

Red Wing 11.1.21 Community Discussion - Strategies/Ideas by Theme

Prevention

Coordination of Resources

- Aunt Bertha (findhelp.org), one site that listed organizations & sources, can search within categories, already started
- How do people in Red Wing know where to call or go for help?
 - When they need help?
 - When they want to provide help?
- Centralized database with person specific needs/supports, knowledge of person's strengths, too

Centralized Access + Navigation staff

- CE access points limit who assess only:
 - DV
 - Youth
 - VeteransLimiting who we assess and creates another hoop for households
- Need 'real-time' identification of at-risk persons
- Create a single point of contact (SPOC) that advocates for the client through prevention, emergency shelter, to interim housing to permanent housing. Include by-name list.
- Having 1 point person to assist people with applications, searching and collaborate with the various groups amongst the community
- Have one point person/agency/group that collects data & info

Education – Landlord/Tenant/Community

- Community including landlord awareness building
 - Need
 - Resources
 - Who to contact @ agencies that 'help' (3 Rivers, Hope Coalition)
- Local industries & businesses would benefit from stable housing for their workers – how integrated are they in the process? And how much do they contribute in resources?
- Long-term prevention measures – education on financial planning & budgeting – connection with mentors
- Long-term prevention measures – education of landlords, education regarding Section 8
- Eviction Prevention outreach, landlord outreach/support eg. In advance of court action
- Educate tenants on their renting rights

- Tenant/landlord connection program – Duluth example collaboration between city/county/HRA
- Tenant/Landlord connection
 - Rights for both
 - Mitigation
 - Financial education
 - Classes for housing education

Funding

- Rent assistance isn't always accessible → allocate more funding at the county level for low-barrier rent assistance
- Funding availability (funders create hoops (certain eligibility requirements/assistance limits) organizations are limited...

Affordable Housing

Coordination of Resources

Centralized Access

- Coordinate throughout county & with other counties
- Work on a system to collaborate between agencies for services & units – list of providers, etc & what they 'do'
- Consolidate the place people have to go to access services
- Create a single point of contact (SPOC) that advocates for the client through prevention, emergency shelter, to interim housing to permanent housing. Include by-name list.
- Combine all agencies resource lists to one shared list
- Email HRT when funding is available (non-restrictive funds...not needing CE referrals)
- Single access point &/or list

Education – Landlord/ Tenant/Community

- Educate landlords on Section 8
- Offer services to landlords to be up to code
- Create incentives for landlords to accept risk associated with tenants of affordable housing
 - Tax incentives
 - Low cost funds for damage repairs
- Create more incentives for landlords to rent to those with barriers to renting (criminal history, low credit, mental illness) → Risk mitigation program
- Overcome 'inaccuracies' in what Se 8 is – increase awareness of benefits to landlords AND identify who the people who need housing – put a 'face' to the need

- What are the housing metrics for health & safety of rental units – make known to potential tenants too
- Develop an employer communication network to aid with housing options communication

Funding

- ARPA funds, city & county funds to help build facility
- Focus on a strategic plan – specifically on how to fund, including \$ for housing development
- Simplifying the process (map) doesn't correct the root problem. Additional units are needed to improve the system
- More county & city tax incentives for creating affordable units
- Sustainability!
- Collaborative development opportunities – county/city/CDA/HRA/developers
- Build more units (w/ more flexibility) - homeownership

Emergency Shelter

- Community members willing to house in an emergency (incentive?)
- Need for legal advocate & advice as work through options
- Year round shelter – need community buy-in
- How about heated temp housing/mobile that could be used in winter and could move around as needed. E.g. FEMA – type shelters
- Jefferson? Transitional or short term housing, some kind of day services

Centralized Access

- Create a single point of contact (SPOC) that advocates for the client through prevention, emergency shelter, to interim housing to permanent housing. Include by-name list.
- Need for central location – consistent for those in need to access and for agencies to refer
- Automatic CE assessment when calling for motel vouchers? Updating assessments

Education –Community

- Educational tip sheets needed on on steps/options for all 3 group categories (have available to public in libraries, fast food restaurants, etc)
- Increase community collaboration – include all 'helpers' – churches, agencies, caring individuals 'on call'

Funding

- ARPA funds from county/city to start more permanent shelter