

National Alliance to End Homelessness.
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2.8 Funding Efficiently: Using Data to Allocate and Reallocate Resources

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National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Conference 2014

Megan Kurteff Schatz
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www.focusstrategies.net



We believe the HEARTH Act and Opening Doors lead the way to finally ending homelessness.

ABOUT FOCUS STRATEGIES



FocusStrategies.net

Investing Effectively

Funding a Housing Crisis Resolution System:

- Resources strategically invested to achieve a specific system goal
- Each part of the system is held accountable for pulling its weight

Reality of Current Investments

Our work in various parts of the country shows most communities have enough money to right-size now.

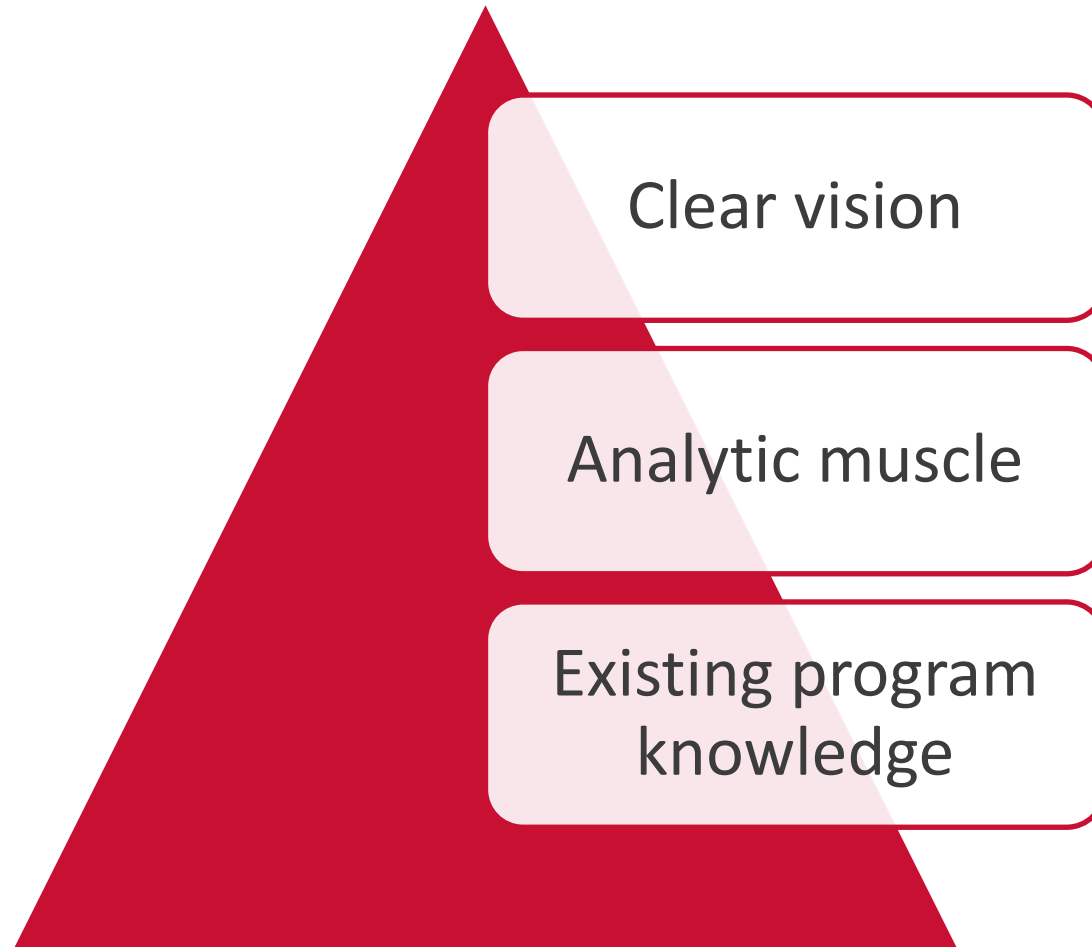
It isn't happening because many funds are not strategically invested.

Housing Crisis Resolution System

Creating a HCRS takes 5 things:

1. Know what you are doing now
2. Decide whether what you are doing now is adequate
3. Understand what needs to be improved
4. Develop initiatives and make changes as needed
5. Measure results & continuously tweak

What it Takes to Right-Size



Data Project Examples

- Orange County, CA
 - Large urban community
 - Intensive right-sizing work underway
- Eureka, CA
 - Small rural community
 - Just beginning to right-size

Orange County, CA

- Urban County with 34 incorporated cities, no large city center
- Total population: 3,010,232
- 2013 PIT Homeless Count: 4,251

OCP Data Projects

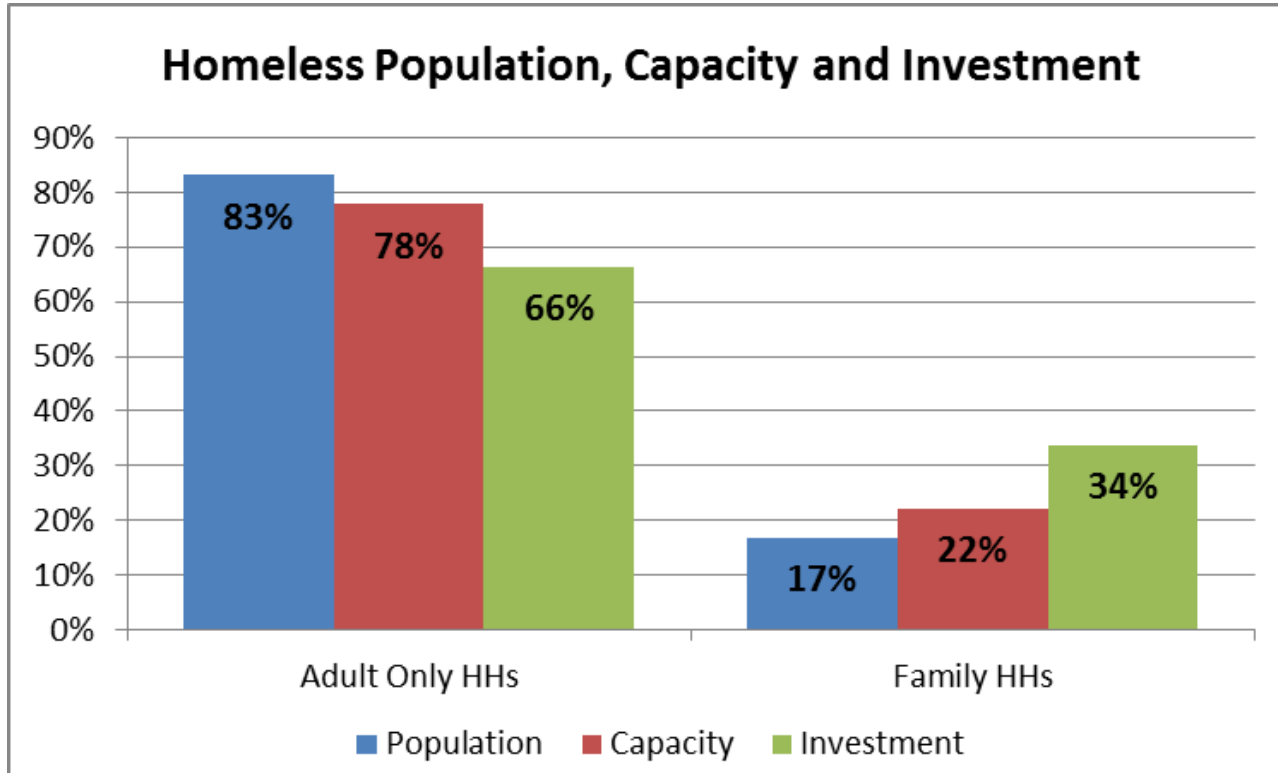
- 2013 Point-in-Time Count
- 2013 & 2014 Performance Reports
 - System performance reports
 - Program type performance reports
 - Program performance reports (56 reports, 26 meetings)
- Coordinated entry & exit system

Know Your Investments

Analyses about investments must include:

- How much is where
- What are those funds achieving
- What are the alternatives

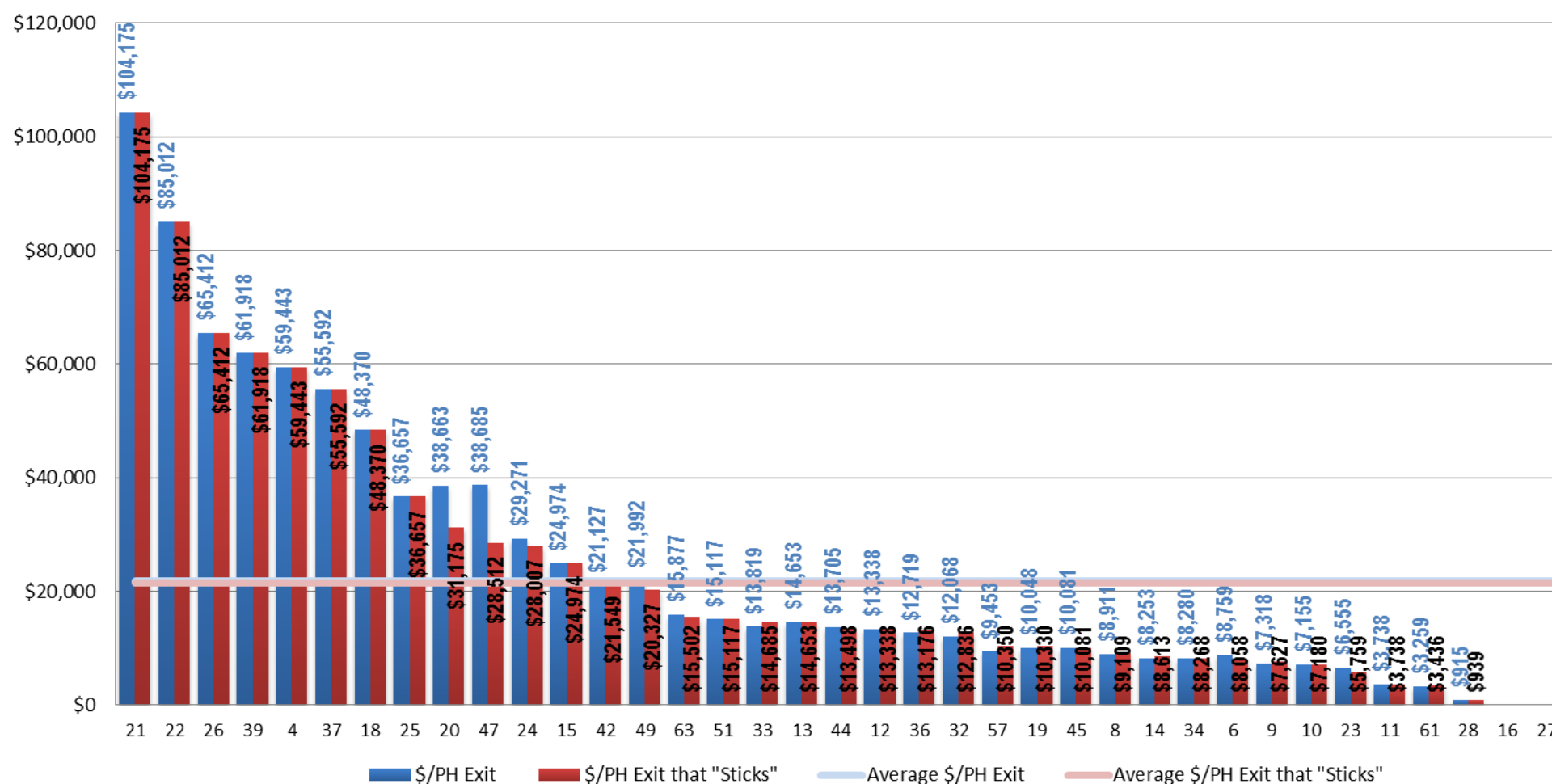
OC's System in 2013



Data sources: 2013 point in time homeless count report; capacity analysis by Focus Strategies 2013; investments as reported by providers for 2013 performance reports process.

Orange County Transitional Housing Cost Effectiveness

Cost For Exits to PH, Transitional Housing
Orange County, Year 2



Orange County, CA Impacts

1. CoC NOFA process:
 - 5 CoC NOFA funded projects reallocated as Rapid Re-housing in 2013 round
 - 2014 proposed strategy is to reallocate more TH to RRH and PSH, in proportion to population
2. Coordinated Entry effort is part of right-sizing
3. Private funders actively participating

City of Eureka, CA

- Part of Humboldt County CoC
- Rural community
- Total Eureka population: 26,961
- 2013 PIT Count: 600
- Many people are chronically homeless

Eureka, CA

- Large visible homeless population given size of community
- Decisions:
 - Act strategically in medium term
 - Frequent police calls housing program based on turnover now

Barriers to Funding Efficiently-1

- Quantitative understanding is too hard or far away and choosing to act anyway
- Deciding reallocating of HUD dollars impossible given challenges with HUD policy or practice

Barriers to Funding Efficiently-2

- Deciding that needed information is unknowable
- Confusing community process with need for strategic input

Doing the Right Thing

- Just because it feels important doesn't mean it is
- Ask what data supports the recommended action and how the recommended action supports right-sizing your system



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