waitlists in the areas they are wanting to move to
  - Create a Navigation/Individual Service Plan that sets up goals/milestones with the client
- Step 3: Introduce yourself again and touch base on the tasks set-up the previous week
  - Start working toward collecting Any/All lack of documentation that you went over on your first 2 visits
  - Look for available housing units together so that the client understands how to search when you are not present
- ▶ Step 4: Introduce yourself again and touch base on the tasks set-up the week before
  - ► Complete the collection of all missing documents
  - Continue Housing Search
  - Continue to link client to any needed services that they may need that you may not be able to provide (Work Force, Behavioral Health, Food Stamps/General Relief, etc.)

# Navigation 101

#### Know Your Role

"The Navigator"



Housing Authority of the County of Riverside

- As a Navigator, your job is to:
  - ► Assist the client with Unit location (A.K.A. Housing location)
    - ▶ This can be via phone calls, emails, and in person transportation to units
  - Remain in constant contact with the client
  - Complete the Housing Assessment Template
  - Upkeep communication with the client regarding their housing search
  - ▶ Serve as a liaison between the owner/ property manager and the client
  - Create a Navigation Plan
    - ▶ Remember that this can be ever-changing

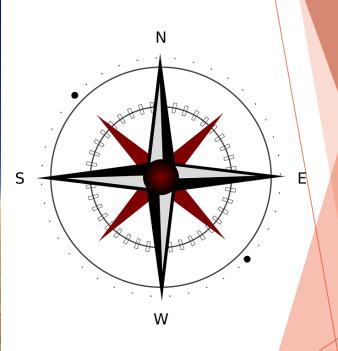
## Creating a Navigation Plan

The Navigator

# Differing Plans







# Housing Stability Planning for Households in Emergency Shelter

- Navigators are expected to create a Housing Stability Plan with each household in shelter that outlines the household's goals and action steps for obtaining permanent housing as quickly as possible based upon the financial assistance available to them.
- Navigators are encouraged to use motivational interviewing, housing-focused case management, and progressive engagement strategies to assist households in identifying ways in which they can move out of shelter and into permanent housing; similar to the strategies used during Housing Counseling.

#### Flow of a Housing Counseling Conversation

- Introduction: Navigator introduces him/herself and asks the client to describe their current housing situation.
- Active Listening: Paraphrase what the client said.
  - Be empathetic- include their emotions/ feelings in the retelling
  - Maintain a non-judgmental tone
- Strength Exploration: Ask questions to explore past strengths.
  - Ask questions about when the client has been a help to others in the past
  - Begin to identify networks/ supports that may help the client maintain housing
- Explore Options: Navigator revisits what has been shared to explore potential options that are safe and appropriate.
  - Diversion options may be apparent, or the Navigator may have to review supports again to identify options.
  - Walk through reality-testing decisions with the client to further evaluate options.
- Develop the plan: Navigator reviews what has been discussed with the client to develop a reality-tested plan.

#### Housing Counseling Planning Sessions

Navigators are expected to use Progressive Engagement, relying first on the client's own resources and networks, and then use the least amount of system resources while developing a safe plan. Navigators should first explore lowcost, creative solutions. Examples of this might include car repair costs so a doubled-up family member can start driving to work; food gift cards to contribute towards staying at a friend's house; or bus tokens to attend a local vocational program or facilitating a reunion with an estranged family member.

#### Housing Counseling Planning Sessions

- Navigators will develop Housing Stability Plans that contain the following at a minimum:
  - \* Housing Goals- Concrete plan and action steps for moving to housing other than the shelter, ideally to permanent housing.
    - Navigators will work with clients regularly, to execute the action steps and goals outlined in their Housing Stability Plan.
    - Navigators will record progress, completion of action steps, and other notes on the Housing Stability Plan sessions.
    - Navigators will create a new Housing Stability Plan whenever new goals or action items are established.
    - Navigators will record all meetings, interactions and attempts of contact made with the client.
  - \* A summary of all navigation meetings will be entered in the client's notes section. A Status Assessment update will be noted whenever a client's income, benefits, health documentation status, or health services change.

#### Lower Barrier Clients

- Housing Stability Planning for low acuity clients will be unique to each household; however, it may result in the following types of plans
  - ▶ Moving to safe doubled-up situations- In many cases, households simply do not earn enough to live on their own. In these cases, moving (back) in with friends or family is a reasonable option to gain housing stability. Navigators should ensure that the household's Housing Stability Plan addresses the factors that led to the household seeking shelter in the first place- such as building conflict resolution skills through counseling services, accessing mental health services, obtaining subsidized childcare, connecting to employment services, etc.
  - ▶ Moving to an affordable unit- In some cases, households may earn enough income to live on their own, but lack the funds or support to initially obtain a unit. Navigators must ensure that the Housing Stability Plan includes a household budget, including guidelines on rental prices, utility expenses, and other logistics needed to make housing successful and the budget balance. As well, the Housing Stability Plan should include housing search and location services to the extent needed by the household. Navigators will then assist clients in locating affordable units.
  - ▶ Moving out of county to permanent housing- In some cases, households may need or want to move outside of Riverside County in order to obtain permanent housing or to reconnect with their support networks. Navigators should ensure that Housing Stability Plans address the logistics of moving out of county, and address the factors that led to the household's homelessness.

#### Barriers

- ▶ Identifying potential barriers to obtaining housing- Navigators can help clients prepare for Rapid Re-Housing by helping to identify elements of a client's history that may make obtaining housing more difficult.
  - These can be mitigated if possible and/or discussed with the Navigator at the first intake appointment.
  - ▶ Barriers may include recent criminal history, a history of eviction, outstanding utility debts, very poor or no credit, no income, large family size with no income, lack of transportation, etc.
- ▶ The household's needed supports, such as mental health, physical health, public benefits, childcare, etc.- While in shelter, households should be developing plans to connect to all benefits and supportive services necessary to maintain permanent housing.
  - ► Work closely with the Case Manager assigned to address these issues

### **Unit Location**

The Navigator

#### Where to Locate a Unit

- ► HA has listings of low-income rental units (unit availability is **NOT guaranteed**)
- Classified Ads in Newspapers
- Rental Publications provided FREE at Grocery Stores
- "For Rent" signs in Neighborhoods
- Trulia.com, Zillow.com, rent.com, Facebook Marketplace, apartments.com, gosection8.com, craigslist.org, hotpads.com, byowner.com, zumper.com, etc.
- YOU CAN LOOK EVERYWHERE!



#### When Locating a Unit...

Consider the location of the unit in relation to:

- Workplace
- Schools
- Grocery Stores
- Bus Routes
- Support System
- Income Limitations

Be Strategic. The client will have to pay part/all of the costs to move-in; make sure they save their money to cover application fees and holding deposits.

Choose a unit they can <u>afford</u> long term.



When Locating a Unit...(Cont.)

#### Shared Housing

- ➤ You can encourage your client to move into a new unit with a family member or friend
- ► This helps keep costs down on their end

#### ► Mobile Homes/Trailers

- You can encourage your client to move into Mobile Homes/Trailers as well
- ► These are usually more cost effective for our lower income clients

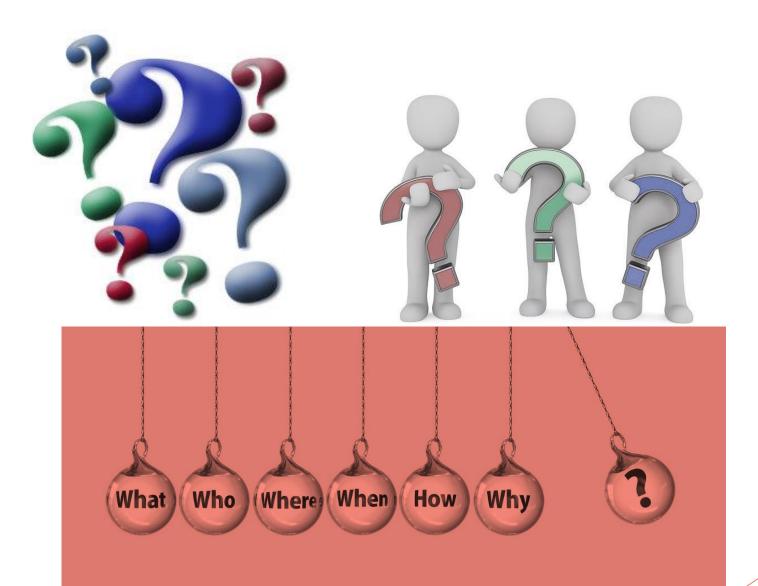
#### The Checklist

- Make sure your client has the following when transporting to see units:
  - California ID(s) -All Adults over 18 years old
  - □ Social Security Card(s) -All Adults over 18 years old
  - Income docs. (Pay Stubs, Cash-Aid Award Letter, SSI, Unemployment, Cal-Fresh Award Letter, etc)

To Do

- □ Landlord Packet (if applicable)
- Credit Report Credit Karma
- Money for Credit Check Fee
- Money for Holding Deposit

# QUESTIONS



# Thank you MDillard@rivco.org

#### **Questions and Comments**



Next Webinar: Veterans Services on May 20, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.