unity shelter

Mission, Programs, Future

www.unityshelter.org

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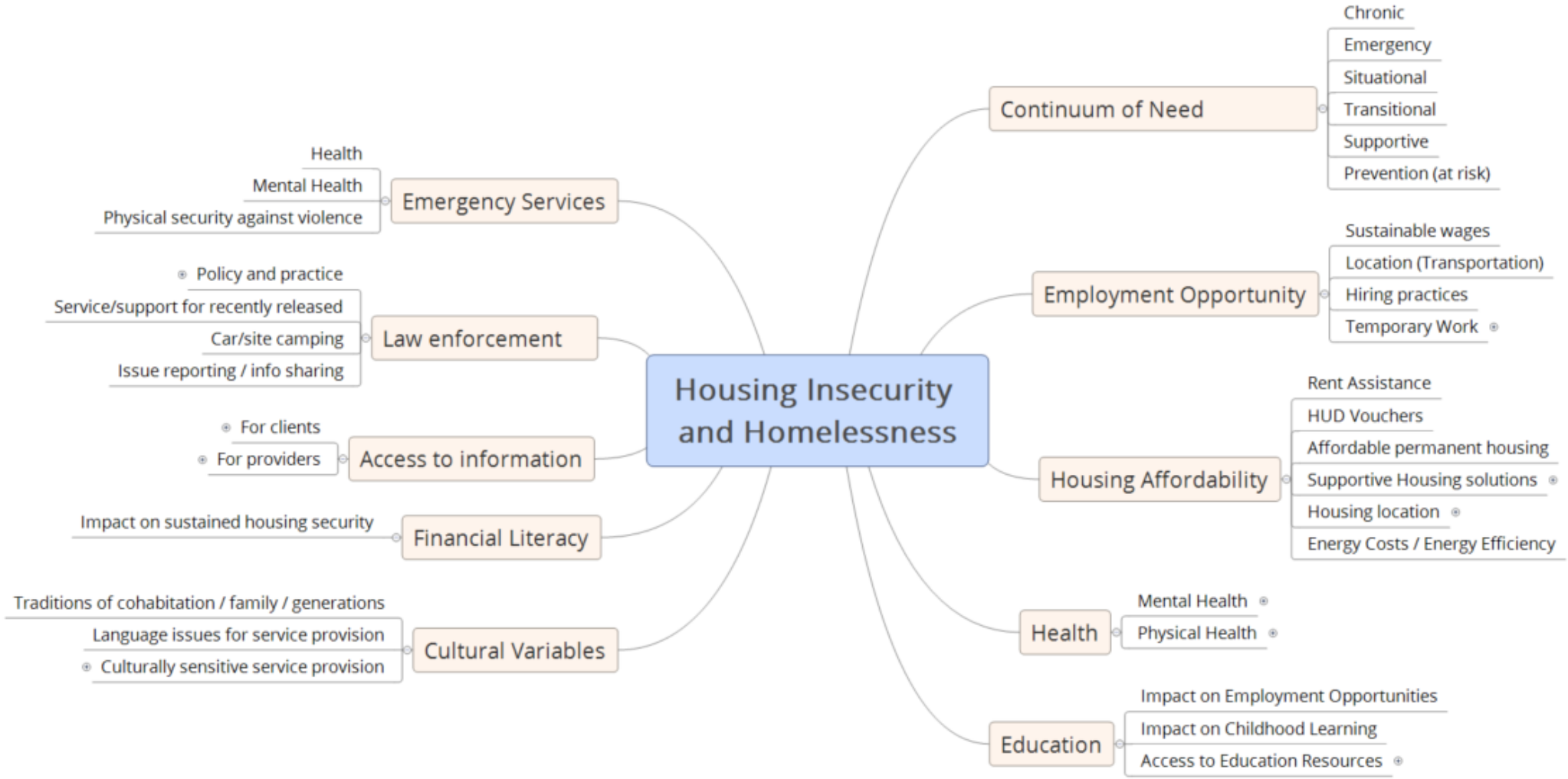
ttps://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/84/Homeless_New_York_2008.jpeg

Spectrum of need in our community

Solutions and needed services vary across the spectrum of need.

While the chronically homeless and provision of basic shelter draws much of the spotlight, there is a continuum that must be addressed to fulfill our shared need for safe, affordable housing.

Housing stability: a complex web of issues



Add the intersection of organizational charters, non-profit fund raising, national & local politics, personal perspectives and bias…

Maslow: Levels of Need in the Hierarchy Interact and Influence Response to Crisis and Resilience

Social / Psychological Actualization and Integration

Safety / Physical Security / Stability

Physiological / Biological Needs

Brain chemistry is now understood to function in relation to needs being met. The core theory that base levels of stability in basic needs influence and enable successful fulfillment of more complex needs is complemented by understanding needs in relation to trauma, and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).

Paths and Solutions: Steps and Cycles

Stability and Self-Sufficiency

The appropriate goal for many is true self-sufficiency and stability. However, financial or personal crises can undermine past success. Failure out of housing may be a repeating cycle if adequate resilience is not developed.

Unsheltered/Unhoused Unstable

Housing instability, or the loss of housing, can set in motion long-lasting physical and psychological impacts. Mitigating these impacts through rapid re-housing can be critical in the first 6 weeks after loss of housing.

Supported, Goal Driven, Accountable

Intensive supports may not be required long-term as confidence builds, and new skills/habits solidify. However, ongoing case management, tenant supports, and efforts to ensure social re-integration may be required.

Rebuilding and Skill (re)Development

Focused efforts to address immediate basic needs must be accompanied by broader efforts to build or re-establish skills and habits required to successfully regain/retain housing.

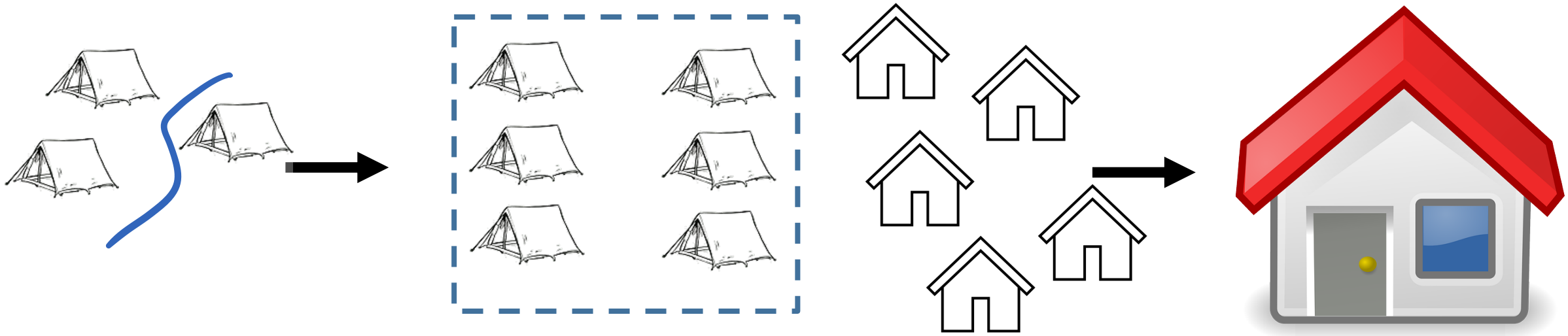
Solutions must “do enough, for long enough.” Failure to retain housing is not uncommon, and solutions must address the unique needs of the individual or household, and accommodate the possibility of repeated failures on a path to stability. Systems and solutions should be “trauma informed,” culturally appropriate, and focused on short and long-term needs.

What is needed to support a person?

Do Enough
For Long Enough
Through
Networked Supports and Resources
To Restore and Support Recovery, Stability, Health, and Ongoing Positive Engagement

- Restoration of resources, dignity and hope
  - Resources and supportive services
    - Housing, food, hygiene, financial supports, healthcare (dental, physical, mental)
    - Legal and other systems navigation and advocacy
  - Supportive community engagement and integration
    - Opportunities for learning and skill development
    - Hobbies and self-development/enjoyment
    - Volunteerism and the value of giving back, helping others

Building blocks on path to housing



UNITY SHELTER FOCUS

Un-regulated Camping
- Unsafe and insecure
- Illegal*
- Environmental Costs
- Enforcement Costs
- No real Service Point

Managed Camping/Shelter
- Behavior expectations
- Consistent Service Point
- Safe, Secure platforms for progress
- Accountability, Supports, Managed Costs, Case Management

Transitional Housing
- Family-friendly options
- Higher expectations of behavior and progress
- Stronger case management

Permanent/Supported
- Long term supports
- Stable rental and paths to ownership
- Evolved case management to support progress

LIMITED TIME SPAN / PROGRESSIVE EXPECTATIONS

Harm Reduction > Outreach > ACT & AST engagement > Case Management > Connection to Services > Training & Education

Unity Shelter: Responding to Needs, Integrating Successful Programs

- **Mission**: Providing Safe Shelter through Collaborative Care

- **Vision**: Community supported collaboration across services and sites, to ensure safe shelter, stability, access to basic hygiene and resources for persons experiencing homelessness, in a setting appropriate to each individual or couple's needs and circumstance.

- **Values:** Collaboration, Community Engagement, Safety

Unity Shelter: Program Descriptions

- Men's Shelter: ***Fiscal Agent:*** *Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.* ***PRE-COVID***: 50 bed seasonal shelter, serving men over the age of 18 from November 1-March 31. Case management and services delivered on-site through partnerships. Strong volunteer base, growing donation base. ***COVID***: Reduced to 15 beds for Nov-March, operating as Hygiene Center for daytime support of campers since March 2020.
- Room at the Inn: ***Fiscal Agent:*** *First United Methodist Church.* ***PRE-COVID***: 18 bed seasonal shelter, serving women over the age of 18 from November 1-March 31. Case management and services delivered on-site through direct staff and partnerships. Strong volunteer and donation base. Successful annual fund-raising event. ***COVID***: 24/7/365 shelter for 20+ with 3 meals daily
- SafePlace: ***Fiscal Agent:*** *First Congregational United Church of Christ.* Transitional housing, with tents and microshelters. Microshelter and vehicle camping at partner church locations. Safe Camp established in July 2019. Microshelters at FUMC, Corvallis Evangelical, and First Congregational. Developing organization, with strong advisory board engagement and early fund-raising success. ***COVID:*** Higher-risk men and women in microshelters.

Unity Shelter: Program Partnerships

- Men's Shelter:
  - Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
  - Good Samaritan Mobile Medical
  - Good Samaritan Homeless Resource Team
  - Benton County Health Department Harm Reduction & Health Navigation
  - Veterans Services
  - Corvallis Housing First Case Management Team
  - Linn-Benton Food Share
  - Stone Soup of Corvallis
  - First Alternative Co-op
- Room at the Inn:
  - First United Methodist Church
  - Good Samaritan Homeless Resource Team
  - Benton County Health Department Harm Reduction & Health Navigation
  - Veterans Services
  - Corvallis Housing First Case Management Team
  - Linn-Benton Food Share
- Safe Place:
  - First Congregational United Church of Christ and partner churches
  - Benton County Health Department Harm Reduction & Health Navigation
  - Good Samaritan Homeless Resource Team
  - Meals on Wheels

How does SafePlace help?

- Part of a continuum of needed housing options
- Distributed response to poverty and shared needs across the community
- Neighborhood placements leverage scarce property, create a more diverse neighborhood that reflects the entire community
- Coordinated Community Response
  - Supported by City and County
  - Supported by a rich network of community partners
  - Operated by an experienced organization based in the value of collaboration

What does SafePlace offer?

- Management of construction and placement of microshelter units, support for permitting
- Vetting of clients for medical, criminal background, barriers to housing
- Case management and connections to services across the community to support client progress on goals
- Weekly visits by program staff to assess conditions, engage with clients, address any issues with the unit or residents
- Basic needs support – food connections, healthcare connections, clothing and other needs as needed/able

How can you help?

- Political activity and advocacy: insist that your elected officials address the topic of affordable housing and homelessness in their campaigns and policy
- Support a more diverse community (economic, racial, educational) and programs that reflect that diversity
- Sustain the radical idea that all are worthy of love, respect, and critical resources to live a safe and healthy life - food, shelter, warmth, health care, community
- Give - time, skills, contacts, resources

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https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/15/Home_construction_in_Auburn_WA.jpg

Low or No Income

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Lack of Affordable / Supportive Housing

Homelessness / Chronic Homelessness

Formula courtesy of Ryan Diebert, Manager of Planning, Policy and Performance, Joint Office of Homeless Services, Portland/Multnomah County