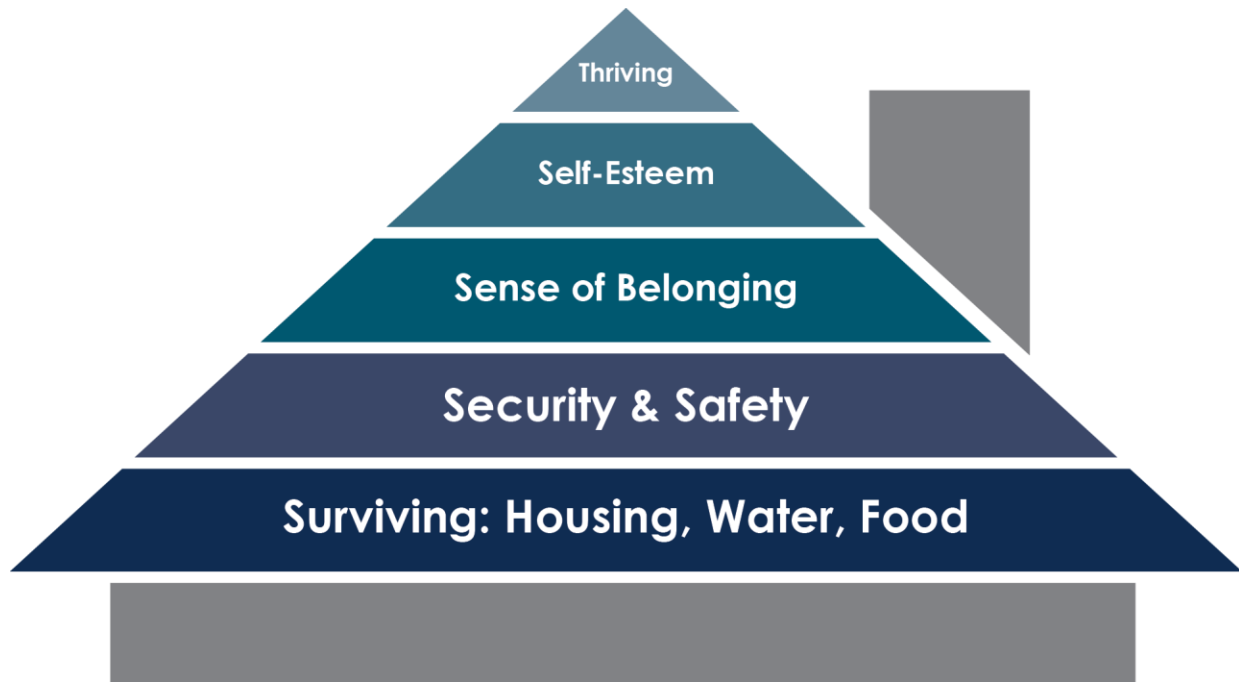


HOMELESSNESS IN RIVERSIDE WORKSHOP

OCTOBER 11, 2016

Housing First Model of Service Delivery

The “Housing First Model” is a method of social service delivery that identifies a human’s most basic needs and prioritizes them in order to identify the most likely way a human can be encouraged to progress. By providing an offer of housing, first, a person’s most basic needs are met: food, water, warmth, rest and safety.



This offer of housing can come in various forms:

1. Short Term Housing Options, such as motel vouchers and emergency shelter beds, fill an immediate need in a crisis situation, and allows service providers to continue engagements and offer services in a safe environment until a housing unit is available. Once the person progresses to the permanent housing unit, tenants who may be deemed “high-risk tenants” by landlords, those without steady work or credit history, typical of households experiencing homelessness to reduce the risk perceived by landlords. As tenants progress towards self-sufficiency, and progress into a Long Term Housing Option.
2. Long Term Housing Options, take many forms and work best for people who have established incomes, addressed health barriers and achieved a degree of self-sufficiency. Long Term Housing Options include: permanent supportive housing units, where the household continues to receive on-going case management and support to achieve the highest level of self-sufficiency possible, for-rent apartments and single-family homes, and for-sale home ownership opportunities.

Once immediate basic needs are met through a safe housing environment, the benefits to the individual are immediate and can include: improved overall health; constructive behavior focused

on gaining self-sufficiency; and individuals are less likely to engage in illegal behavior. Once stabilized, the individual will be more likely to allow the newly formed Community Response Team to address the obstacles that contributed to the person's homelessness.

As the individual addresses their obstacles and works with their support system, their self-esteem grows and a sense of accomplishment results. During this period, it is important that their support system, led by their case manager is accessible, necessitating the need for the Community Response Team's headquarters to be co-located with the housing units.