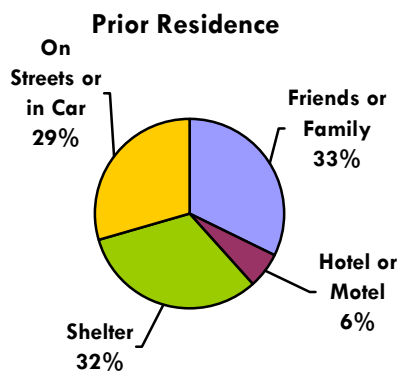# 30 Families in 30 Days Outcome Summary: FY 2009-2010

The 30 Families in 30 Days Program used a disaster relief model to quickly provide housing to 34 families within 30 days during the months of January and February. The program also supported the families in maintaining housing through at least June 30, 2010.
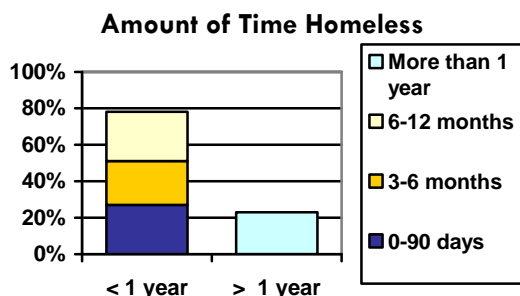
Unduplicated Number Served in 2010

Total Individuals:	104
Children:	56
Adults:	48
Families:	34

Demographics

- All of the families were homeless at the start of services.

Prior Residence

- On Streets or in Car 29%
- Friends or Family 33%
- Hotel or Motel 6%
- Shelter 32%

- The length of time families had been homeless ranged from 3 days to 5 years; 75% of the families were homeless less than one year.

Amount of Time Homeless

Legend:
- More than 1 year
- 6-12 months
- 3-6 months
- 0-90 days
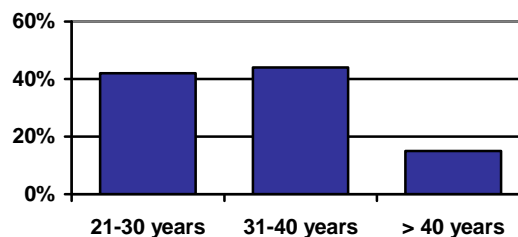
X-axis: < 1 year, > 1 year

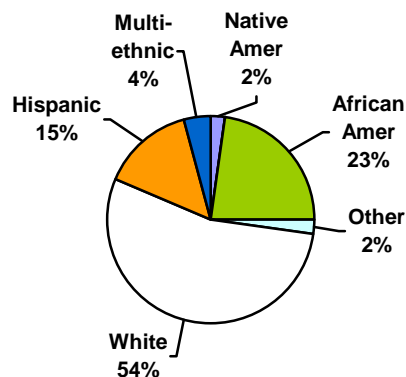- 91% of the families were living below U.S. poverty level standards

Adults

- 56% of the adult heads of household were seeking employment; 15% were at least partially employed or in a training program; 29% were not seeking employment.

- The average length the head of household had been unemployed was 27 months ranging from 0 days (for those with at least partial employment) to 12 years.

- Most of the households were headed by single parents (65%); 59% of households were headed by single mothers. The average age of the head of household was 34.5 years ranging from 23 to 53 years.

Age of Adults

X-axis: 21-30 years, 31-40 years, > 40 years

- Almost half (46%) of the adults identified themselves as a person of color or from a culturally-specific community.
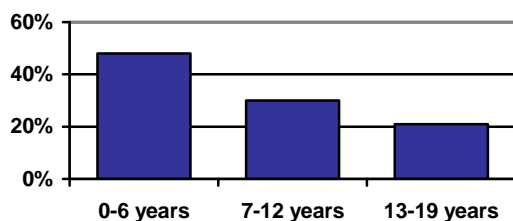
Race/Ethnicity of Adults

- Multi-ethnic 4%
- Native Amer 2%
- Hispanic 15%
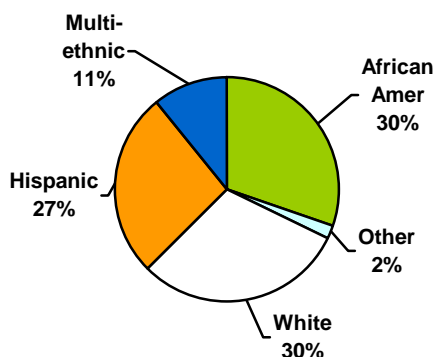- African Amer 23%
- Other 2%
- White 54%

Children

- The average number of children per family was 1.9; ranging from 1 to 5 children per household.   All 4 families without children included a female who was about to give birth.

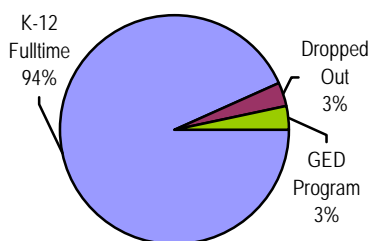- The average age of the children was 7.4 years ranging from infant to 19 years.

Age of Children

- About half of the children served were female (45%) and half were male (55%).

Race/Ethnicity of Children

- Children were more likely than adults to be of color or from a culturally specific community (70%) and specifically were more likely to be Hispanic, African American or multi-ethnic.
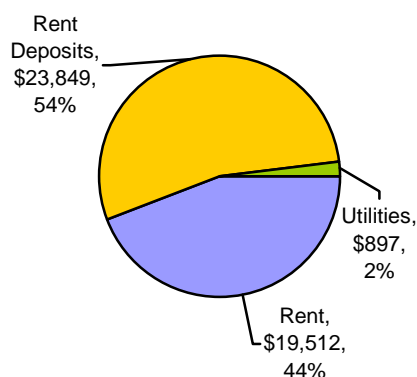
School Status of Children

- Of the 31 children who were school-aged, 97% were attending school full-time.

Housing Status and Expenses at 30 Days

- 100% of the families were living in rental housing within 30 days of entry into the program. Over half of the families were helped with just rent payments (29%) or just rental deposits (29%). Over one third 38% were helped with both rent and deposit and 4% with deposit and utilities. Through February 25th, 2010, a total of $44,258 was spent to house these families.

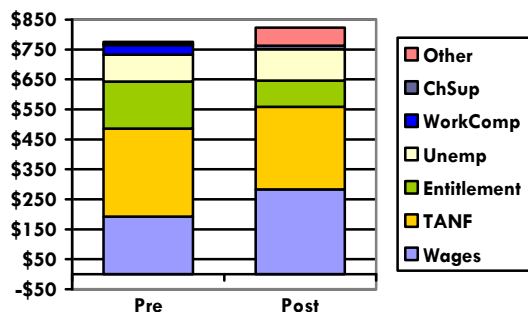**Inititial Cost of Placement**

Outcomes and Expenses at Program Exit

- Almost all of the 34 families (97%) completed services. Only one family's needs were not able to be met by this level of service.

- All of the families received case management services during their time in the program.

- All but one family (97%) were living in a rental house or apartment at the time of exit from the program. 29 families continued to receive case management services until June 30th, 2010; two families exited in March, two in April and one in May. Families averaged 140 days (4.6 months) between enrollment in and exit from services.
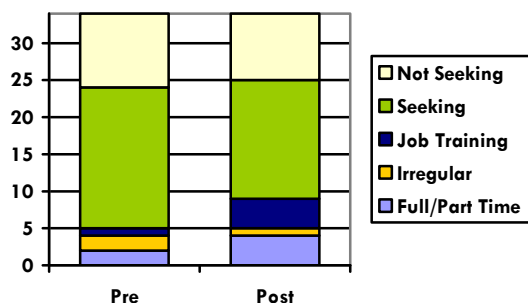
Family Income at Entry and Exit

- At the start of services, families averaged a monthly incomes of $775 compared to $822 at exit. 91% were below poverty level at entry compared to 85% at exit. This difference was not statistically significant.

Legend (bar chart): Other, ChSup, WorkComp, Unemp, Entitlement, TANF, Wages
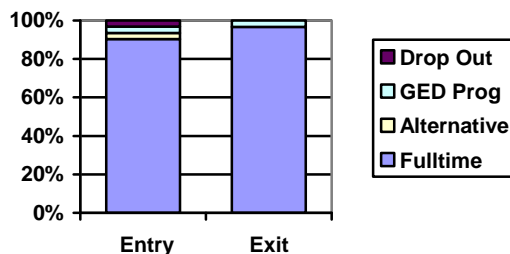
Employment at Entry and Exit

- Although three quarters of the families were unemployed (76%) at exit, 24% were employed compared to 15% at entry. Of the nine families who were not seeking work at exit, eight were disabled and one had another adult in the home working full-time.

Legend (bar chart): Not Seeking, Seeking, Job Training, Irregular, Full/Part Time

School Placement of Children at Entry and Exit
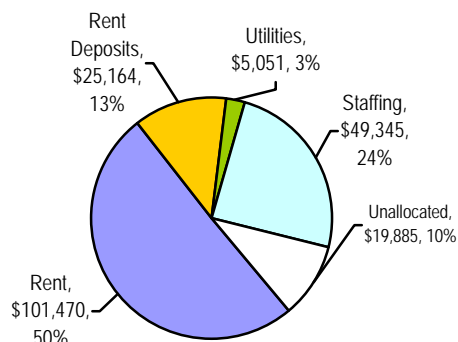
- 100% of the children were in the same school setting or were back in school at exit.

School Aged Children (N=31)

Legend: Drop Out, GED Prog, Alternative, Fulltime

Expenses

Actual Total Expenses

Rent Deposits, $25,164, 13%
Utilities, $5,051, 3%
Staffing, $49,345, 24%
Unallocated, $19,885, 10%
Rent, $101,470, 50%

Total Actual: $200,915

Summary

DELIBERATE AND REALIZED STRATEGIES

1. *Could a program of limited staffing and minimal rent assistance successfully house 30 families within 30 days?* In fact, this program was successful at employing a disaster relief model to quickly find rental housing for 34 homeless families within the 30 day framework.

2. *Would families who had access to rapid housing and limited case management services stay in the placement?* All but one family completed services and stayed in their rental housing for the entire time they were participating in services; an average of 4.6 months.

3. *Would housing families first contribute to self sufficiency?* The program had a small positive effect on income[1], future housing stability and school enrollment.

   - Both average income and the percent of adult heads of household who were employed increased.

   - Anecdotally, families were able to get enrolled in other, more permanent housing subsidy services (e.g., Family Futures, Housing Authority of Portland, etc.).

   - School aged children were able to maintain school enrollment.

4. *Could landlords be successfully recruited to replace the ones being used to house the 30 families?* With money that was built into the model, service providers were able to use existing landlords to implement the rapid housing model and at the same time recruit for new landlords. In all, 32 new landlords were added to agency lists.

DELIBERATE AND UNREALIZED STRATEGIES

5. *Could volunteers be utilized to supplement staffing and assist families with getting situated in their rental housing?* The use of volunteers was not as successful as was hoped because it was difficult to match what the families needed with what volunteers were able to offer. Thirteen of the families were matched with volunteers who were able to meet some of their needs.

EMERGENT AND REALIZED STRATEGIES

1. *Were there unanticipated positive side effects to the model?* Because of the short timeline of the program, providers had access to (a) highly flexible funding and (b) were required to do only the most essential documentation of their work. The highly flexible funding allowed providers the freedom to make the most efficient and effective investments in each household, adjusting the amount, duration, and type of support to meet each household's specific needs. Minimizing documentation requirements by focusing primarily on critical outcome measures (e.g. placement, retention) freed provider staff to move quickly to take advantage of housing opportunities and reduced the amount of staffing necessary to achieve the placement and retention outcomes.

Conclusions

The housing first approach of 30 Families in 30 Days offers evidence that families can be rapidly placed and stabilized in rental housing using minimal resources and staffing and averting homelessness.

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[1] In a different economic times, more of the adults may have secured employment or secured employment paying a higher wage. The percent of the labor force that was unemployed, not seasonally adjusted in Oregon as of June 2010 was 10.4%.