

Two cross-agency initiatives to help  
end homelessness

**HOUSING AND SERVICES  
FOR HOMELESS PERSONS  
DEMONSTRATION**

# Premise

- ⦿ Homelessness requires **housing** response and **services** response
- ⦿ Stable housing is well-known to have positive impact on individual and families
- ⦿ Emergency care systems are inadequate and costly

# Purpose

- ⦿ Equip mainstream programs to end homelessness (Supplement HUD's targeted homeless assistance programs)
- ⦿ Enable necessary partnerships across housing, healthcare, and social services
- ⦿ Build a research and programmatic understanding of how to collaborate across federal departments to ensure that the full range of needs of vulnerable populations are met in an effective, humane and cost effective way.
- ⦿ Produce further evidence that stable housing can reduce federal and local health and services costs long term

# Program Overview

- ◎ **\$85 million** in 2011 budget
- ◎ Providing up to **10,000 vouchers** to homeless families and individuals
- ◎ Partnerships with **Department of Health and Human Services** and **Department of Education**
- ◎ Two initiatives targeting
  - Chronic Homelessness
  - Family Homelessness

# #1 Chronic Homelessness

## Problem:

- 124,135 chronically homeless persons in shelters or on the street each night
- Homeless persons are currently being served by crisis services (e.g. emergency rooms) that provide short-term and costly care

## Goal:

- ⦿ Reduce chronic homelessness by combining stable housing with supportive services
- ⦿ Offer insights on how to better use Medicaid and other health and human services to provide wrap around services under the new healthcare environment

# #1 Chronic Homelessness

## What?

- ⦿ Combines Housing Choice Vouchers, Medicaid assistance and social service resources to fund housing and supportive services for single, childless adults who are homeless

## How?

- ⦿ Up to **4,000 vouchers** available to PHAs through competition
- ⦿ PHA must demonstrate partnership with local HHS funded agency
- ⦿ **Voucher** covers housing costs; **Medicaid** covers cost of supportive services

# #2 - Families with Children

## Problem:

- Accessing affordable family housing is very challenging without a subsidy
- Impacts of unstable housing on children are especially pronounced

## Goal

- ⦿ Prevent and reduce family homelessness by establishing a mechanism for HUD, HHS, and DOE agencies to coordinate expertise, access to at-risk families, and services
- ⦿ Reduce costs associated with poor school performance and poverty.

# #2 - Families with Children

## What?

- Schools, non-profits, and government agencies identify families with children that are homeless or at risk of being homeless,
- HUD and HHS intervene with the appropriate array of housing assistance, income supports, and services to ensure that the family does not fall into the shelter system or on the street, or rapidly exits homelessness, and
- HUD and HHS Provide the tools necessary to assist the family to build on its resources to escape poverty and reach its highest possible level of self-sufficiency.

## How?

- Up to 6,000 vouchers available through a collaborative HHS-DOE-HUD competition
- Target communities with:
  - 1. high concentration of homeless families
  - 2. well coordinated plan involving PHA, TANF agency, local schools, and other community partners

# Wrap-Up

- ⦿ Targeted homelessness assistance programs alone cannot, and will not end homelessness.
- ⦿ Mainstream housing, health, and human service programs will have to be more fully engaged to prevent future homelessness and reduce the number of families and individuals currently homeless.
- ⦿ The new Housing and Services for Homeless Persons Demonstration begins to create the infrastructure necessary to adequately meet the needs of these individuals.