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

2012 ENUMERATION

7,187 Homeless in shelters and on the streets on any given night

1,412 Homeless in jail on any given night

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.
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
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
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
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
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
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?