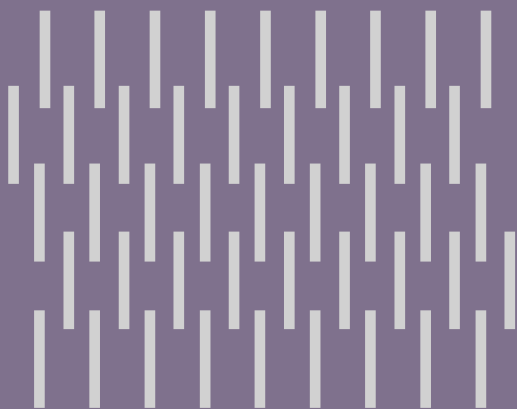


**HOMELESSNESS CRISIS
RESPONSE SYSTEM**

Racial Equity Report

2019

Clark County,
Washington



Leadership • Advocacy • Solutions

What is Racial Equity?

Racial equity is the condition that will be achieved if one's racial identity no longer predicts, in a statistical sense, how one fares (Center for Assessment and Policy Development).

Racial equity is measurable, real and quantifiable. It is not a nebulous concept to only consider after hosting trainings and discussions.

When a client's outcome cannot be predicted based on a one's race, ethnicity, gender identity, or membership in another targeted group the system is equitable.

Equity is outcome-focused. It requires comprehensive training for staff at all levels (not just front-line). Actively using data to identify disparities, ensuring staff demographics reflect the people served, and the willingness to have hard conversations to progress outcomes.

Clark County has made notable progress towards more equitable outcomes between 2018 and 2019. This can be attributed to the community's increased focus on equity. This is worth celebrating, while remembering there are still many opportunities create a more equitable homeless crisis response system.

Equity Statement

"Council for the Homeless is committed to creating an equitable organization that is inclusive and representative of the communities we serve. We recognize progressing equity is a strength and is critical to advancing our mission."



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In Clark County in 2019...

22% of the total population identified as people of color



36% of all people experiencing homelessness identified as people of color



35% of all people accessing coordinated entry identified as people of color



35% of all people entering housing programs identified as people of color

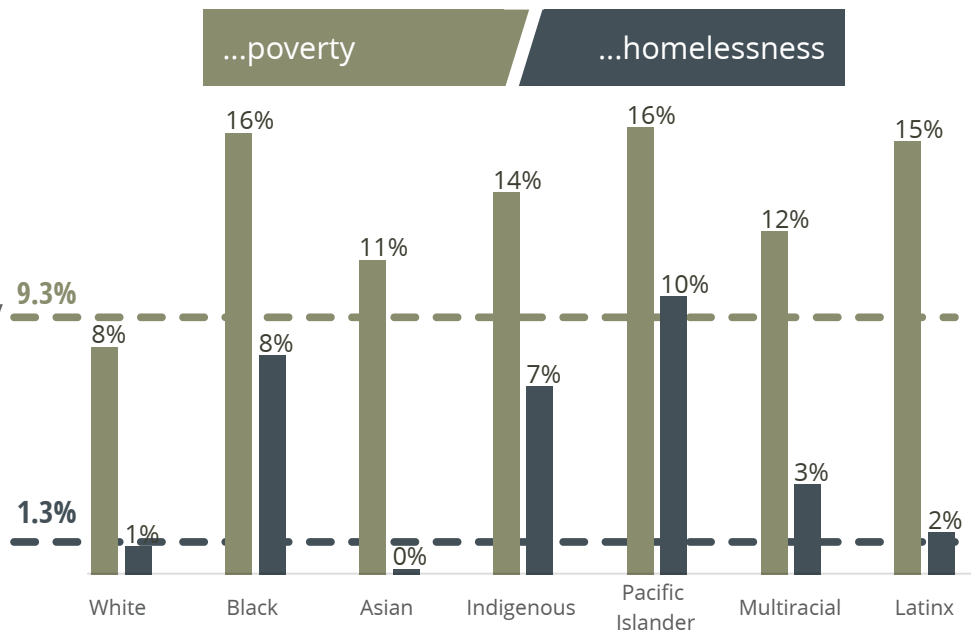


We are closing gaps.

In 2018, people of color were more likely to need help with housing instability, but less likely to receive it. People of color were still more likely to need help in 2019, compared to white people, but the gap between groups accessing housing programs shrunk by seven percent.

In general, people of color are significantly more likely to experience poverty and homelessness in Clark County. The dotted lines show the likelihood of the average person in Clark County experiencing these states; bars taller than the dotted line indicate greater vulnerability.

Likelihood of experiencing....



Green arrows indicate fewer than 80% of the the households expected for this category were engaged, based on overall distributions

Purple arrows indicate more than 120% of the households expected for this category were engaged, based on overall distributions

	Single	Senior Single	Couple	Senior Couple	Single Parent	Two Parent Family	Unaccompanied Minor
Asian	—	↓	↑	—	↑	↓	↑
Black	—	↓	—	↓	↑	↓	↓
Indigenous	—	—	↓	↑	—	↑	—
Pacific Islander	—	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	—
Two or More Races	—	↓	—	—	—	↓	↑
White	—	—	—	—	—	—	↓
Latinx	—	↓	↓	—	↑	—	↑

Different populations experience homelessness differently. For example...



22%

Of white people experiencing homelessness were children.



31%

Of Black people experiencing homelessness were children.

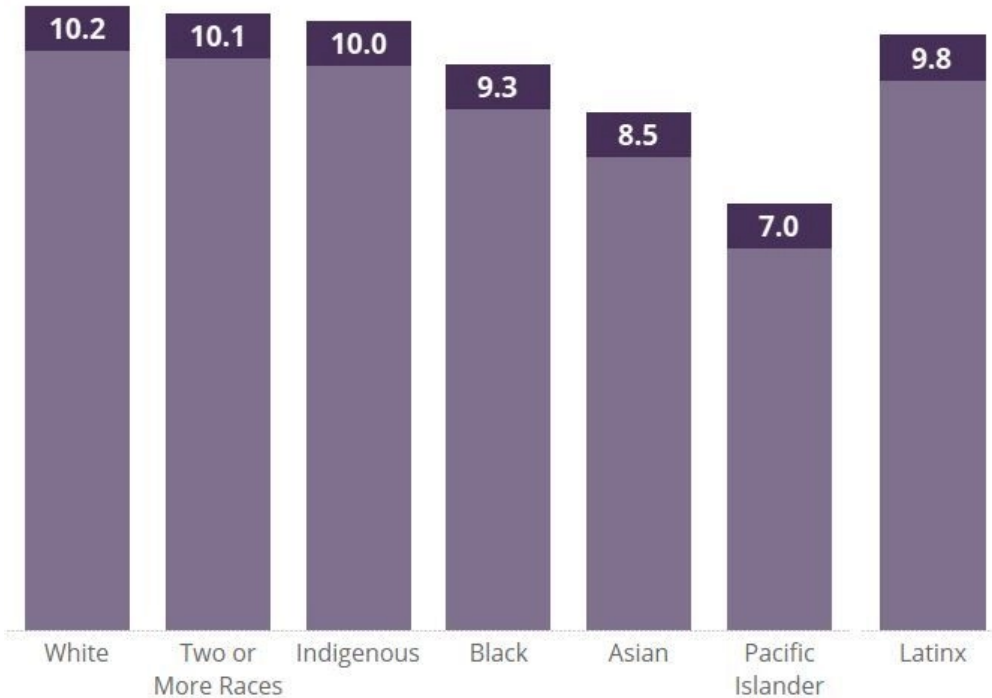


46%

Of Pacific Islanders experiencing homelessness were children.



COORDINATED ENTRY EVALUATION



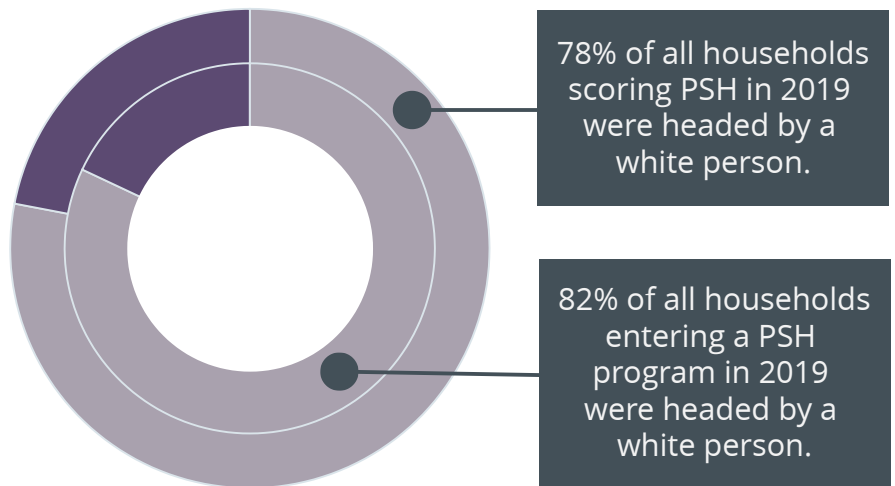
THE AVERAGE VI-SPDAT SCORE GAP BETWEEN PEOPLE WHO ARE WHITE AND PEOPLE OF COLOR ACCESSING COORDINATED ENTRY IN 2019 WAS

.76 POINTS

VI-SPDAT - WHAT IS IT?

Coordinated entry uses a survey administered by trained staff to help match the most vulnerable members of our community to appropriate housing programs. Historically, Clark County has used the VI-SPDAT to measure vulnerability. There is now a reasonable body of evidence indicating that it may systematically prioritize white people. After considerable convening a diverse group of stakeholders, Clark County transitioned to a new, locally-developed tool intended to address this gap on January 15, 2020.

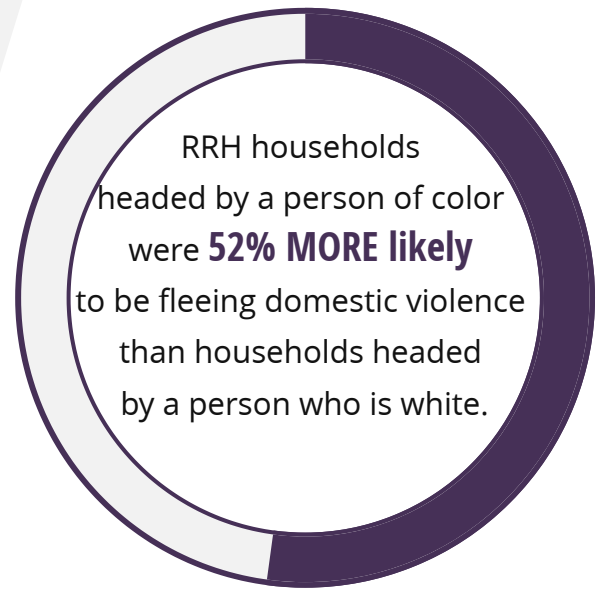
People who are white are slightly more likely to score into permanent supportive housing programs than people of color, but households headed by white people still make up a disproportionate number of permanent supportive housing program entries.



RAPID RE-HOUSING (RRH) OUTCOMES

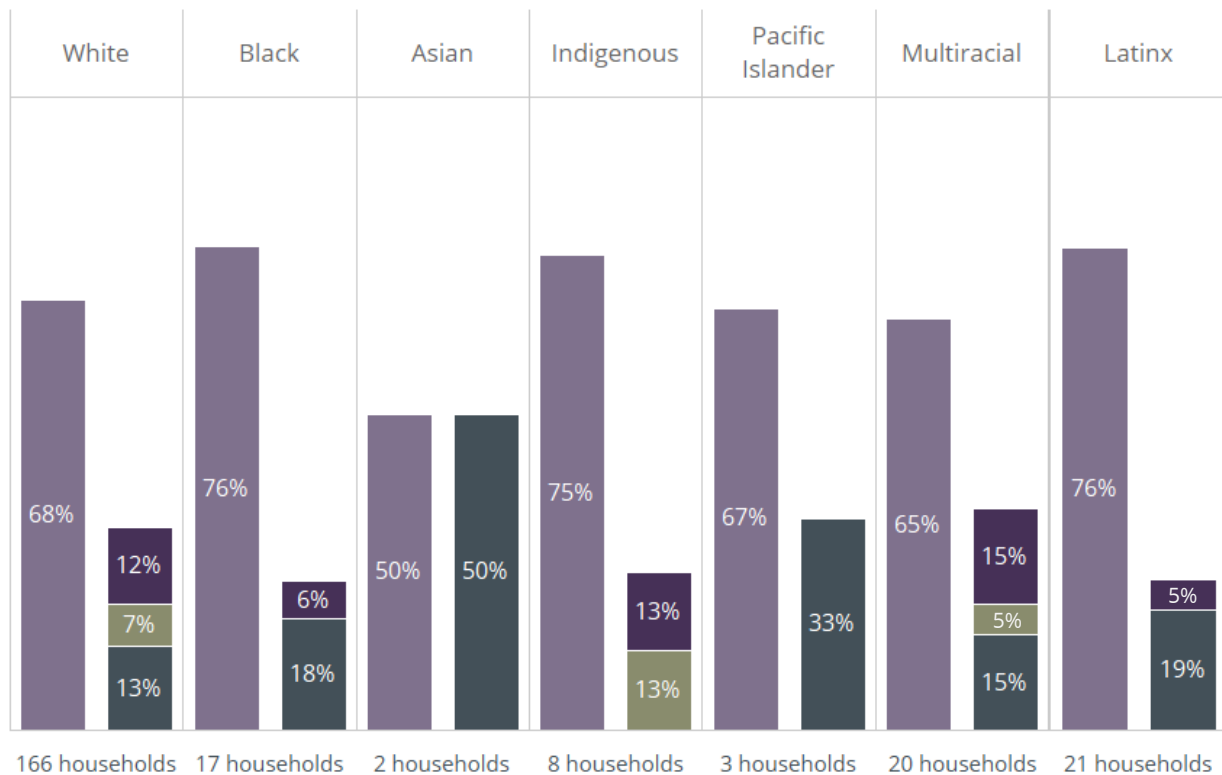
RRH - WHAT IS IT?

Rapid Re-housing is an intervention designed to help individuals and families quickly exit homelessness, return to housing in the community, and not become homeless again. The core components of RRH are housing identification, move-in and rent assistance, and rapid re-housing case management and services. RRH rental assistance generally lasts from six months to two years, and clients are on their own lease while in program.



RAPID RE-HOUSING HIGHLIGHTS

- Households headed by people of color were **44% more likely** to be exited due to loss of contact than households headed by white people.
- In 2019, households headed by people of color accounted for **26% more** of all rapid re-housing entries than in 2018 (these households accounted for 35% of entries in 2019 compared to only 28% of entries in 2018).

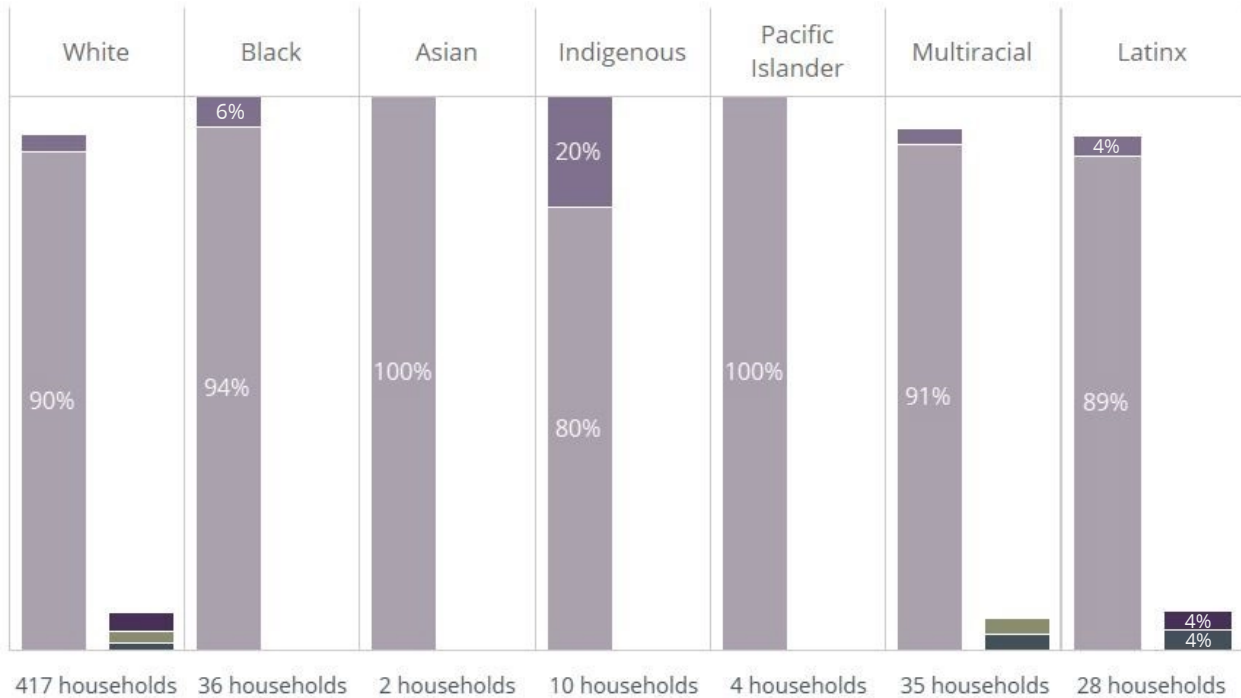


- Exited to Housing
- Exited to Other Destination
- Exited to Homelessness
- Lost Contact



PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (PSH) OUTCOMES

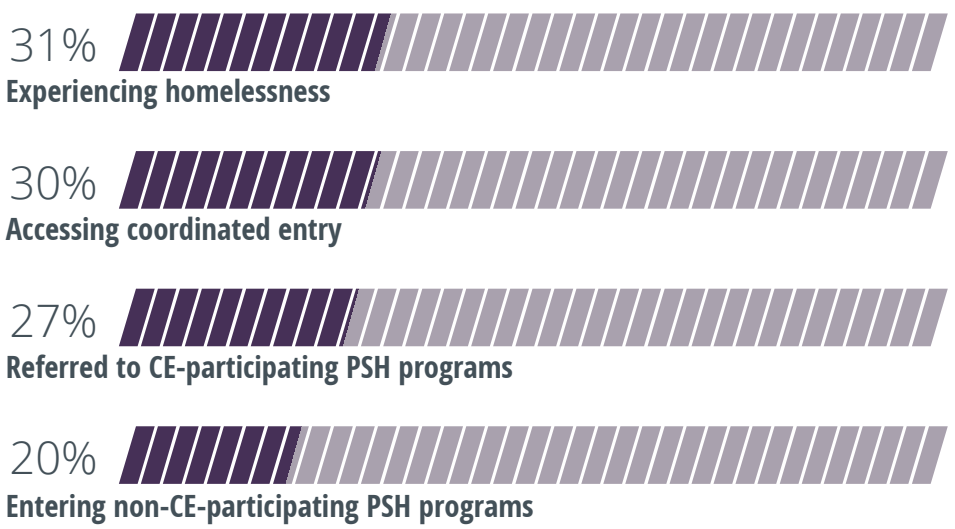
-  Still in Program
-  Exited to Housing
-  Exited to Other Destination
-  Exited to Homelessness
-  Lost Contact



PSH - WHAT IS IT?

PSH is an intervention that combines affordable housing assistance with voluntary support services to address the needs of people who are chronically homeless and the most vulnerable. The services are designed to increase quality of life, including building independent living and tenancy skills and connecting people with community-based health care, treatment and employment services.

Not all housing programs participate in coordinated entry (CE). CE is a tool that can help program entry decisions be more equitable. This is well illustrated by the decreasing proportions of households headed by a person of color at each of the following points in the 2019 homelessness crisis response system:



DIVERSION OUTCOMES

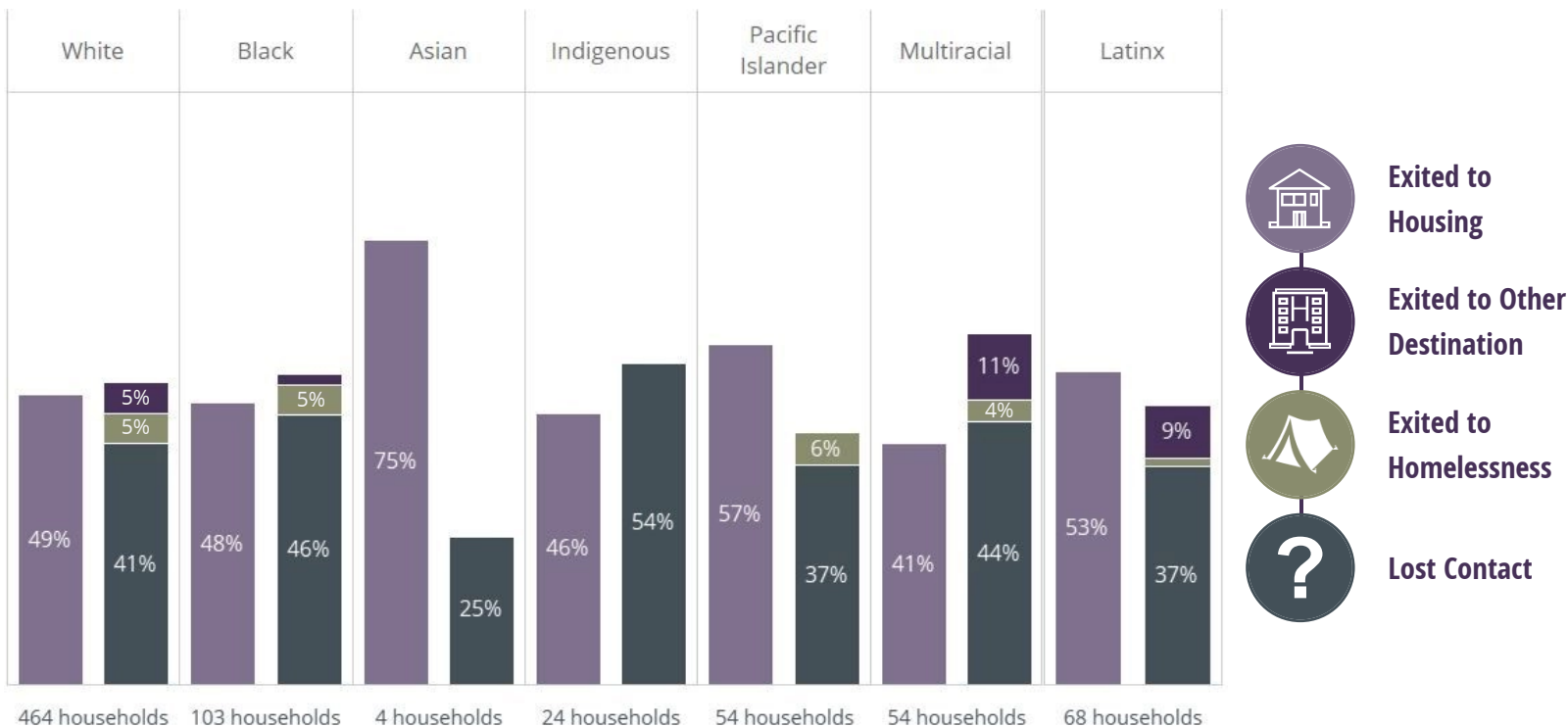
Diversion - WHAT IS IT?

Diversion is a partnership between individuals and staff with a focus on stable housing. Many people do not need the longer-term services the homelessness crisis response system focuses on: intensive assistance. People are supported in identifying their strengths and resources and addressing their barriers to housing through creative problem solving. Diversion helps preserve the most intensive interventions for those for people who need more supports.

DIVERSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Households headed by people of color accounted for **39% of all program entries**, higher than any other program type besides homelessness prevention
- Households headed by a multiracial person had a **10% chance** of entering the coordinated entry system after accessing diversion, the highest of any significant group
- Diversion exited **138 households** headed by a person of color to permanent housing in 2019, more than triple the same metric for rapid re-housing

49% OF HOUSEHOLDS EXITING DIVERSION IN 2019 EXITED TO STABLE HOUSING
(50% positive exits is the statewide average.)



OPPORTUNITIES TO INCREASE RACIAL/ETHNIC EQUITY

COORDINATED ENTRY ASSESSMENTS

Clark County started using a new local assessment tool geared towards equity in January 2020. The tool continues to be monitored to determine how it influences outcomes for different groups. The tool will be improved, as appropriate.

RAPID RE-HOUSING

RRH programs should be required to meet specific thresholds in order to determine the household has "Lost Contact." This exit type should be a last resort option after considerable outreach has been conducted by the program, including working with outreach teams and Housing Solutions Center.

DIVERSION

81% of all negative Diversion exits reflect that we lost contact with the client, and this is slightly more common among households headed by a person of color (5% more likely than those headed by white people). Options around automating outreach to households that have fallen out of contact should be explored to increase engagement.

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

In general, referrals from coordinated entry (CE) to permanent supportive housing (PSH) programs are 35% more diverse than entries into non-CE-participating PSH programs. Increased CE participation should make program access more equitable.

Funders

All Funders of programs that serve/house people experiencing homelessness should require all contractors to enter high quality data into HMIS and provide dedicated funding for translation and interpretation support, as well as equity work.

FUNDERS

All funders of programs that serve/house people experiencing homelessness should be looking at the racial and ethnic diversity of its programs and making needed adjustments with contractors to increase equity.

