

St. Louis County

FHPAP 14-15 Prevention Targeting Strategy Implementation (Due to MHFA July 14, 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).

Grantee Name: St. Louis County

Quarter 4 Submission Instructions:

Please answer each of the questions posed for your selected strategy area(s) in the response column. Submit to [Kim](#) by July 14, 2014.

Strategy Area	Response
<p>a. Developing diversion strategies in regions that have shelter. AND b. Developing diversion strategies in regions that do not have shelter</p>	
<p>Assumption/hypothesis/target: certain characteristics of households have been chosen to be targeted for diversion assistance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the data elements you are gathering to make this determination; in other words, what are the targeted characteristics of the households you are diverting? 	<p>Targeted characteristics to be diverted include households that may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ be eligible for St. Louis County emergency assistance, ▪ First time homeless, may just need budgeting support, ▪ have adequate support (able to stay with a family member, relative or friend, even if temporary), ▪ households with sufficient income to solve own crisis and maintain housing, ▪ Veterans who qualify for other specific programs, ▪ Households with religious affiliation or church support that may offer shelter, even if temporary.
<p>Process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the process to determine these data elements/household characteristics. 	<p>St. Louis County has developed a Uniform Intake Application which includes several specific questions at the front end to identify households that may be able to be diverted from shelter. This tool is being utilized as a pilot with several FHPAP providers.</p>
<p>Implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are the households targeted? (Tool? Data analysis?) Please submit most recent tool. • Status update: where are you at in the implementation process? Indicate when you started implementing the 	<p>This Uniform Intake Application was developed with providers through community dialog and review of multiple best practices tools to determine most appropriate questions for St. Louis County.</p> <p>FHPAP Providers agreed to begin utilizing the Uniform Intake Application 4/1/2014. Agencies included in the pilot are AEOA, AICHO, The Salvation</p>

<p>strategy and all participating agencies.</p>	<p>Army, LifeHouse and the Duluth Shelter Project. As the documentation of diversions has just begun, there is not yet sufficient data to analyze effectiveness. CHUM Shelter is considering utilizing the Uniform Intake Application as a means of documenting more diversion data.</p>
<p>Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe how you will assess the effectiveness of your targeting strategy (tracking, follow-up, data analysis, etc.). • Anecdotally, what is the assessment of the providers who are implementing the strategy as to its ability to target? Any other benefits or downfalls to the strategy? • Status update: where are you at in the evaluation process? 	<p>Providers are tracking households that were diverted from shelter and will review quarterly to determine effectiveness. Have those families returned to shelter or program? Are they stably housed?</p> <p>Providers have indicated that this diversion work has been done informally over the years, but it is a better process to have the questions listed as part of the intake process.</p> <p>Providers have agreed to try to follow up with diverted households to determine if the crisis was resolved and they have maintained housing. This is a very difficult process as there is often no way to reach those people if they have been diverted from the programs.</p> <p>Anecdotally, several providers indicated that although agency staff would expect that households only show up for support when they have exhausted all options, in reality, many households have not actually thought through all options. For example, LifeHouse indicated that youth may show up at their door because they disagree with a curfew at home, or are not able to smoke. The diversion questions allow staff to explore the full situation and explain that since funds are limited, help is available only for households that truly have no other option.</p> <p>The formal diversion questions on the Uniform Intake Application were implemented on 4/1/2014, so the first quarter data has not yet been formally evaluated.</p>
<p>Learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the first year of the biennium complete, what has your community learned by implementing your targeting strategy? Please include challenges and successes. • What learnings would you like to share with the other FHPAP grantees? 	<p>The providers have indicated that these diversion questions have always been asked as part of the intake process, so there would not be a big reduction in shelter bed utilization. However, as FHPAP providers have been tracking turnaways with documentation regarding reasons, such as lack of program funds or eligibility requirements, the diversion question data, is expected to I reduced turnaway for lack of funding, and gain a better understanding of which households truly need prevention funds and support, therefore</p>

	resulting in a possible reduction in the number of households entering shelter.
<i>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).</i>	
<p>Assumption/hypothesis/target: certain characteristics of households have been chosen to be targeted for diversion assistance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the data elements you are gathering to make this determination, or in other words, what are the targeted characteristics of the households you are serving with prevention assistance? 	<p>St. Louis County FHPAP providers would like to continue to explore this as a secondary goal to determine best practices from other FHPAP grantees around the state, but are not actively implementing practices yet. Ideas from FHPAP grantees that selected strategy C has been shared with St. Louis County providers.</p>
<p>Process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the process to determine these data elements/household characteristics. 	
<p>Implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are the households targeted? (Tool? Data analysis?) Please submit most recent tool. • Status update: where are you at in the implementation process? Indicate when you started implementing the strategy and all participating agencies. 	
<p>Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe how you will assess the effectiveness of your targeting strategy (tracking, follow-up, data analysis, etc.). • Anecdotally, what is the assessment of the providers who are implementing the strategy as to its ability to target? Any other benefits or downfalls to the strategy? • Status update: where are you at in the evaluation process? 	
<p>Learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the first year of the biennium complete, what has your community learned by implementing your targeting strategy? Please include challenges and successes. • What learnings would you like to share with the other 	

FHPAP grantees?	
<i>d. Identifying FHPAP's role in the broader homeless prevention system (coordination with EA, developing prevention/diversion portion of Coordinated Assessment, etc.).</i>	
Please provide an update on what is being implemented in your community.	<p>St. Louis County has developed a Coordinated Assessment 15 member task force which is meeting twice a month to develop CA policies and procedures, system mapping, marketing to the broader community, assessment process, data evaluation and priority determination. This workgroup is made up of providers from both north and south St. Louis County and includes several FHPAP Provider sub-grantees. The task force also includes members of the Leadership Advisory Council, MICH Rep, City of Duluth and County staff and community advocates. FHPAP Coordinator is included as staff and attends all meetings.</p> <p>The creation of SL-CHAT (St. Louis County Coordinated Housing Assessment Team) will streamline the referral process for households in the homeless response system. SL-CHAT will document the existing resources in the community, and help make appropriate housing referrals for clients.</p> <p>The CA system in St. Louis County is determining the appropriate tools to implement by reviewing the Dayton, Ohio tool and the VI-SPDAT tool and evaluating which approach (or hybrid) is the most effective for our community. The task force has identified the Pre Assessment, Assessment and Post Assessment work that will be done at the determined entry points in Duluth and in northern St. Louis County. The Pre-Assessment basic safety and vulnerability questions will determine diversion, prevention or appropriate housing options. The Prevention door(s) will then have eligibility requirements and targeting tools to determine which households would be appropriate for FHPAP.</p> <p>St. Louis County is moving forward with the development and implementation of a comprehensive coordinated assessment homeless system that will include prevention as an essential component.</p>

Anything else you'd like us to know about your community's work on prevention targeting? Any suggestions that you have for Minnesota Housing as to how to better support you in these efforts?

Next Steps:

- Begin to think through and discuss how prevention and diversion will fit into your community's Coordinated Assessment. How can we take what we've learned about targeting, as a program and at the local level, to inform decisions around the prevention and diversion portion of a comprehensive Coordinated Assessment?

Remember: it is a current requirement, as outlined in the Work Plan, to be a part of Coordinated Assessment planning. It will be an expectation that FHPAP is an integral part of the implementation of Coordinated Assessment moving forward.

- The next quarterly FHPAP Coordinator's meeting will be July 28th 10-11:30am.