



Bridges to Housing

*Alleviating Family Homelessness in the
Portland–Vancouver Metropolitan Area*



Who do we serve?

B2H

High need homeless families in the four metro counties who have significant barriers to stability





B2H

Who do we serve?

Families face significant barriers to success.

**Permanent Affordable Housing PLUS
Intensive Enhanced Services PLUS
Mainstream Services PLUS Child Care will
support family success over time**

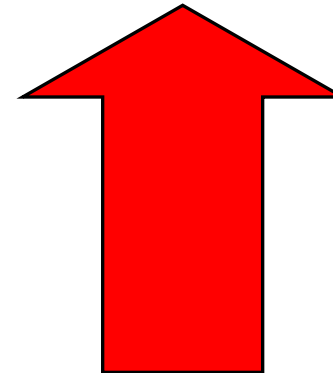


**Situationally
Homeless**

Best served with short term rent assistance, emergency aid. Many may not enter system

Homeless Families with moderate service needs, significant chance of success with short term support

Served primarily with transitions in place housing plus short term services



B2H: High Need Homeless Families

Heads of Household permanently unable to work

Families facing on-going chronic issues

Permanent Supportive Housing — ongoing need for housing and coordinated supportive services



Bridges to Housing Model

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- Permanent affordable housing
- Intensive case management
- Focus on child and family health and well being





Levels of collaboration

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- County level teams
- Service providers across counties
- Four county staff level coordination
- Regional Steering Committee
 - high level decision makers, includes state legislators, state agencies



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Unique aspects

- Focus on housing production as well as service delivery
- Case managers have integral role and voice
- Focus on whole family – child care and other aspects
- Use of HMIS for evaluation



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Housing

- Family friendly, near transit, schools, services, and recreation
- New units and 'reprogrammed' units
- Mix of Section 8 and rent buy down
- B2H units integrated into affordable housing complexes



Service Delivery Model

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- Service Delivery: Case Manager/Client ratio 1:15 or less
- Housing First
- Harm Reduction will be used in some sites
- Strengths Based
- Voluntary Services/ Low Control
- Trauma Informed
- Culturally Appropriate
- Common Intake Tools across four counties
- Common Assessment Tools across four counties
- Common Outcome Measures and Definitions – common data collection mechanism through Homeless Management Information System
- Coordinated Training – combine formal, peer support, and technical assistance
- Implement early functional and cognitive assessments of adults and children in households to identify those with documented disability or significant barriers.



Case manager support

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- Case managers and supervisors from all project sites will be trained and briefed as a group
- Case managers will meet regularly to review implementation and data collection issues and outcomes.
- Supervisors will also meet regularly.
- Quarterly meetings will bring together case managers and supervisors from all project sites.



Screening Tool

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- Screening tool used to determine eligibility.
- Measures involvement with multiple social service systems.





Assessment Tool

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- Jointly developed, strengths based assessment tool
- Focuses on experiences, hopes and dreams, children's experiences and well-being
- Includes health needs, including mental health
- Information on other services and case managers currently working with family



Training

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- Service Provider Workgroup prioritizes and selects training:
 - Motivational Interviewing
 - Trauma Informed Service Delivery
 - Trauma Informed Service Delivery with kids
 - Mental Health Treatment
 - Strengths based case management



Evaluation

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- Conducted by Portland State University's Regional Research Institute
- HMIS primary data collection tool
- Recently released report, www.bridgestohousing.org





Evaluation Components

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- Longitudinal outcome study;
- Process study on implementation and experiences; and
- Study of impact and relative effectiveness.





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Method

- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).
- Data gathered at intake, and 6 month intervals, for up to two years.
- Interviews with participants and case managers, as well as governing committees.



What do we hope to measure?

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- Stability in housing
- Family progress over time
- Improvements to income
- Improvements in health and well-being
- Use of mainstream resources and emergency services
- Stability in child care or educational settings



Questions?

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