

# Barriers to Affordable Housing: Homeless Individuals and Families

August 14, 2012

# Top 3 Reasons for Homelessness

- **Conflict with Friends or Family**
- **Domestic Violence**
- **Rent Problems**

# Contributing Factors

- IPV (Interpersonal Violence), is the leading cause of homelessness, particularly among US families.
- 40% of CT adults in families said domestic violence contributed to their homelessness.
- Only 15% of homeless people report that their homelessness was caused by eviction but the vast majority report that rent problems caused homelessness.

# Quotes from Focus Groups

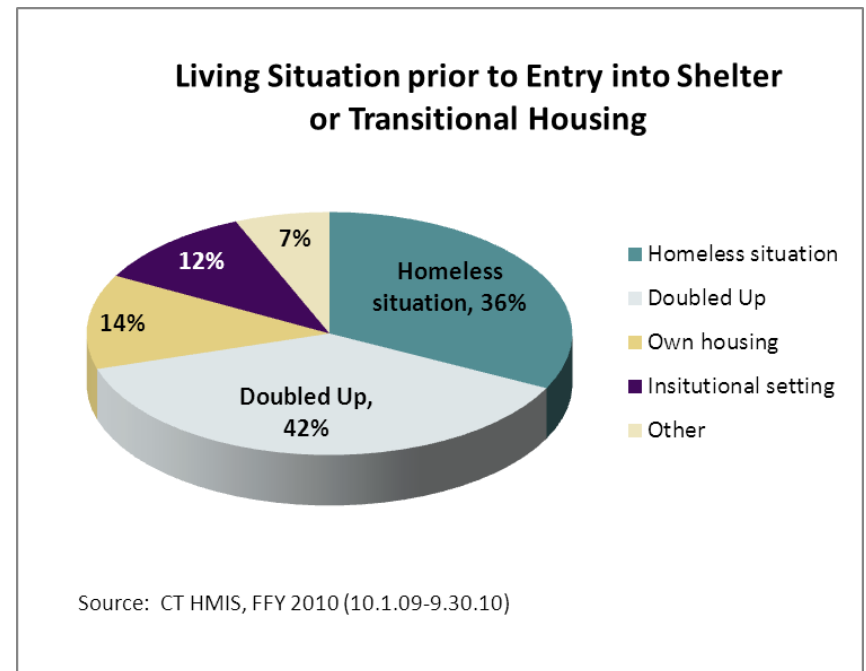
- “I was homeless when I was five. I lived in a hotel and took a cab to school. The kids would make fun of me.”
- “Government is responsible for the homeless situation. I helped serve this country as a veteran and risked my life and all I can get is food stamps.”
- “There’s dysfunction, every town has different programs when they need to be on one accord.”

# Problems Within Housing: Homeless Client Perspective

- Landlords are hesitant to take tenants with subsidies, and if they do, then they do not offer those tenants the same services as those who pay market rate.
- Landlords do not know the rules, regulations and/or the guidelines of many housing programs.
- There is great concern and stress caused to those who know there is a time limit to their housing situation and this applies to all housing options including but not limited to, shelters, transitional programs, and/or the rapid re-housing program.

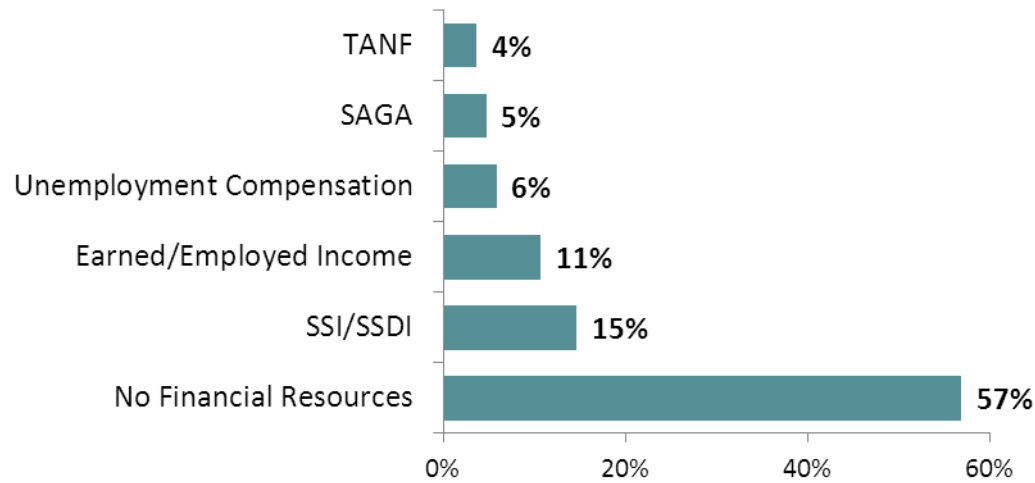
# Homeless Families in Connecticut

- Part of longer period of housing instability, and doubling up
- For every homeless family, 5 more may be doubled up
- NAEH *estimates that almost 40,000 people are doubled up in CT*
- Family separations common



# May Policy Brief

## Top Income Sources of Connecticut Shelter Clients



Percent of the 4,783 ES clients who had Income information. N for year = 11,294.

Source: Connecticut Emergency Homeless Shelter Demographic Report, FFY 2011, prepared by CCEH for the CT Department of Social Services

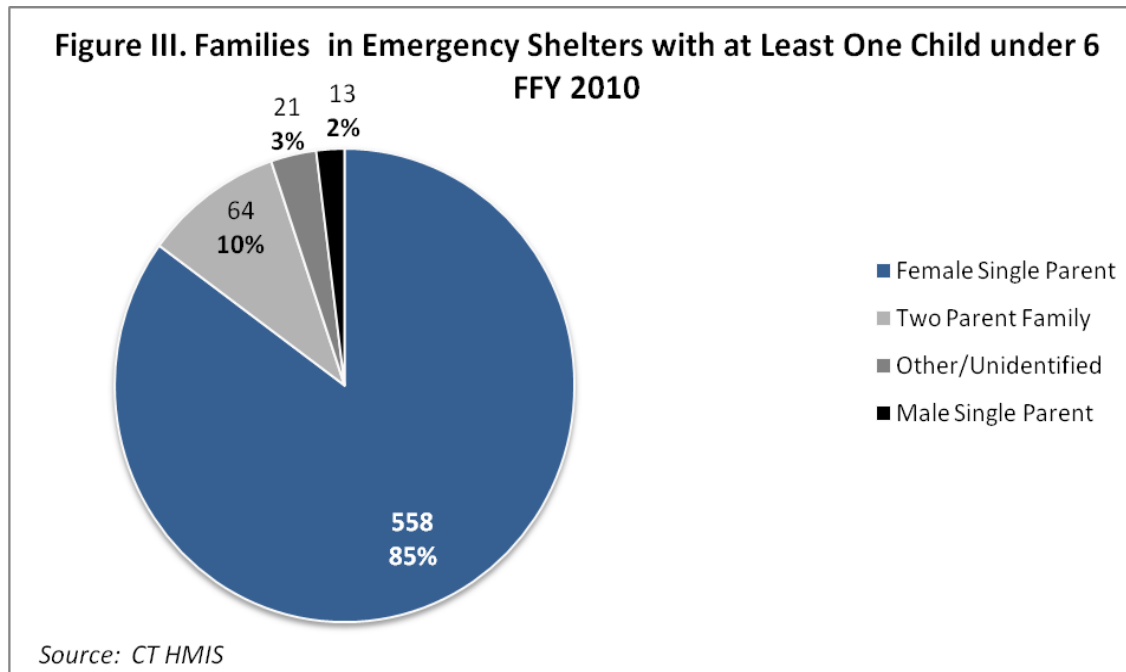
# Crisis Response: Shelter

- CT spends \$5.8 million on emergency shelter
- State-funded shelters provide more than 2,189 beds per night
- 11,700 emergency shelter users in FFY 2010, including more than 1,500 children

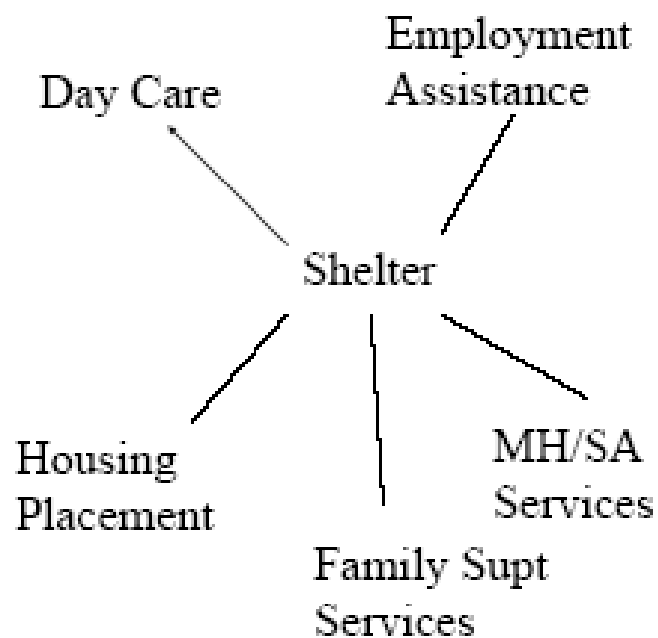


# Homeless Families in Connecticut

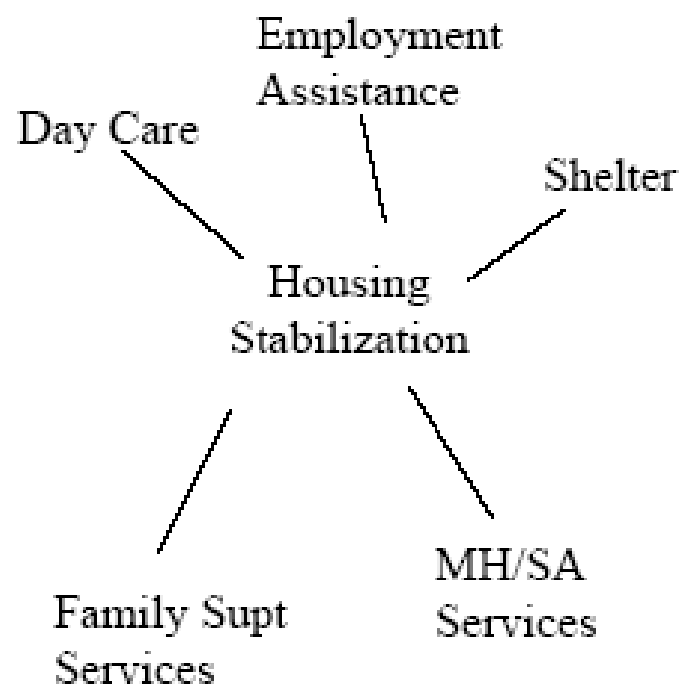
Among homeless families, young, single-parent women of color are overrepresented



## Prevailing Model



## Emerging Model



# Crisis Response: Transitional Housing

- 75 transitional programs, 13 for families; 47 for single adults; 15 for mixed populations
- Served 2,248 adults and children
- Almost \$9 million federal and state on transitional housing

# Retool the Crisis Response System

- Housing-centered solutions
- Use data to better target services to those most in need
- Create central intake and universal screening systems
- Community based not shelter/TLP based services
- Improve planning for people exiting criminal justice facilities and foster care
- Integrate trauma informed services and DV system with homeless crisis response system