

FHPAP 14-15 Prevention Targeting Strategy Implementation #2

(submitted to MHFA January 2014)

Purpose:

The [recommendations](#) of the FHPAP Re-design Work Group along with the Prevention Targeting Strategies and Evaluation questions within the 14-15 RFP point to the need to work together to test strategies on how to best target limited prevention dollars to households that are more likely to become homeless without public intervention (services &/or direct assistance). The lessons learned throughout this process will be shared and will inform the prevention target expectations for the 16-17 RFP.

Expectations:

1. Each grantee will need to determine which 1 or 2 strategy areas from options a.-c. the community will commit to working on during the 14-15 biennium. Strategy Area d. may be the second area that your community chooses to work on but cannot be the only option since each community is already expected to work towards improving their homeless response system.
2. Each community can determine the strategies and methods of implementation that best fits their needs. Consultation among participants in the strategy area is encouraged to share innovative/create ideas but also to share approaches/tools for communities to adopt and modify.
3. Participation, implementation, reporting, evaluation and applied learning will be part of the Performance Capacity/Compliance score in the 16-17 RFP. Elements of considerations will include the number of areas your community is committed to working on, participation in designated meetings by coordinator or designated rep for each grant, complete and timely reporting, implementation of identified strategies and evaluation and modification of strategies based on evaluation.
4. Reporting will include material preparation prior to and participation in (at least) the Quarterly Coordinator's meetings (10/28/13, 1/27/14, 4/28/14, 7/28/14, 10/27/14, 1/26/15).

Meeting 1: At the Oct. 28th Quarterly Coordinator's meeting, each grantee was asked to identify which strategy area(s) the community is committed to working on and to share:

- Initial ideas or identified activities that could or are currently being implemented for each selected strategy area

- Thoughts on formats (via ITV, conference call, written reports, website, etc.) to share what each community has learned.
- Questions, needs for data/technology/support

Meeting 2: In preparation for the next quarterly Coordinator’s meeting

Please complete the table & questions below and also send any draft tools that you have created so these can be shared with other grantees. Requested material should be submitted to [Kim](#) by **January 20th**.

Instructions (by Column)

Committed Area (Y/N): After the October Coordinator meeting and 12-13 report check-in, some grantees have decided to reduce the number of areas dedicated to work on. Indicate only the area that your community has decided to focus on in the chart below. Others stated that they’d like to indicate a primary and secondary focus area. If you would like to prioritize one strategy area, please indicate your primary strategy area in this column. Reminder: Strategy area d cannot be the only or the primary committed area.

Action Items: Build off of the originally submitted proposal (column titled initial ideas/activities/partners); please clarify/revise/fine-tune activities/action items. List main activities identified to implement. If you have developed a tool, please list a few of the top elements/indicators that the community predicts will assist in identifying the target population. After each main action item, please indicate the date of implementation.

*The activities associated with the designated primary strategy areas, in part or whole, should be implemented by the second meeting on 1/27/14.

Evaluation: describe initial ideas on evaluation process/methodology, tools and timing (regular increments).

Strategy Areas for St. Louis County	Committed Area (Y/N)	Action items	Evaluation
a. Developing diversion strategies in regions that have shelter.	Yes-primary activity for St. Louis County FHPAP service providers to pilot for other community service	1. At November and December 2013 meetings, distributed multiple documents from the National Alliance to End Homelessness defining shelter diversion, information regarding successful diversion programs and sample diversion assessment tools to service providers and community homeless response partners to start the conversation about how shelter	Pilot a uniform intake application and begin to document who has been diverted. Providers will summarize diversion data and submit to FHPAP Coordinator on a quarterly basis. Attention will be on

	providers.	<p>diversion may look for St. Louis County.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Held several meetings to get input from providers about how this can begin in our community. Many FHPAP providers are already asking diversion questions informally due to limited shelter space in our area. Decision was made that it would be beneficial to incorporate diversion questions at the front end of a uniform intake application to begin being used by FHPAP providers in spring of 2014. 3. Develop uniform intake application tool that includes diversion questions to help determine if household has any other options to stay housed and tracks diversions by provider. 4. Present at Provider Council meeting in Feb 2014 for feedback. Incorporate by March or April 2014 for pilot by FHPAP providers. 5. Intake form is being developed that also includes diversion to MAC-V for veterans since there are additional specific funds available for housing veterans. Working with MAC-V housing specialist that is not FHPAP sub grantee. 	<p>households that were diverted initially and returned to shelter. Providers will also track households that were diverted to veteran's services.</p>
b. Developing diversion strategies in	No		

regions that do not have shelter.			
<p>c. Improve our ability to distinguish who will become homeless without help and who will be able to stabilize with limited prevention assistance (previously 2 separate groups).</p>	<p>Yes-secondary. Will continue to work on this with service providers, community homeless response partners and statewide FHPAP Coordinators to develop.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthening Eligibility guidelines to determine appropriate population for targeting limited prevention and homeless assistance funds was determined at the December 2013 meeting based on data evaluation of households served through FHPAP in the previous two bienniums. 2. Determine community priority populations to serve. With Leadership Council input, priorities for St. Louis County include the veteran population and families with children. All populations will continue to be served. 3. Evaluate HMIS data from programs currently tracking households served through FHPAP funds. Evaluate data from shelters to determine who is utilizing shelters and characteristics of households returning to shelter. 4. Beginning discussion about how to utilize Matrix data to determine overall barrier levels and move priority to a more medium level barrier household as opposed to a low level barrier household. This was introduced at the January 10, 2014 working group meeting and will continue throughout 2014. 	<p>Refined eligibility guidelines tool will be adjusted to prioritize households at 150% of federal poverty guidelines (was previously 200%). Priority will be given for safety, incorporating "Are you safe in your current location?" question into the intake application. Also, families with children will be prioritized. Shelter data will be looked at beginning in summer of 2014 to determine what information is currently being tracked through HMIS that can help our community define characteristics of who is returning to shelter.</p>

<p>d. Identifying FHPAP's role in the broader homeless prevention system (coordination with EA, developing prevention/diversion portion of Coordinated Assessment, etc.).</p>	<p>Yes-CA work is in progress in St. Louis County. FHPAP will be involved and attend CA meetings.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FHPAP Coordinator works closely with CoC Coordinator and local ESG administrator, community partners and Leadership Advisory Council on developing a Coordinated Assessment process that works for all of St. Louis County. FHPAP service providers will be included in the task force for CA. 2. FHPAP in St. Louis County requires that St. Louis County Emergency Assistance is applied for and denied prior to being eligible for FHPAP. 3. Service Providers are developing a training for Case Managers that incorporates knowledge of mainstream resources, and the variety of programs available for triage based on intake assessment. The dates are not yet established, but expected to be by summer of 2014. 	<p>As St. Louis County continues to work towards a coordinated access system, FHPAP coordinator and service providers will be included on the task force. Case Mangers will be trained as the uniform intake assessment tool is developed and will be expected to know about the variety of resources available in the community.</p>
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1. Describe how your evaluation will test the effectiveness of your communities targeting strategies.

Providers will be using uniform questions to explore diversion options for persons and households other than shelter. While this has been done informally, adding questions to a uniform intake form will ensure that access points are following similar protocols. Evaluation will be quarterly submission of diversion results to Coordinator for analysis and to contribute to community planning. Homeless Response Committees and Leadership Advisory Council will be involved in evaluation of system effectiveness. St. Louis County will be able to determine the number and characteristics of households that were initially diverted. Additional work will need to be done to develop an evaluation protocol to determine if households that were diverted stayed housed for a specified period of time.

2. What barriers/challenges/hurdles have you encountered in your planning and implementation?

FHPAP providers and the St. Louis County continuum of care homeless response system are extremely busy with the HUD NOFA planning for the McKinney-Vento funding and also very active in the Point in Time Sheltered and Unsheltered Homeless Count. Along with the holiday season and extreme weather in St. Louis County, it has been difficult to plan meetings and get a good number of folks to attend. However, the current FHPAP working group has met and is committed to following through with Case Managers to provide training for changes incorporating the diversion and prevention tools.

3. What's your preferred method of exchanging thoughts, tools, lessons learned?
Email, Box.com, MN Housing web page, Google/Yahoo group, additional meetings/phone calls, other ideas?

St. Louis County FHPAP Coordinator and service providers prefer direct Email, additional meetings and phone calls.

Next Steps: assess initial lessons learned and develop a defined evaluation plan.

Further direction will be provided prior to the April 27th Coordinator's meeting.