

Housing Programs Inventory

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Housing Inventory // Overview

- As we reviewed Community Services programs, we identified a number of programs in other divisions and departments that provide housing assistance to vulnerable populations.
- At the time we decided to conduct an inventory of housing services, the Board of County Commissioners asked for an inventory of County programs that have housing as a component.
- We decided to conduct a survey in a manner that would satisfy the budget note.



Housing Inventory // Survey

We decided to conduct a survey to understand:

- What County programs offer housing related assistance?
- Who is the county serving?
- What services are provided?
- What is the cost?



Housing Inventory // Current Environment

Households face many challenges to stable, affordable housing:

- Tight rental market
- Lack of affordable housing
- High rates of poverty
- Erosion of employment opportunities

Very poor often experience greater challenges than others

- Mental health issues
- Low educational background
- Weak employment history
- Discrimination
- Victims of domestic abuse
- Victims of trauma



Housing Inventory // County's Role

- Many partners – federal, state, city, and non-governmental organizations – share in helping to help house people.
- Multnomah County's primary role is to provide housing assistance and homelessness prevention services for families, survivors of domestic violence, and youth.
- The County, in its role as a human services provider, also provides housing assistance to people with developmental disabilities, mental health issues, substance dependence, those living with HIV, and recently released criminal offenders.



Housing Inventory // Summary

- 30 programs across the County that provided housing assistance in FY 2014
- Programs span 3 departments and 8 divisions.
- Approximately forty percent of housing assistance expenditures directed toward homeless.
- Common types of housing assistance across many programs.
 - 19 programs provide case management/supportive services
 - 15 programs provide rent assistance

[Link to Tableau](#)



Housing Inventory // Recommendations

- Analyze County housing assistance programs from a system point of view, with an aim toward coordinating services more broadly across programs and increasing capacity.
- A review of performance measures might be a good starting point to better understand cost effectiveness and impact of housing assistance programs.

