

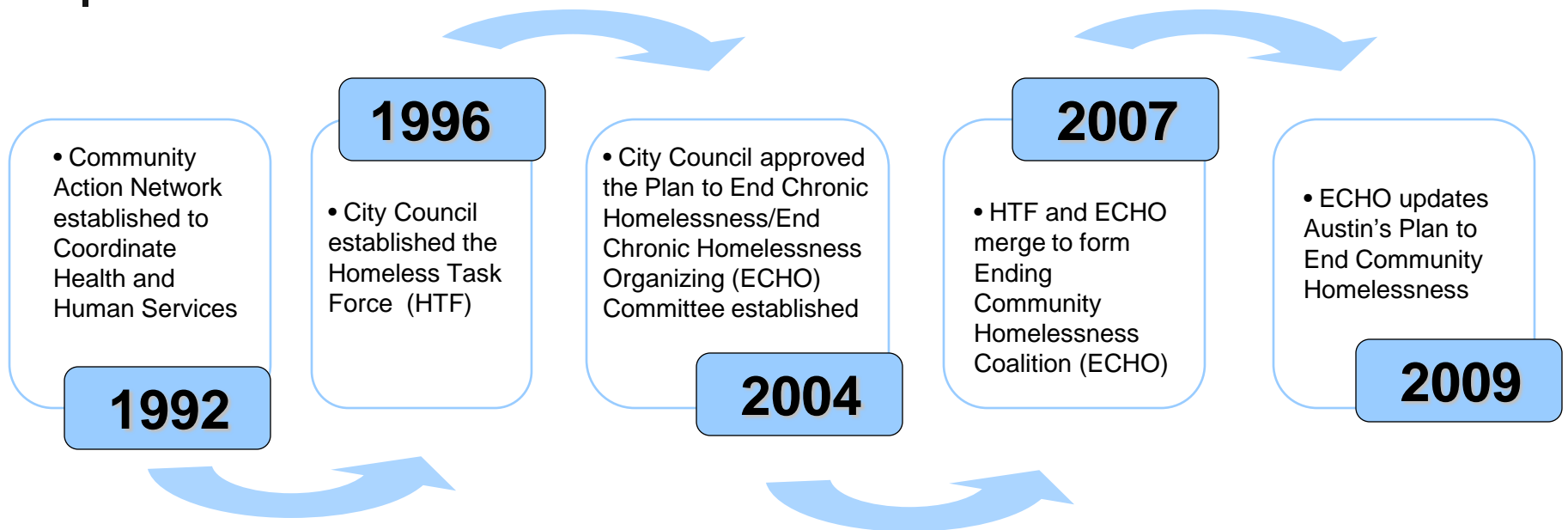


A Plan to End Community Homelessness

Presented by: Ed McHorse, Chair, ECHO

Background

- Formal planning on homelessness since 1996
- The 10 Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness (2004)
- The Plan to End Community Homelessness 2010

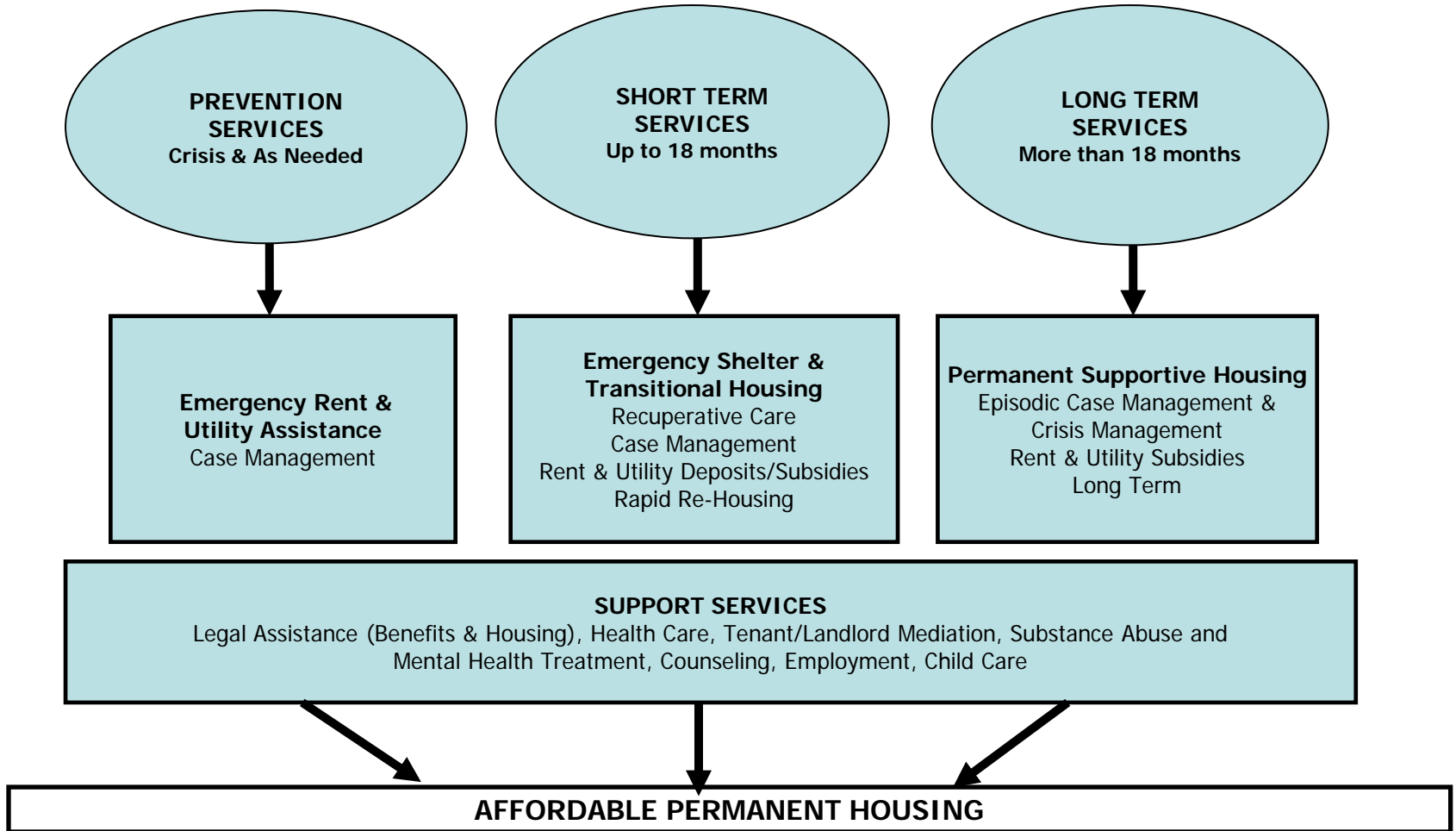




ECHO's Role

- Coordinating the annual Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care application
- Conducting the annual homeless count
- Providing outreach through the annual Homeless Resource Fair
- Serving as the homeless planning entity for the community
- Advocating for homeless issues

Homeless Services Continuum





Homeless Population

- January 2009 Point in Time Count
 - Sheltered 1,345
 - Unsheltered 1,223
 - TOTAL 2,568

- Number of unduplicated clients entered in HMIS for Continuum of Care (2008) – 6,407



Critical Needs

- Additional affordable and permanent supportive housing
- Enhanced services targeted for special need populations
 - Physical disabilities, including HIV/AIDS
 - Mental health and/or substance abuse issues
 - Criminal background
 - Youth aging out of foster care
 - Veterans
- Prevention programs to identify and intervene quickly to keep people in their homes
- Employment opportunities and workforce development targeted at homeless population



Critical Needs, continued

- Legal assistance & tenant/landlord mediation
- Systemic level data management -- HMIS, annual count/survey, utilization, reporting
- Effective systemic approach to addressing issues – led by coordinating entity
- Visible, committed leader to champion the cause
 - Community education
 - Engage policymakers
 - Funding opportunities



CSH Financial Modeling Report

- Permanent supportive housing (PSH) is permanent, affordable housing linked to a range of support services that enable vulnerable tenants, especially the long-term homeless, to live independently and participate in community life.
- Total Need for New Permanent Supportive Housing in Austin/Travis County: 1889 Units for Chronic Homeless
- Short-Term Production Goal: 350 Units by Year-End 2014
 - 90 leased units
 - 260 new construction units



CSH Report, cont'd

Summary of Costs of Construction and Operation:

350 PSH Units

Capital Cost (Constr/Rehab: 260 units)

Operating/Rental Subsidy Cost (350 units)

Service Costs (350 units)

Total Cost

\$23.2M One-time

\$3.3M Annually

\$4.1M Annually



Plan: Prevention

- People at risk of becoming homeless will be identified early and receive the assistance they need to maintain appropriate housing
 - Develop community-wide strategies to prevent homelessness
 - Expand on-going efforts that provide housing and financial stability for populations at-risk of homelessness
 - Enhance community collaboration and partnerships to address prevention strategies
 - Educate the community about homelessness and advocate for evidence-based practices and solutions



Plan: Short-Term Homelessness

- People who become homeless will be able to move quickly back into housing and receive appropriate support services to maintain housing
 - Continue to improve and expand rapid re-housing strategies
 - Continue to improve and expand intervention services
 - Expand job training, employment, and access to mainstream services (SSI, SNAP, etc)
 - Enhance community collaboration to improve and redesign current programs



Plan: Long-Term Homelessness

- People experiencing long-term homelessness will have stable housing and effective supportive services, including treatment for persistent mental illness and substance abuse issues
 - Implement pilot projects and expand effective strategies serving targeted populations
 - Increase housing and services capacity to serve people who experience long-term homelessness
 - Enhance community partnerships to address long-term homelessness strategies
 - Expand job training, employment, and access to mainstream services
 - Expand access to and coordination with mental health, health and substance abuse services
 - Expand family support services, i.e., child care



Plan: Highly Effective Coordination

- Enhanced strategic planning and the federal Continuum of Care management, data performance, reporting, policy development, and funding coordination at the local level
 - Establish a sustainable structure to implement community-wide strategies to end homelessness which includes incorporation of ECHO into a 501(c)(3) coordinating entity with a redesigned governing structure that increases the effectiveness of communication, data management/reporting, planning/policy development, funding coordination
 - Develop a mechanism to strengthen policy development and advocacy efforts to end homelessness
 - Continue to manage and improve the annual HUD Continuum of Care process
 - Improve data quality and reporting



Plan: Measuring Results

- ECHO will begin with annual CoC and data from HMIS to measure progress
 - Maintaining effective programs
 - Increasing housing options
 - Increasing service delivery
 - Establishment of ECHO as 501(c)(3)
 - Increased HMIS reliability and participation
 - Fewer homeless individuals and families



What can you do?

- Advocate for additional permanent supportive housing units
- Volunteer for the annual homeless count
- Join one of the ECHO Committees
- Support a local homeless agency with your time or money
- Advocate for a community-wide response