

Funders Networks and Collaboratives:  
A Funders Together Members Meeting

# Funders Together to End Homelessness - Houston

March 10, 2014 | 8:30 am – 11 am | Loews Hollywood Hotel



# HOUSTON HAS ONE OF THE HIGHEST HOMELESS POPULATIONS IN THE NATION

JAN  
12

2012 ENUMERATION



**7,187**

Homeless in shelters and on the streets on any given night

+



**1,412**

Homeless in jail on any given night

of  
which



**1,286**

Homeless Veterans



**1,422**

Chronically homeless people

# STRUCTURE

## Steering Committee

- City of Houston Housing and Community Development Department
- Harris County Community Services Department
- Harris County Housing Authority
- Private & Corporate Philanthropy
- United Way of Greater Houston

## Members 28 Member Organizations

- The membership is comprised of private and corporate philanthropy, representatives from the faith community as well as affiliate members from the city, county and housing authority.

# KEY STEPS IN DEVELOPMENT

## Phase One

- Moving from Managing to Solving Homelessness
- Goal: Funders receive in- depth education on the issue of homelessness
  - Convene funders' institutes and "lunch and learns" focusing on vulnerable populations, homelessness and housing solutions.
- Present information on how funders can be more strategic in their decision-making

## Phase Two

- Systems Approach to Preventing and Ending Homelessness
- Goal: Funders begin to think and act at a systems level
  - Provide systems theory education for funders, providers, community stakeholders.
  - Identify key leverage points in homeless services system for strategic investment (i.e. case management, prevention, job training/placement, conversion of transitional housing).

## Phase Three

- Philanthropy as a Catalyst for Change - Working Together at a Community Level
- Goal: Build strong cross-sector collaboration and public-private partnerships
  - Create collaborative funding opportunities by aligning resources.
  - Participate in a permanent supportive housing pilot project with both private and public funders.
  - Attend national and regional conferences on homelessness and housing.

# MISSION STATEMENT

- **Vision:** Homelessness in Houston will be rare, non-repeating and short term by the end of 2020
- **Mission:** To prevent and end homelessness in our community through actively promoting systems change and the effective alignment of resources

# GOALS

Goal: To establish a vision, mission and set overall goals for FTEH - Houston

Progress to date

- Hired consultant to guide process
- Initial retreat to set goals and timeline
- In the process of setting milestones and adopting goals

# GOALS

Goal: To support the community plan and encourage system change.

## Progress to date

- Adopting goals that support community direction
- Focus on identifying gaps where philanthropic dollars can make the largest impact

# GOALS

Goal: To support building capacity within the system either through funding coalitions or individual organizations

Progress to date

- Beginning to outline the process and set milestones



# LESSONS LEARNED

1. It's essential to engage the entire community
2. Data . . .data . . .data
3. Ask the experts
4. Strategic philanthropy
5. Begin with aligned funding

# FOR THE BREAKOUT SESSION

- Is the collaborative able to adapt? How do you engage to include a wider audience?
- Is there patience to go the distance?
- How do you achieve greater impact with less resources?
- Are you willing to fail? (and learn from that failure?)
- Do you need a sense of urgency to keep the process moving?

