



Systemic Restoration: Partners Ending Homelessness

Phillips Foundation proudly supports Partners Ending Homelessness (PEH), a collaborative network of more than 40 community partners working together to effectively address homelessness in Guilford County, North Carolina. Our initial one-year grant of \$1 million helped PEH launch its "Housing First Initiative," which provided dozens of participants with stable housing and intensive support services, reduced the community costs associated with homelessness, and propelled us toward the long-term goal of eliminating chronic homelessness in Guilford County by 2016.

WHY WE ARE INVOLVED



In Guilford County:

3,500

Individuals experience homelessness each year



Over the course of a year, more than 3,500 individuals experience homelessness in Guilford County. Several of these homeless cases suffer from chronic homelessness, which is characterized as a household that has been homeless longer than a year while having a disabling physical, mental or medical condition. Ten to 15 percent of the homeless population on any given night is considered chronically homeless. In 2013, chronic homelessness reached a six-year high in Guilford County, with a total of 143 affected residents.

While chronic homelessness only accounts for a small percentage of homeless households, it utilizes up to 75 percent of the emergency services available to the entire homeless population. It is estimated that these costs to the community range from \$600 to \$3,500 a month, per individual or family.

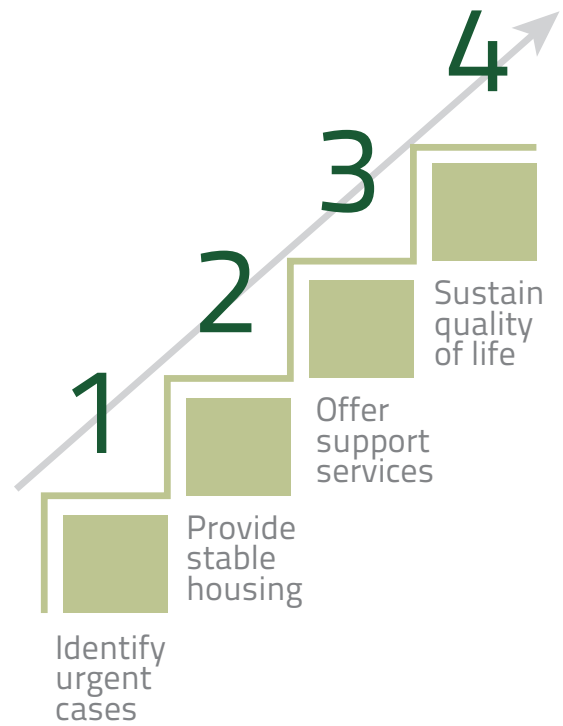


WHAT WE'RE DOING

The Housing First Initiative is a first-of-its-kind strategic collaboration that resolves chronic homelessness in Guilford County by providing access to rapid rehousing and individualized services. Statistics show that participants enrolled in the Housing First Initiative report improved health, the ability to manage tenancy and finances, an increase in positive social relationships and other key housing stabilization indicators.

Our partnership allowed PEH to systematically identify vulnerable individuals who had the most urgent needs and equip them with wraparound services provided by the Housing First Initiative. PEH was able to establish the Assertive Community Treatment Team (ACT Team), a group of specialists specifically dedicated to assisting the chronically homeless population. Our funding also provided resources for a housing staff that continues to work with participants to identify housing, help with the housing application process, and ensure rents are paid on time.

Housing First Initiative



WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED AND WHAT COMES NEXT

Within the first 18 months of program implementation, we successfully ended chronic homelessness in 44 households. We also identified an additional 13 households that are currently being screened for admittance to the Housing First Initiative. Of the 78 individuals assisted, four are seeking employment, 10 are receiving benefits, and 11 are on track to live independently in the next three to four months. During this period, the overall community cost for homeless emergency services – including police interactions, nights in jail, shelter visits, and health care – totaled savings of more than \$400,000. In addition, PEH's January 2015 "Point In Time Count" revealed that chronic homeless cases had fallen to just 75 – a 30 percent decrease in chronic homelessness in Guilford County since 2014.

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As a direct result of our support, Guilford County was selected to be a community participant of the national Zero: 2016 movement, which aims to end chronic and veteran homelessness in 2016. We recently granted PEH an additional \$960,000 to continue its strides toward bringing chronic and veteran homelessness in our community to a functional zero by the target date.