COVID-19 Chicago CoC Peer Sharing Session

August 7th, 2020
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
COVID-19 Chicago CoC Weekly Webinars

• All Chicago has created a COVID-19 Response Team and is actively working to support our many partner agencies during this challenging and quickly changing time.

• We have been alternating Peer Sharing Webinars and All Chicago/DFSS/CDPH webinars every other Friday.

• Today is the last day we will be using this alternating format. We will be going to a different format/frequency for both Peer Sharing and All Chicago/DFSS/CDPH updates.

• We will share more information on the date/time/topic of the next webinar via email.
Peer Sharing Webinar Goals

- Dedicated time for people & agencies in the CoC
- Sharing questions, strategies, resources
- Working toward solutions and common understanding
Today’s Topic

Housing First & COVID-19

1. Key elements of housing first
2. Expedited Housing Initiative (EHI) & housing first
3. Housing provider panel discussion
Key Elements of Housing First

• Immediate access to permanent housing options without housing readiness requirements.
• Individualized and client-driven supports.
• Community and social integration.
• Focus on housing stability.
Removal of Housing Readiness Requirements

• Underlying issues that contributed to homelessness are best addressed once a person is stably housed.
• Low barrier admission policies – participants not screened out based on substance use, criminal record, credit, completion of treatment, behaviors, income, etc.
Individualized and Client-Driven Supports

- Create person-centered solutions to specific housing and service needs
- Tailor supports to the individual
- People will have different paths
- Services are voluntary for the participant
Community and Social Integration

- Connect participants to their communities based on needs and interests.
- Participants are integrated into open market rental units.
- Educate Landlords and community members to support inclusion & myth bust stereotypes.
Focus on Housing Stability

• Continued tenancy is not dependent on participation in services.
• Educate participants about their housing, tenancy, and fair housing rights.
• Residents have leases and tenant protections.
• Prevent evictions.
Housing First at the Community Level

- Few or no barriers to housing entry
- Prioritization of persons with the highest level of need

Graphic developed by HomeBase/The Center for Common Concerns
System Characteristics

• Systemic Alignment
• Coordinated Entry System
• Policies and Procedures
• Collaborative Decision Making
Housing First & Expedited Housing Initiative

Karen Kowal – Director of CoC Programs, All Chicago
Panelists

Sherri Allen-Reeves – Associate Director, Matthew House
Betsy Carlson – Director of Youth Programs, The Night Ministry
Debbie Culpepper – Director of Grants & Contracts, Featherfist
Panel Discussion

What adaptations have you made in order to support a housing first approach during this time?
Panel Discussion

Has COVID-19 impacted levels of engagement with program participants?

Has it impacted individualized, person-centered services?
Panel Discussion

Has COVID-19 impacted housing stability for participants at your agency?
Panel Discussion

Are there any successes or challenges related to housing first during COVID-19 that you'd like to share?
Audience Questions

Are there any questions from the audience?

Please type your questions into the question pane.
Next Webinar

COVID-19 Update Webinar from All Chicago, DFSS, and CDPH
August 21, 2020
1:00-2:00pm
Same registration link as today.
Thank You!

Please complete the survey at the end.

- Questions
- Ideas
- Feedback