



HOUSING FIRST

ENDING THE CYCLE OF
CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS



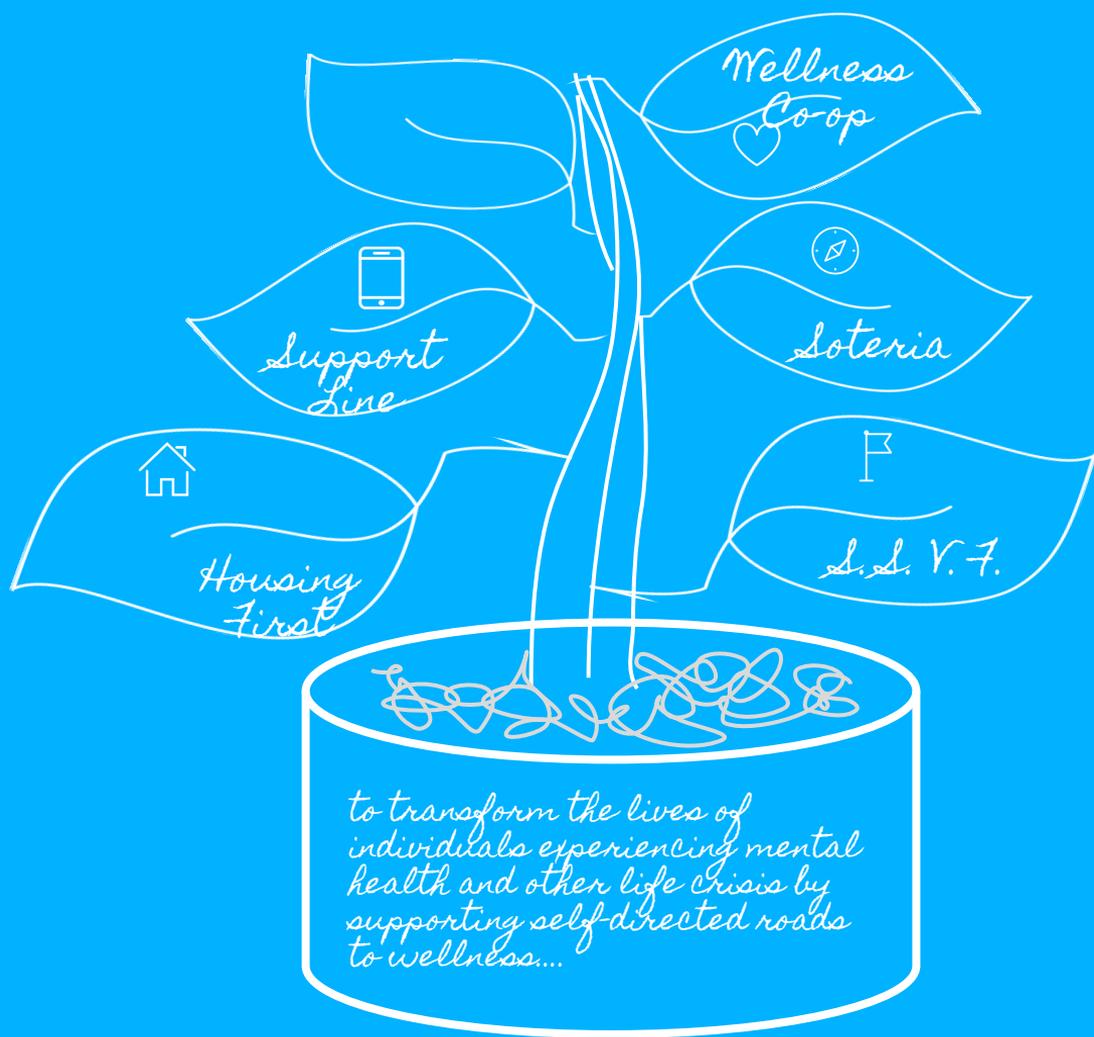
Pathways
Vermont

PATHWAYS VERMONT *transforms the lives of Vermonters struggling with mental health and other life challenges by providing access to:*

CHOICE

CONNECTION

HOME



A black and white photograph of a person in a hooded jacket holding a large, hand-drawn sign on a city street at night. The sign has a large, white letter 'H' on it. The background shows a street with buildings and trees. A blue semi-transparent overlay covers the right side of the image, containing text.

HOUSING FIRST

Housing First provides **immediate** access to **permanent** housing and support services for people who are experiencing **chronic homelessness** and have serious mental health challenges.



WHY DO PEOPLE
BECOME
HOMELESS?

THE STATE OF HOMELESSNESS IN VERMONT

Total homeless individuals: **1,523**

Chronically homeless: **166**

Veterans: **119**

With psychiatric disability **474**

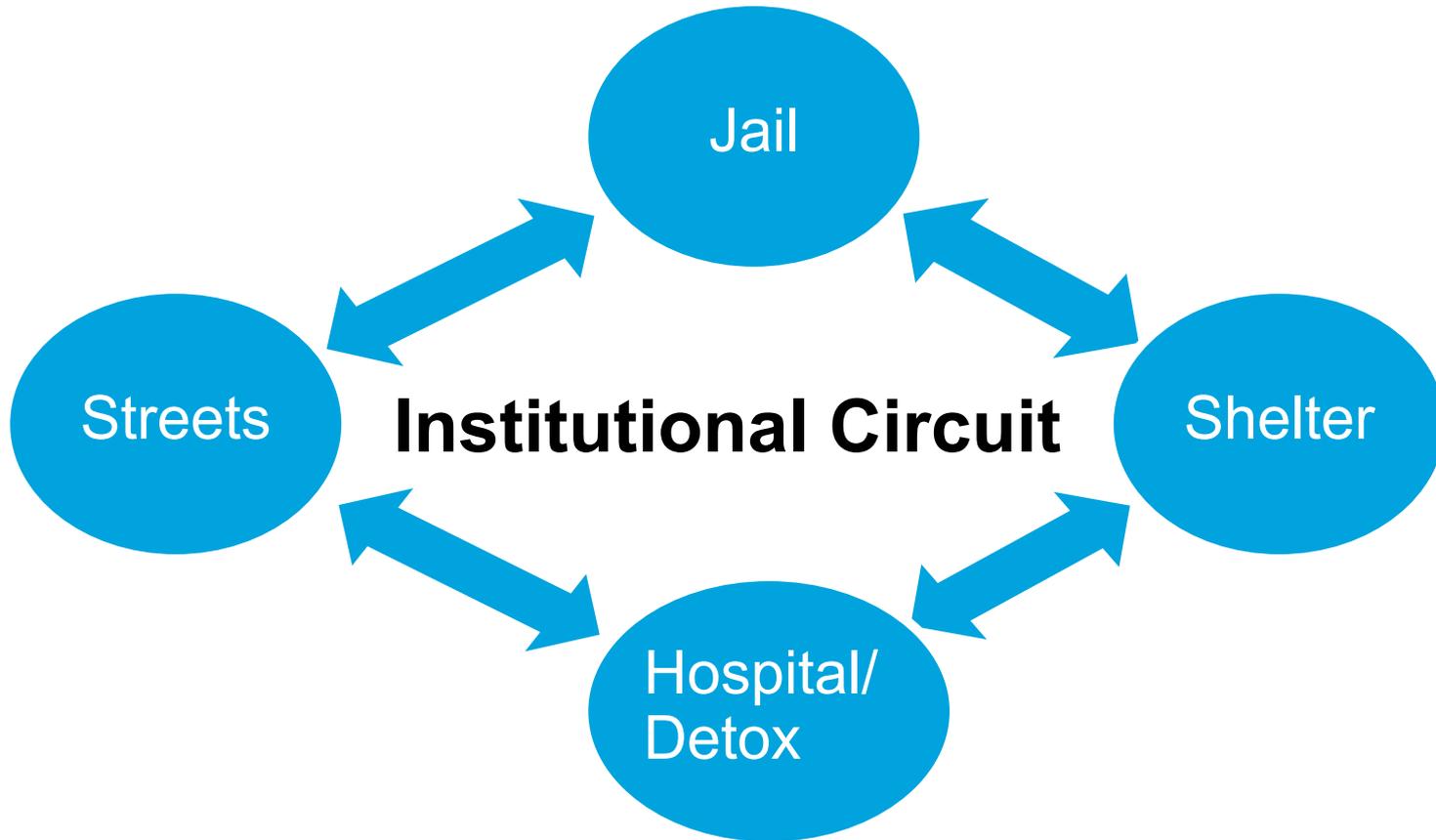
- 16 Shelters statewide, approximately 340 beds
- 2 low-barrier shelters (seasonal)
- State-funded emergency housing vouchers
 - Costs state an average of \$62/night
 - In 2014, this program cost \$4.2 million dollars

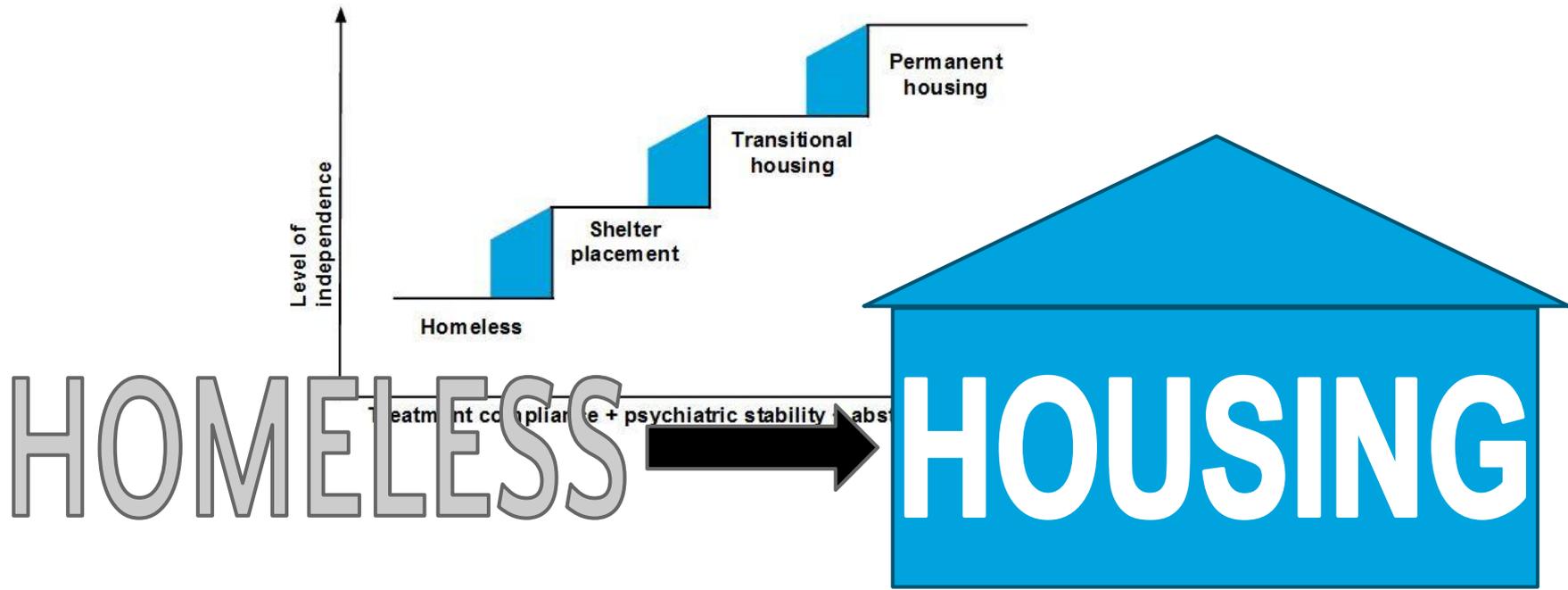


Meet John

Age: 69

Homeless: 35 years



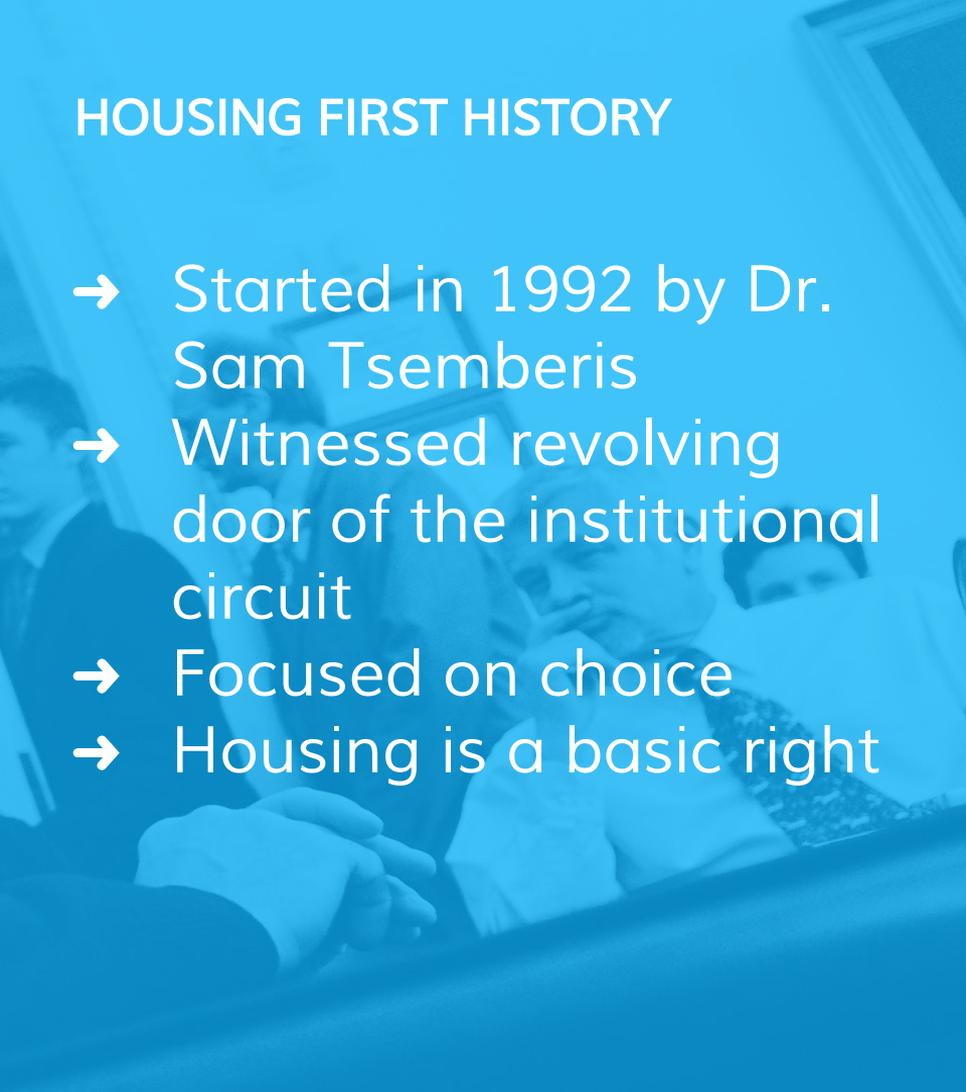


Housing First Program
Traditional Housing Programs



HOUSING FIRST HISTORY

- Started in 1992 by Dr. Sam Tsemberis
- Witnessed revolving door of the institutional circuit
- Focused on choice
- Housing is a basic right





HOUSING FIRST

A Philosophy and a
Practice



HOUSING CHOICE & STRUCTURE

- Housing Choice
- Immediate availability
- Permanent Tenure
- Affordability
- Integrated in the Community
- Privacy



64

John's Apartment
Old North End

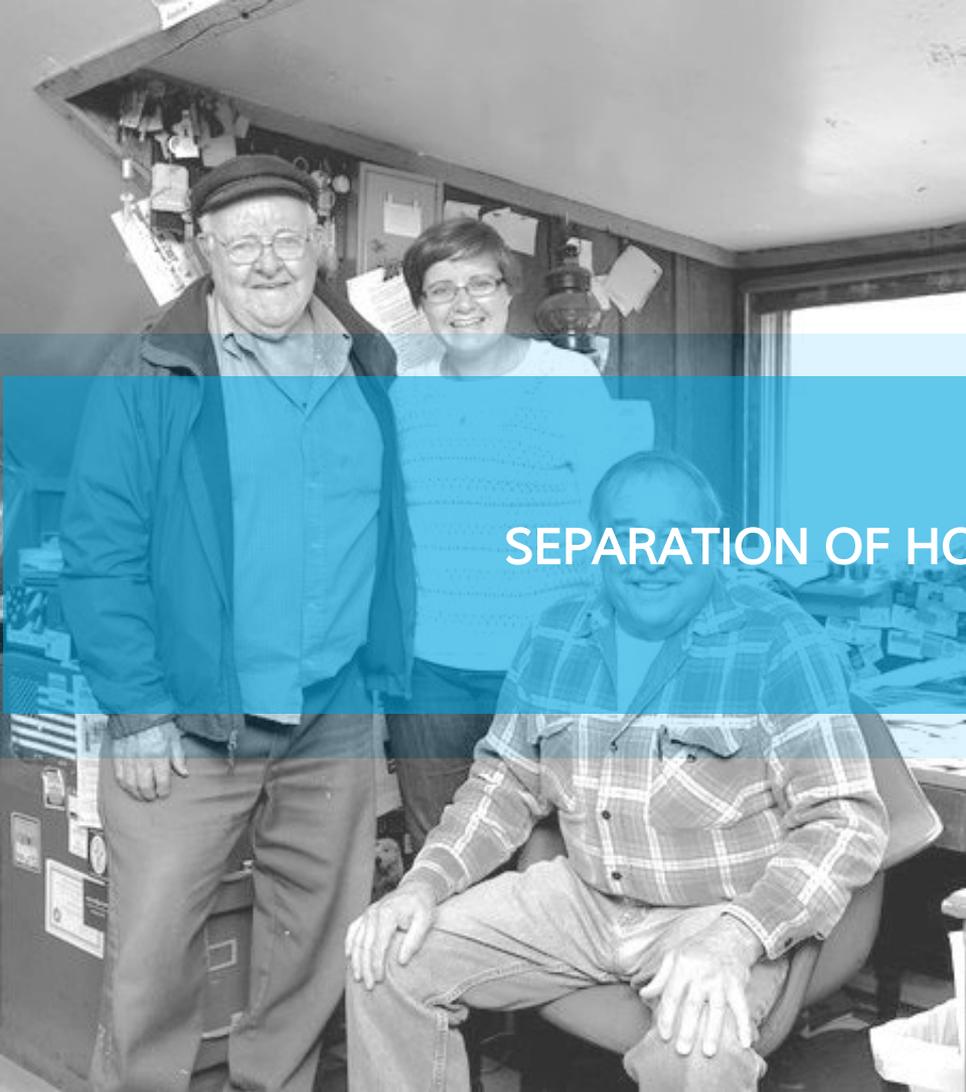


SERVICE PHILOSOPHY

- person-centered
- non-coercive
- harm reduction
- lead by client choice







SEPARATION OF HOUSING & SERVICES

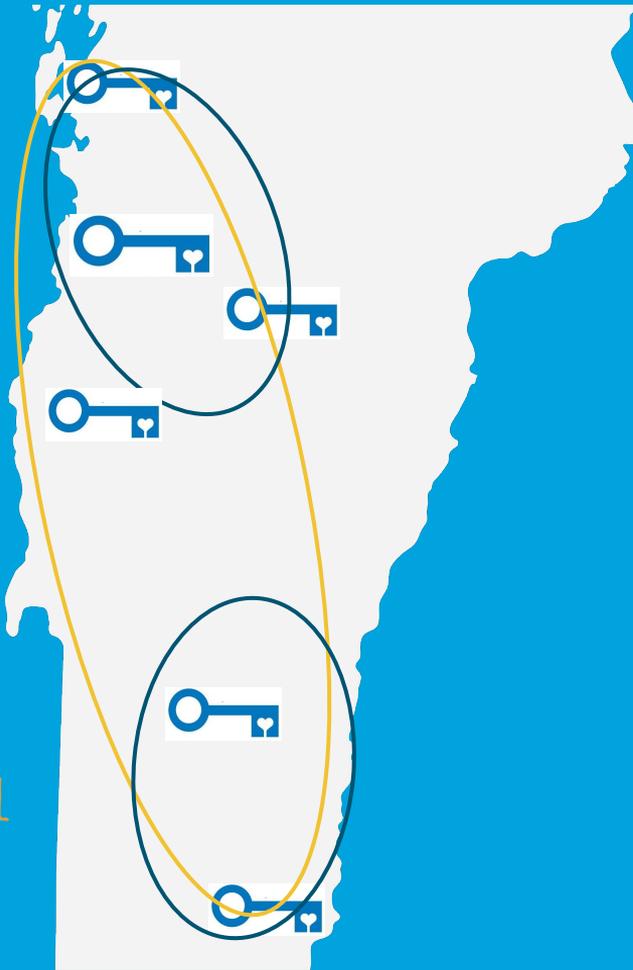




LOCAL SERVICE
COORDINATORS

REGIONAL
SPECIALISTS

STATEWIDE ONCALL
& ADMIN SUPPORT



SERVICE ARRAY

- Multidisciplinary, community-based support
- Team approach to services

PSYCHIATRIST

service coordinator

supported employment specialist

substance use recovery specialist

registered nurse

PEER SPECIALIST

representative payee





PROGRAM STRUCTURE

- Target most vulnerable and most in need
- Visit all clients at least once weekly
- Low staff-to-client ratio
- Team approach to services
- Include Peer Specialists on staff
- Participant Representation in program development



**What challenges
does our community
face in implementing
Housing First?**



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Fair Market Rent
(1 Bedroom Apartment)²

\$836/mo

	Monthly Income	Rent Burden	Cost Burden
1-Bedroom Housing Wage	\$2,786	30%	\$0.00
Minimum Wage (40 hrs/wk)	\$1,464	57%	+\$360.00
SSDI ³	\$1,029	81%	+\$527.00
SSI	\$785.00	107%	+\$600.00

Vermont is lacking 12,444 affordable housing units statewide.

²National Low Income Housing Coalition, 2015 Out of Reach Report: Vermont - <http://nlihc.org/oor/vermont>

³Social Security Administration, Annual Statistical Supplement, 2014 - <http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/supplement/2014/index.html>

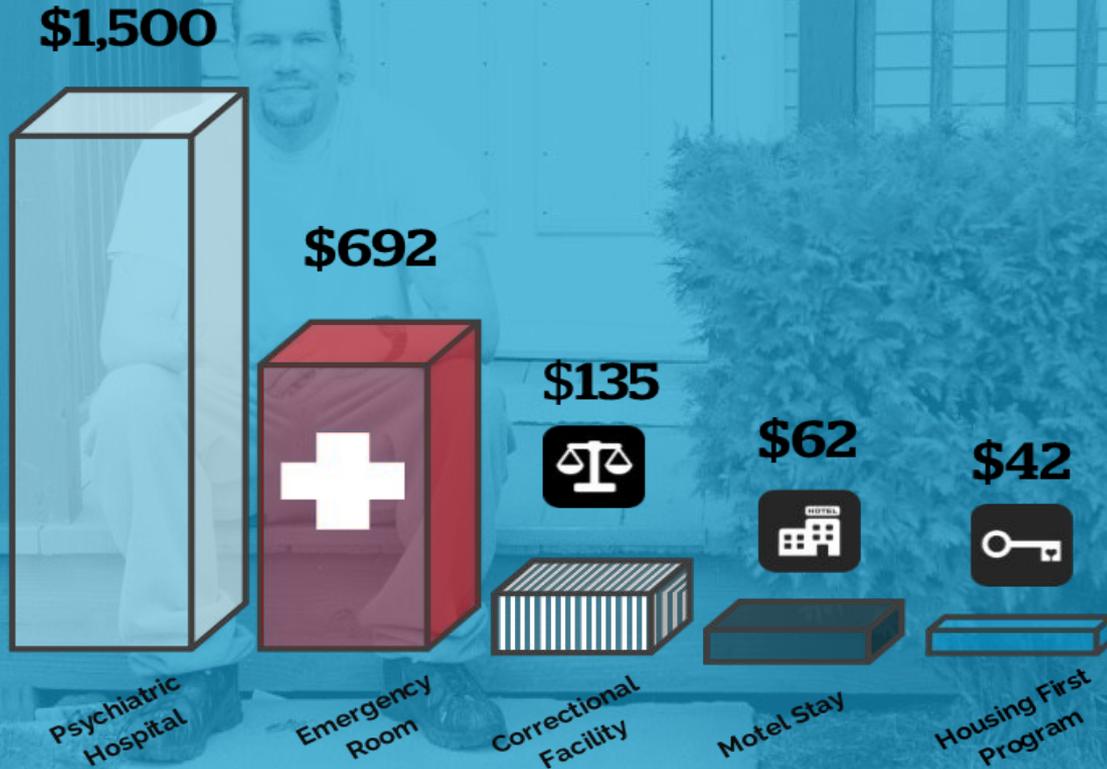
⁴NLIHC, 2015 State Housing Profile, Vermont- <http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/2015-SHP-VT.pdf>



Services and Housing Funding

- Requires funding sources for both housing and services
- Housing First a long term intervention
- Pathways designated as Specialized Services Agency in 2014
- Ability to bill medicaid for services, provide long-term support

HOUSING + SERVICE < HOMELESSNESS



A black and white photograph of a person in winter clothing, including a beanie and a heavy jacket, holding a lit candle. They are standing next to a sign that has the word 'HOMELESS' written on it. The background shows a street scene with trees and buildings.

SOCIAL CHANGE

- Paradigm shift
- Shifting community-wide priority on what we fund in homeless services
 - Affordable housing vs. transitional housing and motels and shelters
- More expensive to be homeless than it is to provide Housing First services



DOES IT WORK?

Program Outcomes After
5 Years

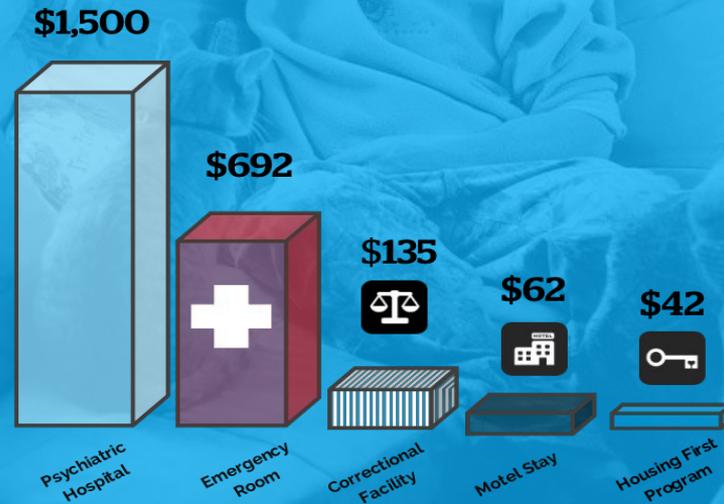


VERMONT HOUSING FIRST IMPACT

- ▶ 170 individuals ended the cycle of chronic homelessness.
- ▶ And, over 90 individuals have successfully transitioned into the community from institutional settings
- ▶ 85% housing retention rate
- ▶ Population served:
 - ▷ 70% psychiatric disability
 - ▷ 50% substance abuse disorder
 - ▷ 33% dually diagnosed
 - ▷ 90% past experience of trauma

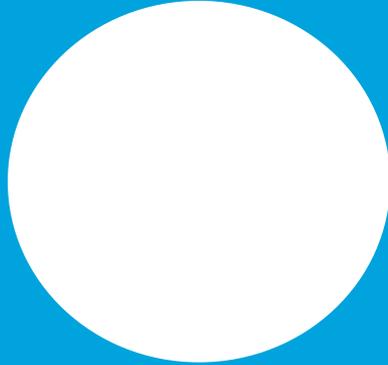
VERMONT HOUSING FIRST OUTCOMES

- 5 year longitudinal study connected with federal funding
 - 85% reduction in nights spent in ER
 - 53% reduction in nights spent in jail
 - 80% decrease in nights spent in motels
 - 87% decrease in nights in emergency shelter

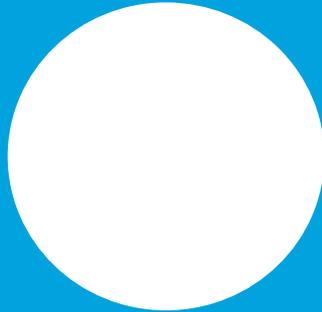


6 Months Before Housing First

PSYCHIATRIC
HOSPITALIZATION
\$1,038,000



CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
\$726,652



MOTELS
\$151,094

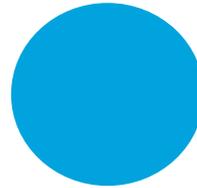


6 Months After Housing First

PSYCHIATRIC
HOSPITALIZATION
\$1,500

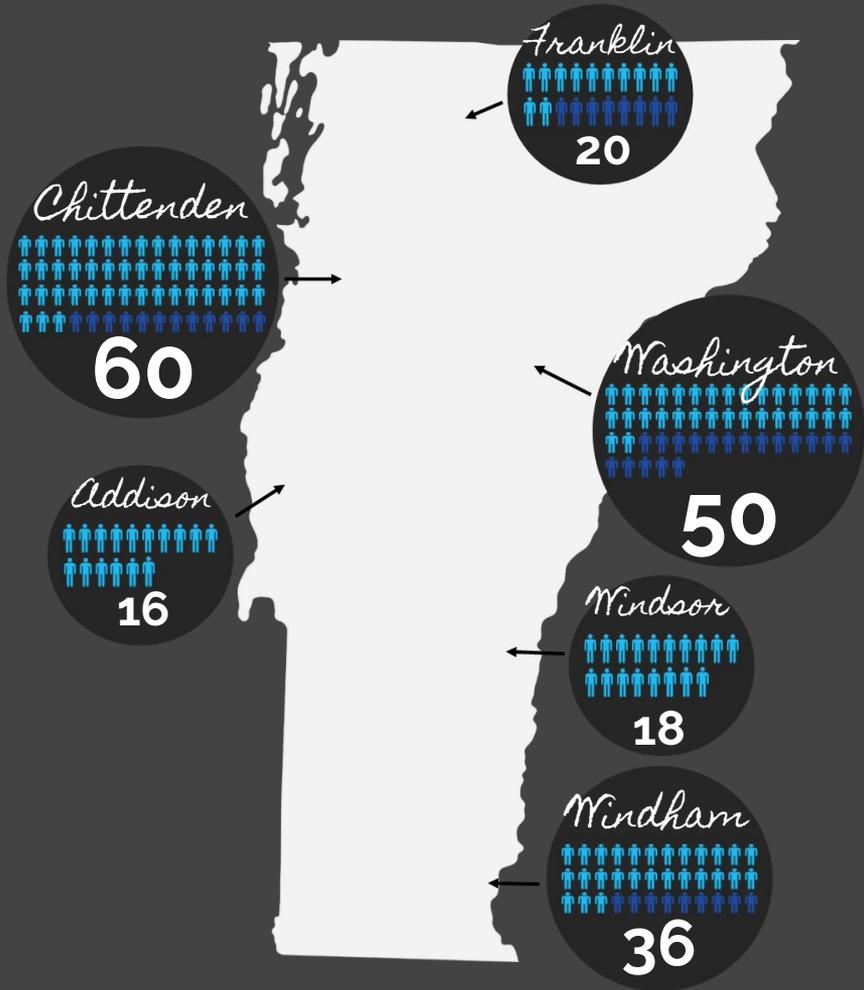


CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
\$218,619



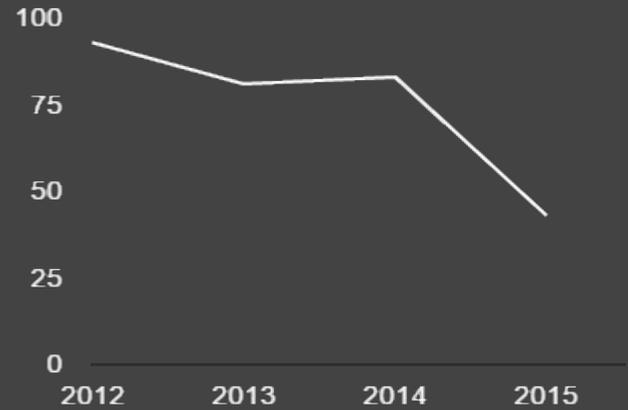
MOTELS
\$47,244





54%

reduction in chronic homelessness outside Chittenden County





*John Kane
1943 - 2015*

WRAPPING UP JOHN'S STORY

- Housed for 3 years
- Connected to resources
- A member of our community





Thanks for coming!

Hilary Melton
hilary@pathwaysvermont.org

For more information:
www.pathwaysvermont.org
facebook.com/pathways-vermont



**COMING OFF
PSYCHIATRIC DRUGS:**

A Harm Reduction
Approach
October 21, 2015

LEARN MORE:

Upcoming Information Sessions:

Tuesday, September 29 - 5:00 PM

Tuesday, October 13 - 5:00 PM

Wednesday, October 28 - 8:30 AM

All events take place at Pathways' Central Offices 125 College Street, 2nd Floor.

Contact laura@pathwaysvermont.org for more information.

Next Community Learning Series:

Coming Off Psychiatric Drugs: A Harm Reduction Approach

Wednesday, October 21

5:30-7:00 PM