



# Stable Housing = Stable Families

Lessons learned in Bridgeport, CT

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# BRIDGEPORT, CT

Population 146,434

Households 49,887

Median Household income \$41,204

\*United Way ALICE Survival Budget \$64,775

\*Living below survival Budget 55%

**\*This bare-minimum budget does not allow for any savings. Affording only a very modest living in each community, this budget is still significantly more than the U.S. poverty rate of \$11,170 for a single adult and \$23,050 for a family of four.**

# STATE OF THE CHILD IN BRIDGEPORT

**37.6% of children** Living below federal poverty level

**\*55% of children** Living below ALICE survival threshold

**1,923 families** Living in public housing

**1,580 families** Waiting for public housing

**2,537 families** Living on Section 8 vouchers

\*extrapolated from the 55% household rate.

# Day in the life...



Single mother  
of **2**  
must work  
**3** full-time  
minimum wage jobs  
to survive in  
Bridgeport.

Survival Budget	
Housing	\$1,530
Child Care	\$1,657
Food	\$592
Transportation	\$146
Healthcare	\$422
Misc.	\$491
Taxes	\$560
Monthly total	\$5,398
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$64,775</b>
<b>Hourly Wage</b>	<b>\$32.89</b>

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and state Treasury, and ChildCare Aware, 2012; American Community Survey, 1 year estimate.

# Impact on the child

**Homelessness**

Domestic Violence

**Truancy**

*Mental Health Issues*

**Safety**

Academic deficiencies

**Food Insecurity**

**Juvenile Justice Intervention**

Department of Family Services

**Foster Care**

# How One Program Can Help



**newreach**  
**Stable Families Program**

1. **Work on-site in public housing**
2. **Identify and outreach families who are in or on the verge of crisis**
3. **Assess and triage to stabilize tenancies and prevent eviction and homelessness**
4. **Provide case management to build sustainable housing stability**

# Who We Serve

## Program Entry Criteria:

- **Head of household over the age of 18**
- **Reside in Bridgeport public housing**
  - public housing units
  - Section 8 subsidized housing
  - other deeply subsidized housing that the housing authority has developed
- **In or on the verge of crisis and willing to access services to stabilize their tenancies and avert eviction**

# Program Architecture



**Program Manager**

**2 + Case Managers**

➤ 25 family caseload

**Benefits Specialist**

➤ 25 family caseload

**Light Touch**  
**Medium Touch**  
**Heavy Touch**



**3 pronged  
case management  
approach**



# Outreach and identification

## What constitutes a crisis?

- Notice to Quit issued
- Behind in Rent
- Poor history of rental payment
- No source of income
- Violence in the household
- Child neglect or Child Protective Services (CPS) involvement
- Criminal activity/legal issues
- Unmet mental health needs
- Unmet behavioral health treatment
- Cognitive impairment
- Health/safety issues
- Gang violence
- School truancy

# Case Management Focus Areas



- Crisis Mitigation

- Housing Retention



- Income Stability / Employment



- Education and Literacy



- Medical and Behavioral Health



- Legal Assistance

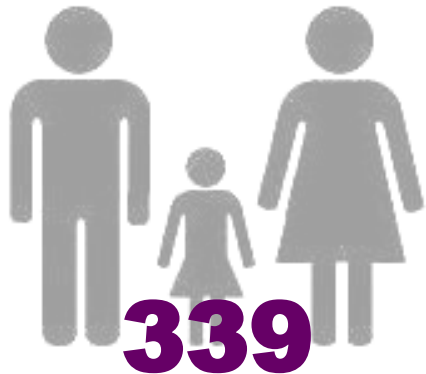


- Public Benefits / Entitlements

# Services and Referrals

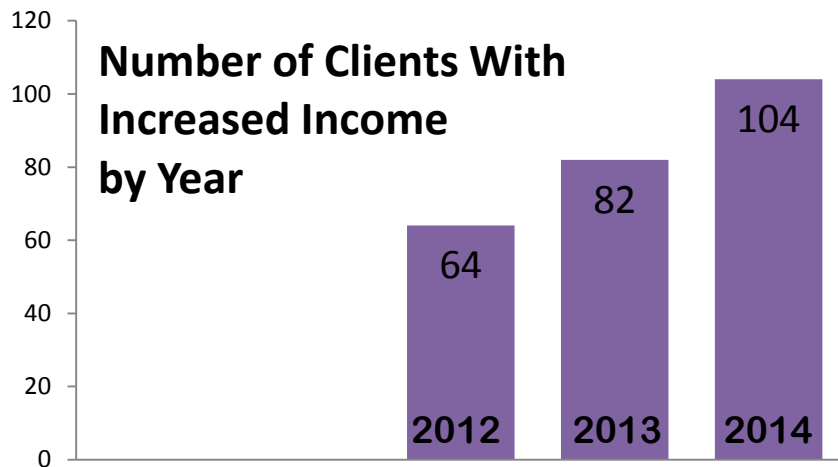
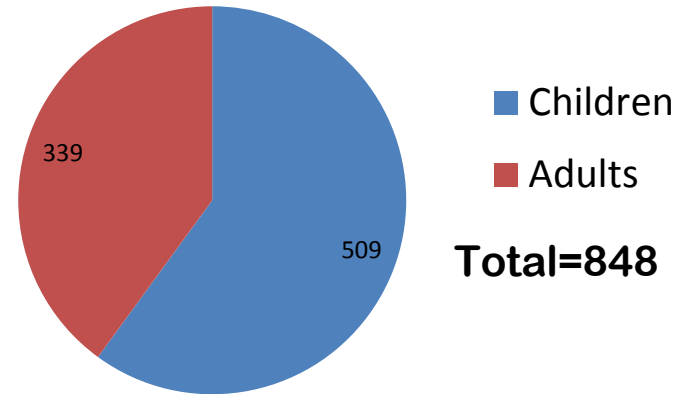
- Opening a bank account
- Advocating with utility companies for service, i.e. payment plans
- Guardianship issues
- Childcare and parenting resources
- Medical/Primary care
- Dental care
- Mental health, substance abuse and needed health and human services counseling
- Basic Needs Access (food pantry, bus tokens, clothing)
- Finding daily activities, volunteer work

# Program Outcomes 2009-2015

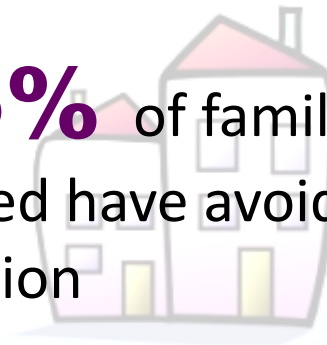


Families Served

## Number of Individuals Served



**95%** of families served have avoided eviction

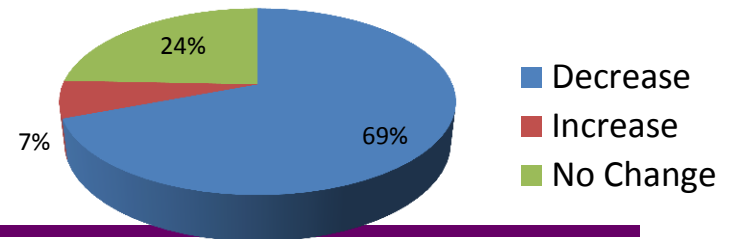


# Program Outcomes 2014-2015

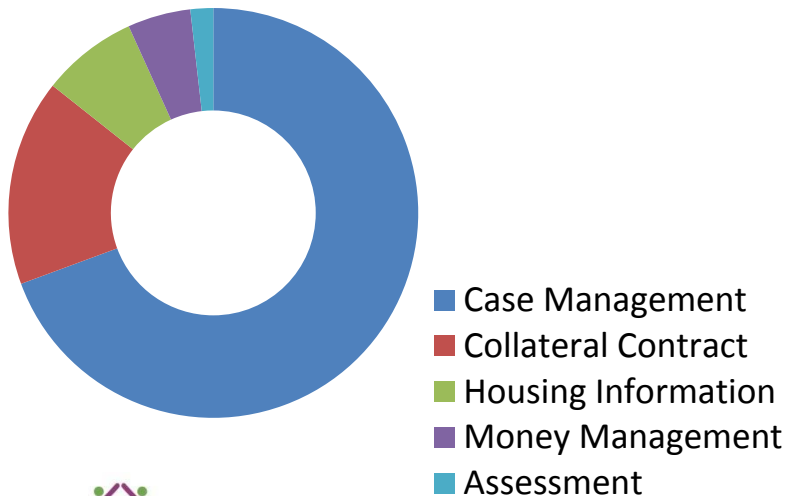


Families Served

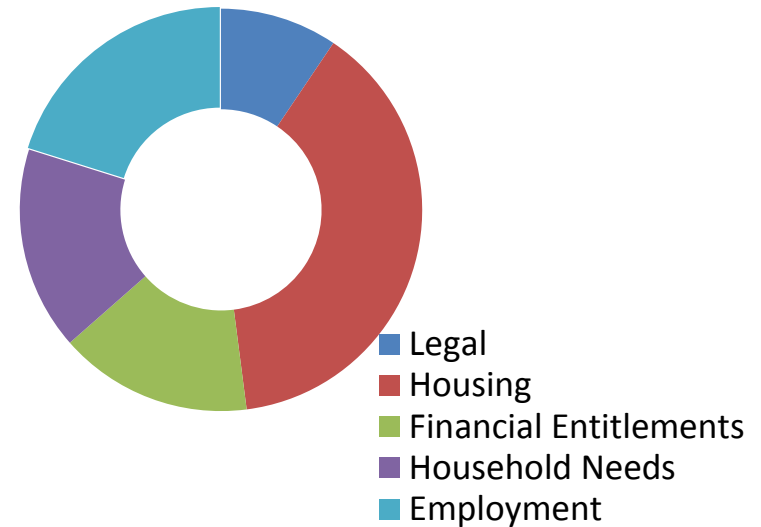
## Change in Acuity



## Top 5 Services



## Top 5 Referrals



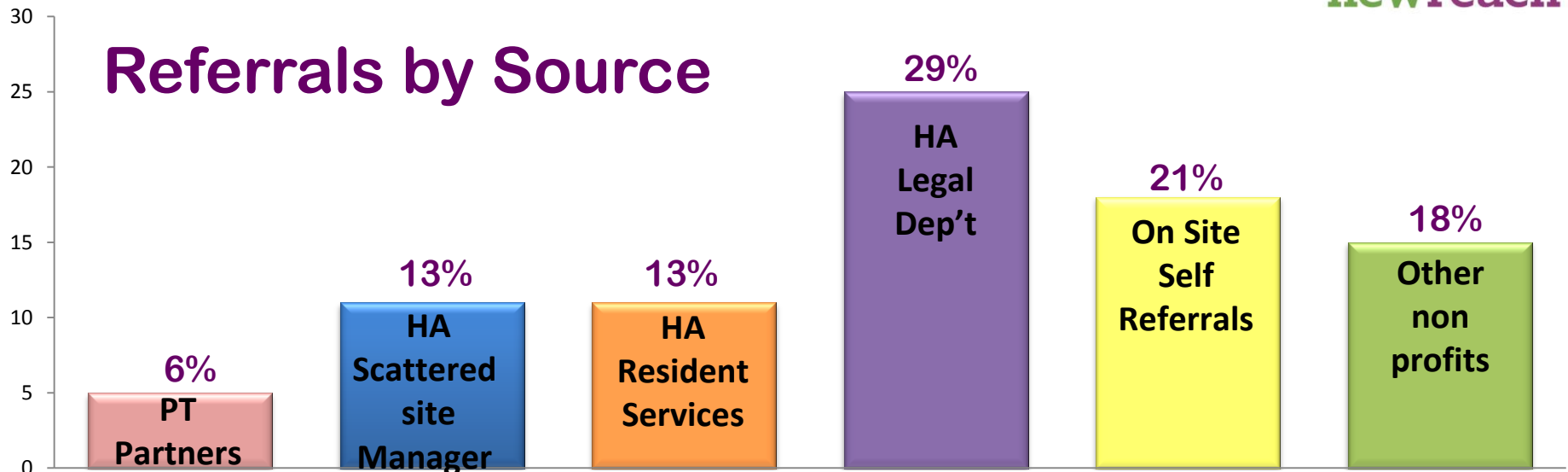
# A Partner in the Housing Authority

## Housing Authority

- Identify referrals to the program
- Work as partners to help resolve tenant issues quickly and efficiently



## Referrals by Source



# Benefits of Partnership

**322** families, including  
*484 children* have  
avoided eviction and homelessness.

HA Eviction  
proceedings decreased  
from **58 to 18** over  
last fiscal year, saving  
the HA **\$46,228**.

**339** families,  
including **509**  
**CHILDREN**, have  
benefited from case  
management and  
support services  
referrals.

# A Program Case Study

case manager

Stacy Andrews

&

client

Magaly J.



# Lessons Learned

- Addressing the root causes of housing instability is the critical component to family stability
- Flexible services tailored to match each households' level of need are essential
- Collaboration, at both the systems and services levels is essential for outreach, mitigation and program sustainability
- Affordable and appropriate housing is the foundation of improved health, social, and economic success, for families and communities

# Q & A

**What would you like to know about replicating this program in your community?**





**Thank you for  
your interest in our  
Stable Families Program**

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