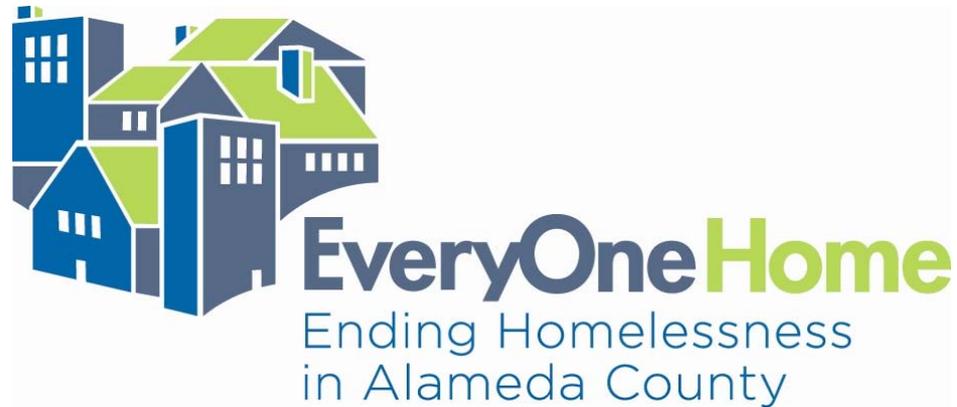


# Developing a Housing First Approach System wide: Alameda County, CA



# 2009 was a turning point for Alameda County



- The work inspired by our 10 year Plan to end homelessness rather than manage it began to demonstrate results: Our Homeless Count showed reductions in chronic and family homelessness
- HPRP funds enabled us to implement a homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing program in a systemic way countywide for the 1<sup>st</sup> time

# Our Road to Results



- **Alameda County looks like many other mid-size jurisdictions across the country trying to answer the call to end homelessness**
  - ◆ Diffuse government Power Structure
    - Some dense cities, some suburbs, small amount of rural across 14 different cities and unincorporated county. Our largest city, Oakland, is 450k
  - ◆ A collection of Housing and Homeless providers not a system of care
    - Who got served and how a result of evolution, each agency's mission and funding requirements, not a unified system design

# Our Road to Results



- **Our County didn't resemble many of the known models/leaders in the field**
  - ◆ No strong centralized government whose mandate could drive the whole system
  - ◆ No powerful Champion(s) who had made ending homelessness their issue
  - ◆ No political or legal mandate to provide shelter for all families

# Our Road to Results



- **It took time for Alameda County to embrace the Housing First Approach**
  - ◆ Our 10 year Plan to end homelessness wasn't written until 2006.
  - ◆ It called for investigating Housing First Approaches more than committing to them
  - ◆ Formal Plan implementation launched in 2007

# Our Road to Results



- **Other factors impacting our efforts**
  - ◆ State very weak on this issue—no 10 year plan, no general fund expenditures on homelessness
  - ◆ Very expensive housing market FMR for a 2 bedroom apartment = @\$1,300
  - ◆ Very little affordable housing stock, low vacancy
  - ◆ Section 8 wait lists are 5-10 years long
  - ◆ We had a history of collaborating across jurisdictional boundaries for our HUD NOFA app and other projects like winter shelter, military base conversion, Shelter Plus Care, etc.

# Our Road to Results: What Changed



- Expanded Collaborative Planning/Consensus Building
  - ◆ 2004 Three Systems of Care began working on a joint housing plan that became the EveryOne Plan
    - Behavioral Health Care Services
    - Office of AIDS Administration
    - Homeless Continuum of Care Council
    - Planners include Social Services Agency, Housing and Community Development, cities of Berkeley and Oakland

# Our Road to Results: What Changed



- ◆ Published in 2006, the Plan is widely Adopted
  - All 14 cities and the County adopt & commit to implementation
  - Over 50 Housing and Service Providers endorse Plan
- ◆ It called for systems change and working together in new ways
  - EveryOne Home, the organization is established to coordinate implementation

# Our Road to Results: Establish Systemwide Outcomes



- EveryOne Home stakeholders developed three systemwide outcomes toward which we all worked
  - ◆ Assist 15,000 homeless households obtain permanent homes by 2020
  - ◆ Shorten the time people spend homeless from years to weeks
  - ◆ Ensure 85% maintain permanent housing for a year

# Our Road to Results: New Resources



- State of Ca Mental Health Services Act
  - ◆ Resources for the homeless mentally ill
  - ◆ Behavioral Health Services becomes a significant partner in funding housing
  - ◆ 250 new vouchers with wrap around services got chronically homeless off the streets. Many partners
  - ◆ MHSA capital dollars invested toward 100 units targeted to this population as part of bigger housing developments with other traditional sources

# Our Road to Results: New Approaches



- The focus shifts toward housing first and permanent solutions
  - ◆ Between 2005-2009 512 permanent homes created through increased vouchers and unit production
  - ◆ Several Family Transitional Housing programs become permanent supportive housing
  - ◆ Homeless Service Providers focus on obtaining permanent housing. FY 2008 950 households placed across county.

# The Results Of the 2009 Homeless Count



- 10% Reduction in overall homelessness since 2007
- 18% Reduction in chronic homelessness since 2007
- 37% Reduction in family homelessness since 2003

# Leveraging Results: Using HPRP for more Systems Change



- First Goal of the EveryOne Home Plan is to prevent homelessness before it happens
  - ◆ 2008: EveryOne Home commissioned a study of how prevention dollars are spent and who benefits
  - ◆ Study showed need for major system's change and development
  - ◆ A Prevention Design Team was formed and begin looking a possible prevention pilots
  - ◆ We are primed by successes in Plan implementation to use HPRP funds in a countywide system.

# HPRP is Announced



- We have six direct HUD-funded jurisdictions plus four more that could go to the State
- Our research and feedback through community meetings said we needed ONE entry point and ONE set of rules
- Grantees meet regularly and agree to create a single county program

# Priority Home Partnership: Our HPRP Program



## **Coordinated System; local implementation**

- Created a system of coordinated Housing Resource Centers (HRC), serving different geographies and some subpopulations
- Cities chose their provider teams and locations – different based on local conditions
- One entry point – 211 phone line
- One set of requirements/data expectations

# Priority Home Partnership: Our HPRP Program



- Staffed differently at the HRC's and linked to other local services
- All HRC's have both HPRP and TANF funds – some have other funds as well
- 211 and HRC's collecting data on those served and unserved to help us understand who the program reaches and who it works for

# Priority Home Partnership: Our HPRP Program



## Ongoing opportunity to learn and modify

- Implementation and Learning Community (ILC) meets monthly
- On-line Google group for in between communication and information and resource sharing
- Built in research agenda to inform years two and three (looking for resources for this!)

- Outcomes Design Project
  - ◆ develop standard outcomes for provider contracts to be used by all major funders in the homeless system (cities and county departments)
- HEARTH Implementation Planning
  - ◆ Establish work group to look at broad system design issues: build on the HPRP successes and learn from the challenges

- Focus on Expanding Permanent Housing
  - ◆ Partnerships with Housing Authorities for more voucher
  - ◆ Work with private and non-profit landlords to expand access
  - ◆ Create a countywide development pipeline

# System's Change in Alameda County, CA



## MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE

Visit [www.everyonehome.org](http://www.everyonehome.org) for more information, on our HPRP design, the 2008 Prevention Study, 2009 Count results, our Plan