Better Together: Establishing Community Partnerships to Provide Services to Students Experiencing Homelessness

November 10, 2021

Introductions

Name, Organization/School, Title

Review

McKinney-Vento

- Lacking fixed, adequate, and regular housing
- Requires:
  - Remaining in school of origin
  - Transportation
  - Access to programs and services
  - Liaisons

Learn more here.

Outreach

- Classroom: Syllabus, training
- FAFSA Outreach
- High School Outreach: Mentorship, school lunches
- Community: Resources fairs, libraries, visit days

Agenda

- Community Asset Mapping
- Continuum of Care
- Partnerships with community agencies
- Funding
- Examples/Best Practices

Poll

Does your institution provide referrals for students experiencing homelessness to community agencies?

Poll

Does your institution partner with community agencies to provide housing, food, or programs?

Social Capital

"The links, shared values, and understandings in society that enable individuals and groups to trust each other and work together."

BONDS

BRIDGES

LINKAGES

Source: "What is Social Capital," OECD Insights, link here

Affiliation Theory

- Types of bonds
- Lower levels of affiliation among individuals experiencing homelessness
- Example from Mountain Jobs

Source: Barman-Adhikari, Anamika, Elizabeth Bowen, Kimberly Bender, Samantha Brown, and Eric Rice. 2016. "A Social Capital Approach to Identifying Correlates of Perceived Social Support Among Homeless Youth." Child Youth Care Forum 45:691-708.

Getting Started – Forming Connections

Community Asset Mapping

Steps

- Identify community boundaries
- Identify categories and partners
- Ask for input

Examples

- Invite staff and faculty to complete slips with connections in various categories, which could include:

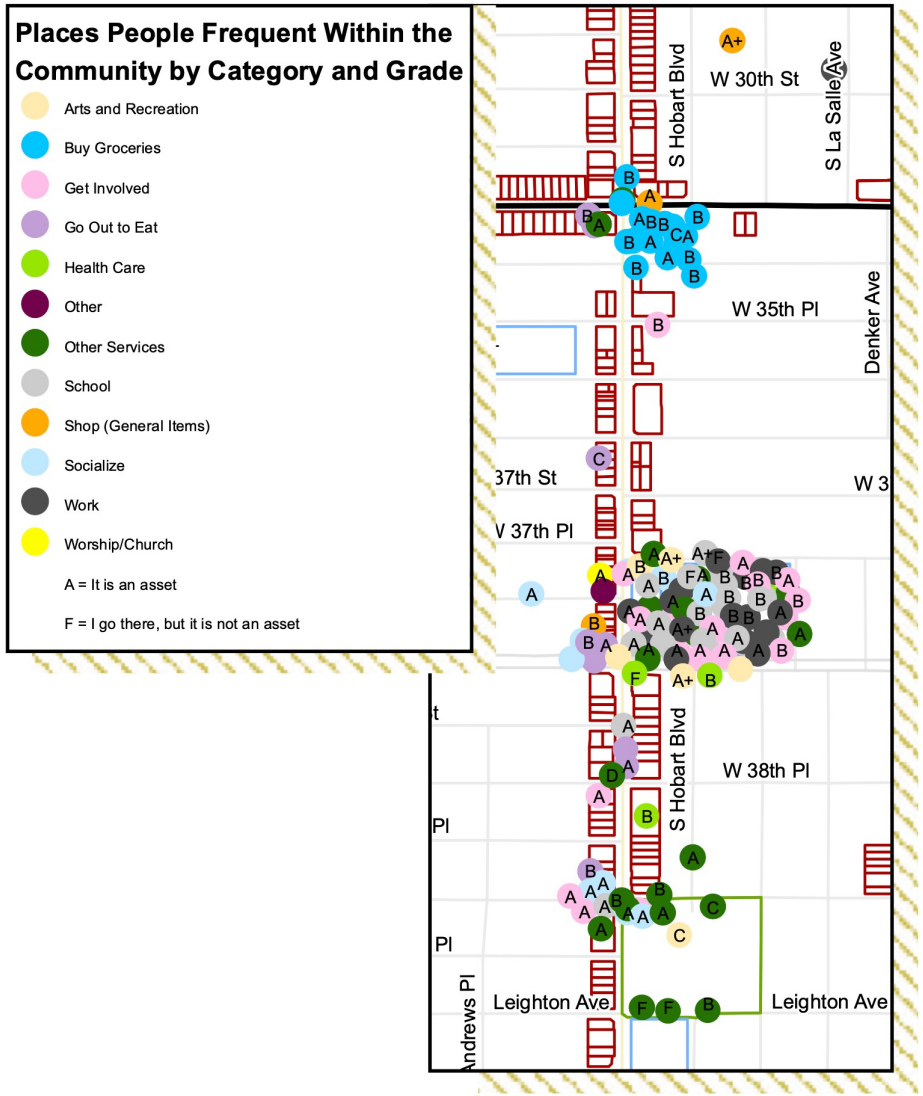
Health care, recreation, food, public safety, employment, transportation, housing, education, etc.

- Create an asset map of individuals who work at your institution.

Sources: UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, Asset Mapping, Link here
Healthy Capital Counties, Asset Mapping, Link here.

Implementation

- Focus Group
- Research Question
- Visual Exercise
- Shared Document or Map
- Survey



Source: Community Resource Lab, Participatory Asset Mapping, Link here

Questions to Ask

For focus groups/research questions:

- What type of "_____" assets exist in the community?

- Can we 'grade' these places?

- What is missing?

- Click here for a guide

Source: Community Resource Lab, Participatory Asset Mapping, Link here

Partnerships and Collaboration

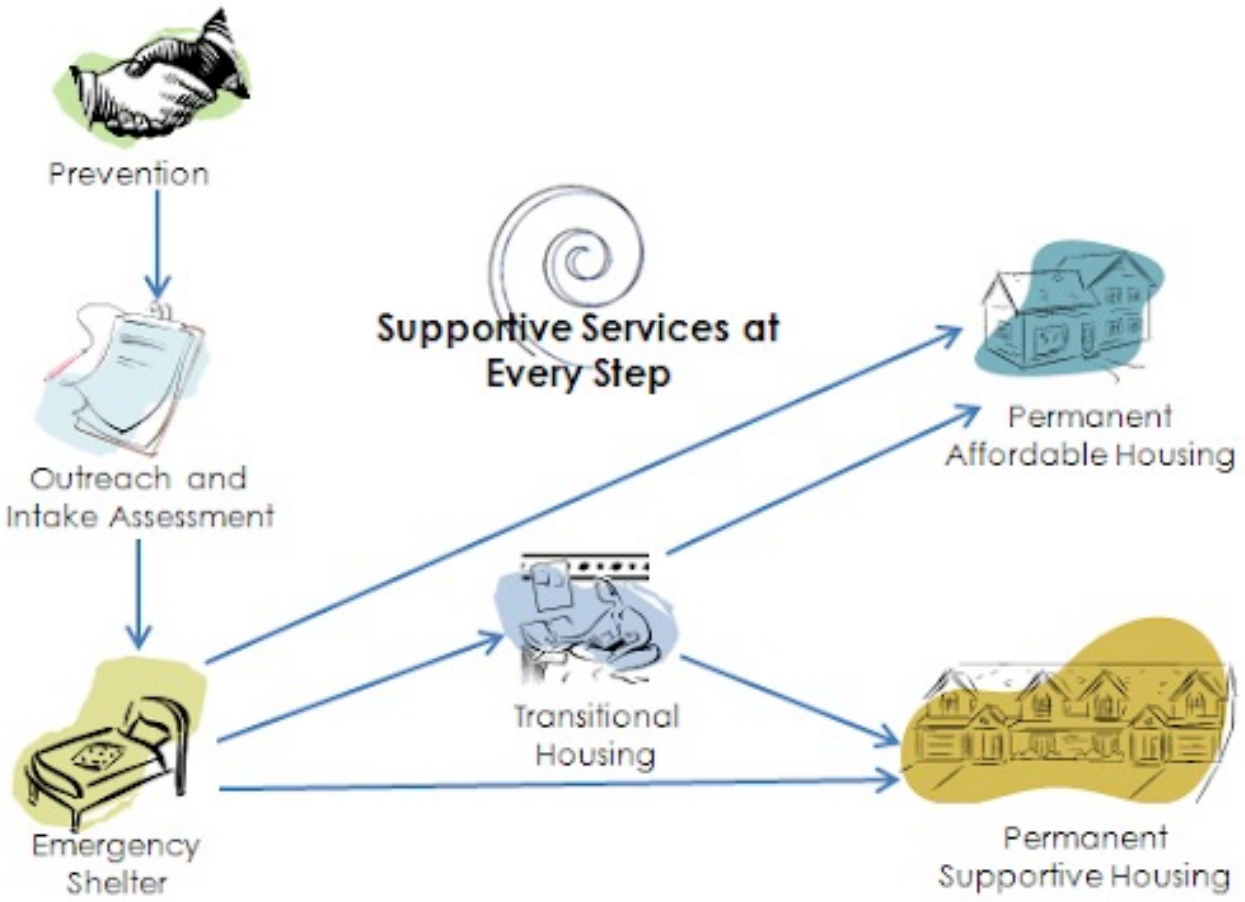
Continuum of Care

- A regional planning group that coordinates housing and homeless services
- Includes outreach, intake, and assessment
- Emergency shelter coordination
- Transitional housing support
- Permanent supportive housing
- Point in Time Count
- Learn more here
- Find an Illinois Continuum of Care here

Example: Heartland Continuum of Care

- Local data
- Resource Page
- Grants
- Committee Members
- Example can be found here.

Source: South Plains CoC



Shelters

Learn

- Population
- Shelter prioritization
- Support offered by shelters
- Programs offered

Partnerships

- Scholarships
- Partnerships with Donors
- Board of Director partnerships
- Student volunteers

Chat

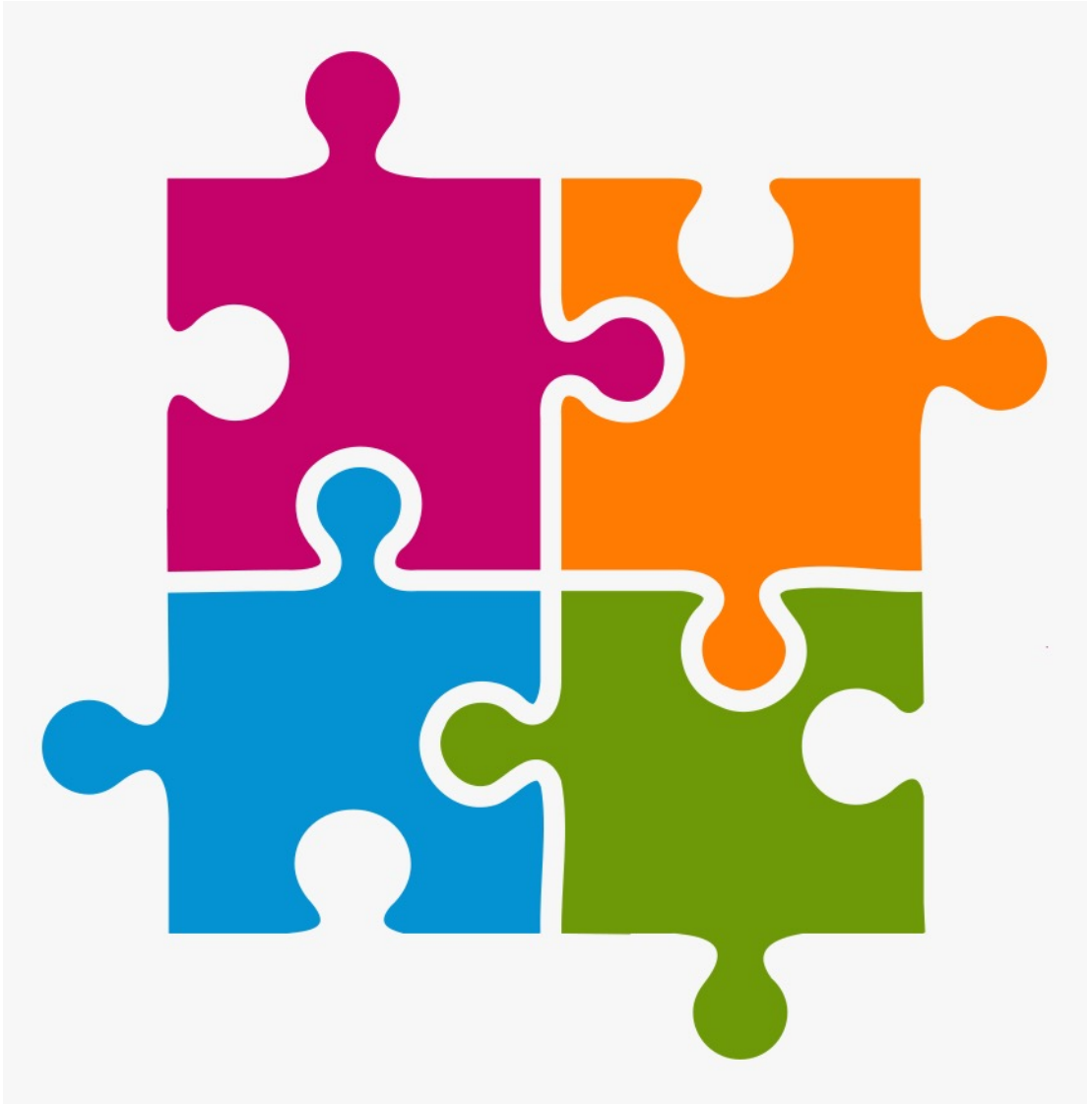
Are you connected with local homeless shelters? If so, how?

Food Banks

- Mobile Food Bank on Campus
- Food for students during school closures
- Little Free Pantry
- Food box pick-up
-Recipe collection
-Places on campus to prepare and store food
- See an example here.
-Grant Funding

Public-Private Partnerships

- Relationships with landlords
- Housing availability on-campus or during breaks
- Campus Emergency fund
- Partnerships with public transportation



Additional Partnerships

- High Schools
- Libraries
- Medical Facilities
- Churches
- Other Colleges and Universities

Grant Partnerships

Donors

AmeriCorps

Giving Circles

Interns

Funding

Which community partnerships do you have in place for students experiencing homelessness?

OR

Which community partnerships do you hope to establish?

Click here for Jamboard.

Activity

Models and Examples

Advocates/ Navigators

- Assistance with identifying housing
- Rental subsidies
- Case management
- Housing first
- Peer navigators

Learn more here

Public Private Partnership

Community College of Philadelphia

- Partnered with Philadelphia Housing Authority to renovate two houses for students
- Walking distance to campus
- Students pay 30% of their income up to $125 for rent

Learn more here

On-Campus Housing

Westfield State and Holyoke College

- Free room and board on campus
- Academic requirements
- The State provided $48,000 per campus to cover the cost of five beds in addition to a block grant from the Department of Higher Education.

Learn more here

Financial Support

Columbus State Community College

- Qualifying students can receive rent and utility assistance for four months, averaging about $1,800.
- 24 students are placed in housing with subsidies from the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority.

Learn more here.

Chat

What programs or services do you think are difficult for students experiencing homelessness in your community to access?

1

All prior examples are from this link.

2

Contact information for resources and programs can be found here.

3

Find all links from the presentation today on this Padlet.

Wrap Up