

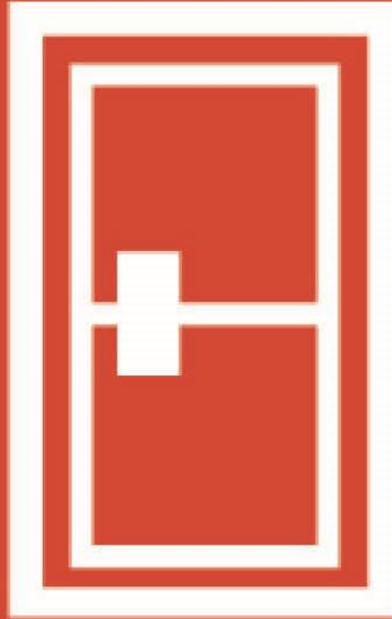


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# HOMELESS CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEMS

Christina Soulard  
Homeless Solutions  
Program Manager  
[csoulard@michigan.gov](mailto:csoulard@michigan.gov)

Jesica Vail  
Homeless Assistance  
Specialist  
[vailj1@michigan.gov](mailto:vailj1@michigan.gov)



# **BACKGROUND**

## HEARTH ACT AND IMPLEMENTATION

# HEARTH ACT

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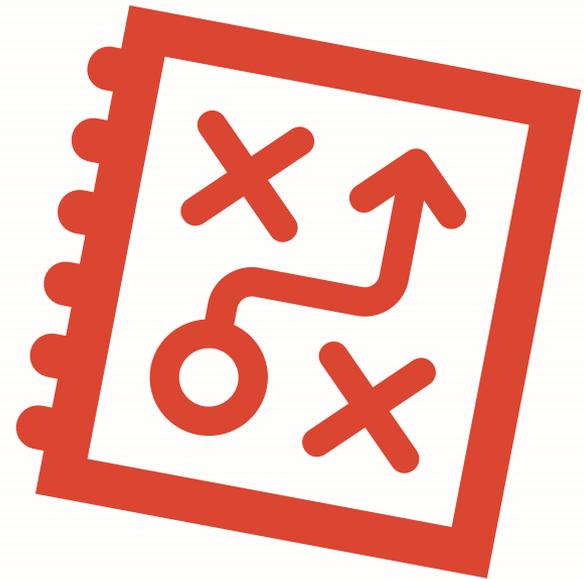
Updates to the past homeless response by the federal government were based on work developing Housing First by Dr. Sam Tsemberis and research on homelessness by Dr. Dennis Culhane

Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act passed in 2009

The Interim Rule in 2011 gave guidance and requirements for implementation

Set up two streams of funding, with shared definitions and expectations:

- Emergency Solutions Grant, and
- Continuum of Care Program



# HEARTH ACT

## Definitions

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Homeless is defined in four parts:

### **1- Literally Homeless**

Staying in shelter, on the street, or a place not meant for human habitation

### **2- Imminent Risk of Homelessness**

Housing will be lost within 14 days, with no means or ability to secure new housing

### **3- Homeless by Other Federal Definitions**

McKinney-Vento School definition and others, most HEARTH Act funds may not be used to serve households only meeting this part of the definition

### **4- Fleeing or Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence**

Includes sexual violence and trafficking, not just intimate partner violence

# HEARTH ACT

## Additional Definitions

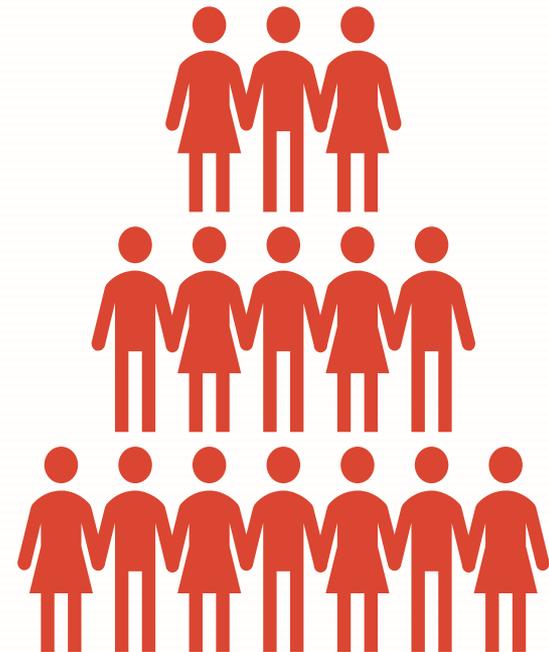
Additional Definitions for Specific Populations:

**Chronically Homeless:** Person must have been Literally Homeless for either 12 months consecutive, or 12 months total over 3 years, with four breaks in homelessness; AND have a disability of lasting duration

**Youth:** Any person 24 years of age or younger. Those under 18 and living without their parents are called Unaccompanied Youth and require other resources than HEARTH

**Veteran:** A person who served in a branch of the armed forces, their discharge status is not relevant to HEARTH resources

**Family:** Family units are defined by the people within them, there is no required composition to be served as a family unit



# Primary Intervention Types

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## **Permanent Supportive Housing:**

CoC Program funded

Intended for persons/households who are chronically homeless and are not expected to be able to take over full payment of rent. Supportive services are an important part of maintaining housing and connected to stabilizing community resources

## **Rapid Re-Housing:**

CoC Program and ESG funded

Intended for persons/households who are literally homeless and experiencing a financial setback that will be able to quickly gain/increase income sufficient to pay their rent. Supportive services focus on supporting income growth and connecting to stabilizing community resources

## **Prevention:**

ESG funded

Can pay rent arrears (limited) to keep a household who is at Imminent Risk of Homelessness from eviction or help find a new unit, and can help with (limited) rent beyond arrears



# COORDINATED ENTRY SYSTEMS

# Coordinated Entry

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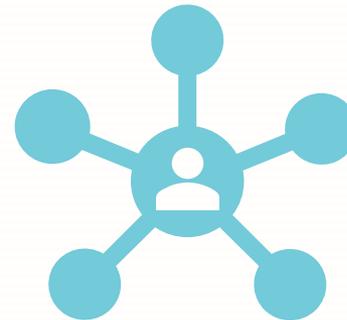
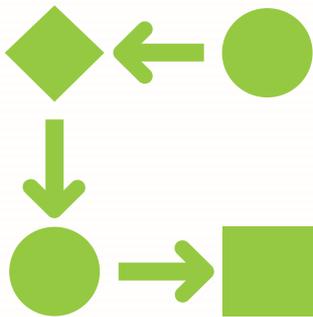
A Coordinated Entry System is the system by which a household experiencing homelessness will...

...**ACCESS** the agencies that can help with resolving homelessness

...have an **ASSESSMENT** to determine eligibility for resources and acuity level

...have a **PRIORITIZATION** determination based on acuity

...get a **REFERRAL** to the first appropriate housing resource



# Coordinated Entry

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Another requirement outlined in HEARTH is that resources should be accessed through a Coordinated Entry process or system.

This meant CoCs across the country had to build their Coordinated Entry Systems (CES) to be compliant.

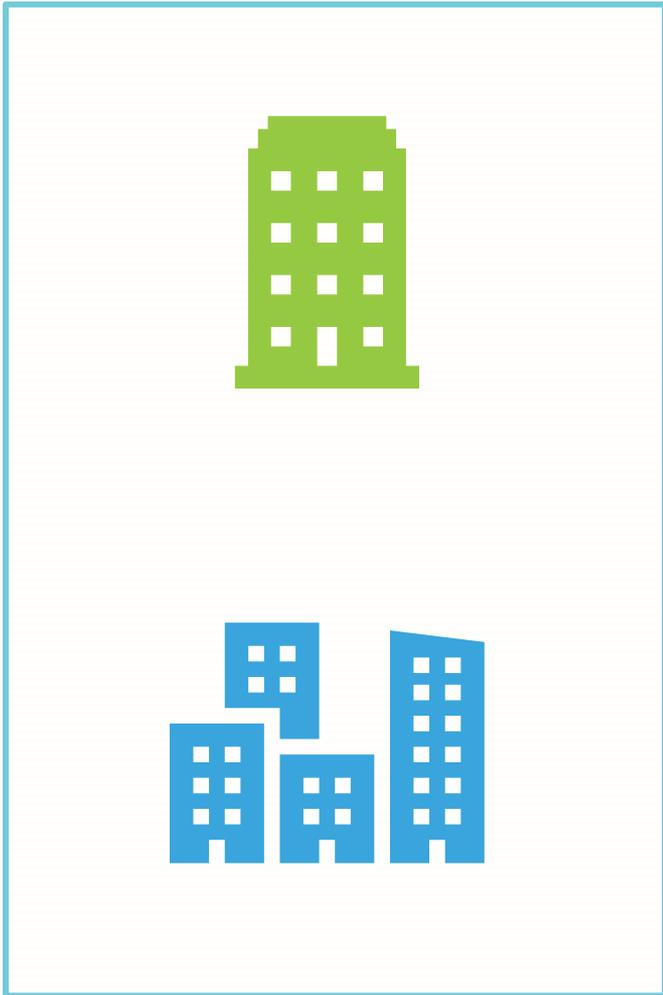
MSHDA looked at a pilot CES in the state and adapted that to the Housing Assessment and Resource Agency (HARA) model, then required each area identify a HARA as a condition of receiving ESG funding from the state.

This allowed MSHDA to comply with HEARTH in administering ESG to all communities and gave communities a template to work off in designing their CES.



# Coordinated Entry

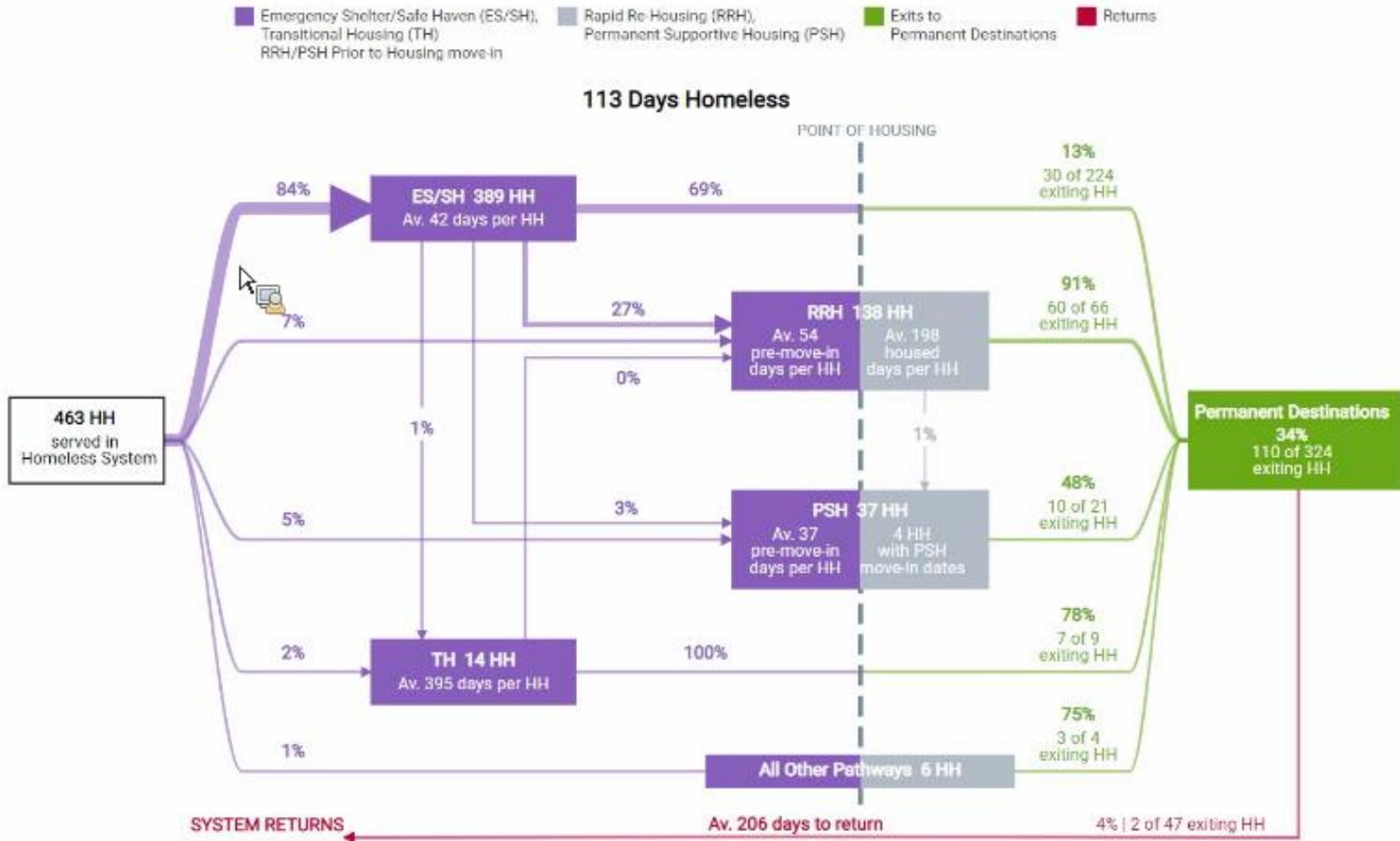
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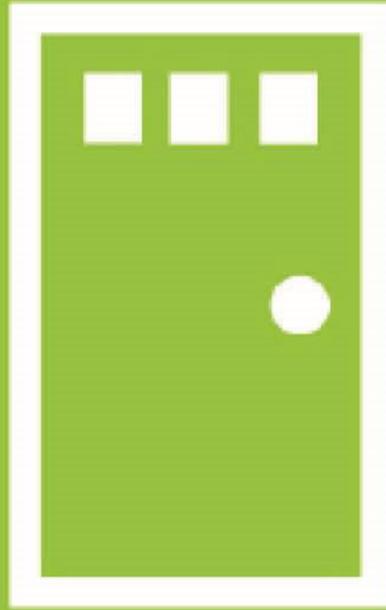


In Michigan communities, most of the Coordinated Entry processes have been carried out by a single agency; AKA, the Housing Assessment and Resource Agency (HARA).

However, an effective Coordinated Entry System is comprised by many partnering agencies, particularly in the **ACCESS** and **REFERRAL** processes. Especially incorporating I&R in the Access to the system.

# Mapping Pathways in CES





## MEASURES & STRUCTURE

# System Performance Measures

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HUD developed seven\* measures that help homeless crisis response systems track their system's ability to end homelessness and improvement over time.

SPM 1: Length of Time Persons Remain Homeless\*\*

SPM 2: The extent to which persons exiting to Permanent Housing return to homelessness after (6, 12, 24) months\*\*

SPM 3: Number of Homeless Persons\*\*

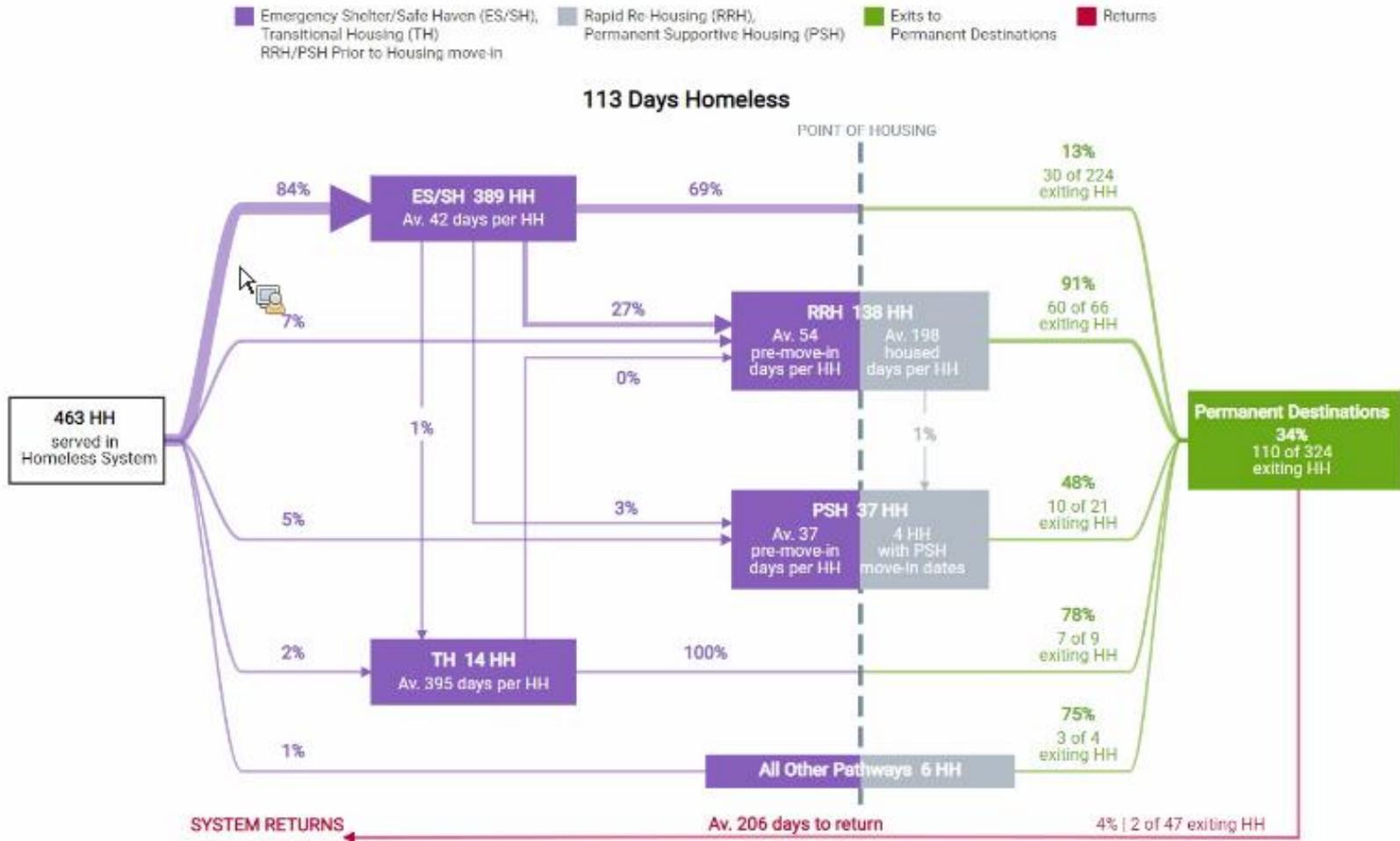
SPM 4: Employment and Income Growth for Persons in CoC Program-funded Projects

SPM 5: Number of Persons who become Homeless for the First Time

SPM 7: Successful Exits to or Retention of Permanent Housing\*\*

\* SPM 6 is not currently in use \*\*Primary Measures

# System Performance Measure Uses



# Michigan Continuum of Care Structure

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Michigan has roughly 20 separate Continuums of Care

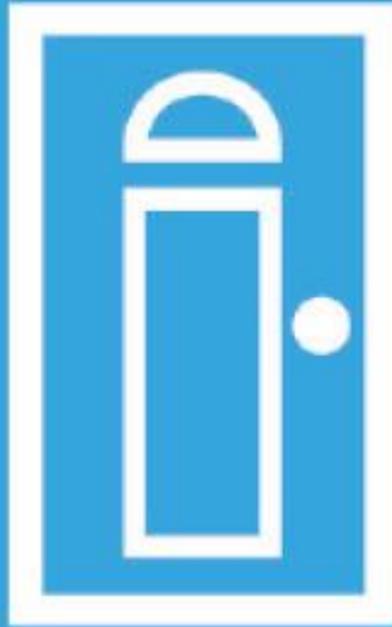
Largest (geographically) is the Balance of State CoC– 59 rural counties

Balance of State (BoS) is split up into Local Planning Bodies (LPB). The larger system work happens through BoS Governance Committee, which is made up of a person from each county.

LPBs meet to work on the community level work of operating the Coordinated Entry System, checking data quality and building diverse system engagement.

A coordinator for the BoS is housed at MSHDA to facilitate this work.





## WORKING WITH INFO & REFERRAL AGENCIES

# Discussion

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How might CoCs/LPBs best engage with I&R?

- Productive relationships across the state

How might data sharing between systems help both sides?

Can I&R help connect CoCs/LPBs to other Systems of Care more effectively?

How can the Balance of State Leadership help?

- Are the meetings you attend productive?



# Links

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Balance of State Continuum of Care:

[miboscoc.com](http://miboscoc.com)

MSHDA Homeless Resources:

<https://www.michigan.gov/mshda/0,4641,7-141-5515---,00.html>

HEARTH Act:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/homeless-needs-assistance/hearth-act/>

