

Your Way Home Theory of Change

Common Agenda & Shared Goals	Drivers of Change	Assumptions	Target Groups	Strategies for Change	Outcomes
<p>To improve the housing stability, economic security and health of Montgomery County residents experiencing, or at imminent risk of, homelessness.</p> <p>Our bold goal is to reduce homelessness in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania by over 50% in the next five years while exiting people from homelessness to permanent housing more rapidly.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consolidated, coordinated and aligned financial resources across systems and between sectors. 2. System alignment (policy, practice and funding) around a common agenda and shared goals. 3. Evidence-based and best/promising practices promote desired outcomes and data to inform policy, practice and funding. 4. Strength-based engagement is more consumer-driven, cost-effective, stigma-reducing and leads to better outcomes. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Large-scale social change requires broad cross-sector coordination, not the isolated intervention of individual organizations (ssireview.org). 2. Housing is, and will remain, the essential platform upon which we build healthy and productive lives for ourselves and our children. It remains a critical component in the work of interrupting the cycles of poverty that can reach across generations (impatientooptimists.org). 3. The vast majority of homeless individuals and families fall into homelessness after a housing or personal crisis that led them to seek help from the homeless assistance system. For these families and individuals, the Housing First approach is ideal, as it provides them with assistance to find permanent housing quickly and without conditions. In turn, such clients of the homeless assistance networks need surprisingly little support or assistance to achieve independence, saving the system considerable costs (end homelessness.org). 4. Homelessness is a public and community health crisis. 	<p>Families and individuals who are literally homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness, including:</p> <p>Low-income families and individuals; veterans; people with disabilities; people experiencing serious mental illness and/or substance abuse issues; unaccompanied youth (including runaways and youth aging out of foster care); seniors; medically frail individuals; chronically homeless individuals; families and individuals fleeing domestic or sexual abuse/violence; and, individuals leaving prisons, nursing homes, and other institutions.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Your Way Home Coordinated Entry provides: 1) countywide street outreach teams supported by Critical Time Intervention (CTI), 2) a toll-free Call Center connected to 211 and the County's Community Connections mainstream resource navigates, 3) centralized shelter bed management, and 4) systemwide use of the Service Prioritization and Decision Assistance Tool. 2. Your Way Home Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing programs empower families and individuals experiencing homeless to regain permanent housing as quickly and effectively as possible while providing a safe place to sleep and housing-focused case management services. 3. Your Way Home Housing Resource Centers connect families and individuals experiencing homelessness to permanent housing in their own communities, and provide connection to community-based supports for long-term housing stability. Dedicated Housing Stability Coaches and Housing Locators provide these rapid re-housing services. Your Way Home partners with health, human and social service providers to connect child care, health, education, employment, financial literacy, legal, mental health, public benefit access, and social services to help rapid re-housing clients to maintain their housing stability. 4. Your Way Home Diversion Specialists empower many families and individuals at imminent risk for homelessness to find alternative solutions for their housing crisis. 5. Permanent Supportive Housing are reserved for families and individuals with significant barriers to housing stability. 6. The Your Way Home Public-Private Partnership improves coordination, collaboration, communication and accountability among government, philanthropic, nonprofit and community partners while leveraging public and private resources to effect systems change. Premised on the collective impact model, Your Way Home partners embrace a common agenda, shared measurement systems, mutually reinforcing activities, continuous communications and technical assistance from a backbone support organization augmented by dedicated consultants and County staff members. 7. Your Way Home strives to incorporate evidence-based, best/promising practice, trauma-informed tools and approaches. 8. Your Way Home strives to increasing affordable housing opportunities countywide. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decrease in number of Montgomery County residents experiencing homelessness for the first time. 2. Decrease in the number of Montgomery County residents returning to homelessness. 3. Decrease in the amount of time people remain homeless. 4. Increase in the number of people moving from homelessness directly to permanent housing. 5. Increase in number of people at risk of homelessness who avoid entering emergency shelter. 6. Decrease in overall system costs related to ending or preventing homelessness. 7. Decrease by 50% in the number of people experiencing homelessness. 8. Increase the self-sufficiency and financial stability of people enrolled in Your Way Home programs. 9. Increase in number of funders, service providers, community partners and consumers aligned with Your Way Home through: 1) the provision of contracts, grants and contributions, 2) program intake and service delivery, 3) advocacy, 4) participation in Your Way Home action and advisory teams, and 5) engagement in Your Way Home online social networks.