



Women into Housing Now – Year End Report

October 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014

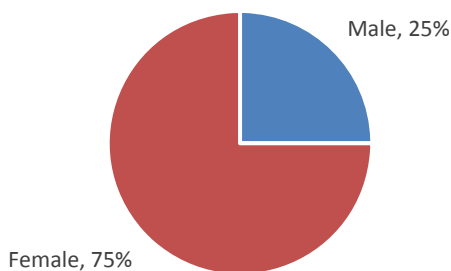
Background:

Women into Housing Now (WIHN) programs were funded with \$300,000 of City General Fund (GF) investment for housing placement services and rent assistance for women experiencing homelessness, including those in couples or families. Outcomes include reduced shelter waitlists and shelter diversion. Contract Period: October 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

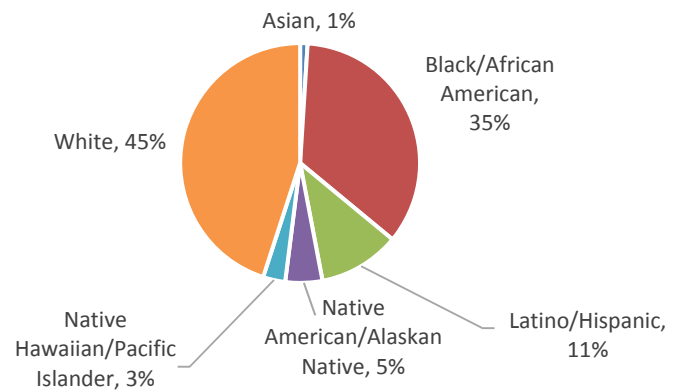
Housing Outcomes:

- A total of 282 individuals in 177 households were assisted in moving from homelessness to housing, with short-term rent assistance for eviction prevention, transitional housing or temporarily with a motel voucher
- Of these, 235 individuals in 148 households moved to permanent housing, including 36 families
- The program significantly exceeded its total annual goal of housing 92 households
- Of all families served, 75% came from the streets or shelter and the rest were diverted from entering shelter with eviction prevention or rent assistance
- Demographics of participants served include:

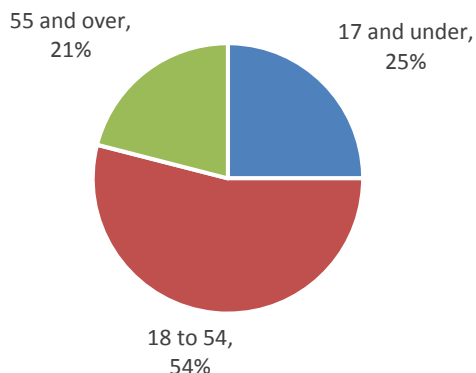
Gender



Race & Ethnicity



Age of Participants



WIHN Highlights:

- 55% of individuals served were from communities of color, including 35% African American, 11% Latino, 5% Native American/Alaskan Native and 3% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- 46% of those served were individuals with a disability
- 8% of individuals served experienced chronic homelessness¹
- Nearly all clients served were below 30% Median Family Income

Challenges:

- Lack of affordable housing
- Inadequate program duration: Women served through WIHN who were more vulnerable and/or had multiple barriers to housing needed greater amounts of and longer periods of rent assistance
- The need far outweighs the funding: Program could have housed many more women and families
- Rents have increased in some neighborhoods above federal definitions of “fair market rent.” Moreover, recent changes to “rent reasonableness standards” in some federal housing resources, such as Section 8, make it difficult for families to find rental housing within rent parameters in neighborhoods like outer East Portland. Programs like WIHN help mitigate this by not mandating that units be strictly within these standards.

Home Start 2nd quarter report next page

¹ Chronic homelessness is defined as long-term or repeated homelessness, often coupled with a disability.



Home Start – Quarters 1 and 2 Report

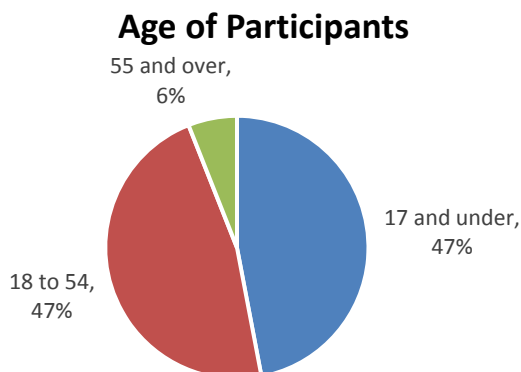
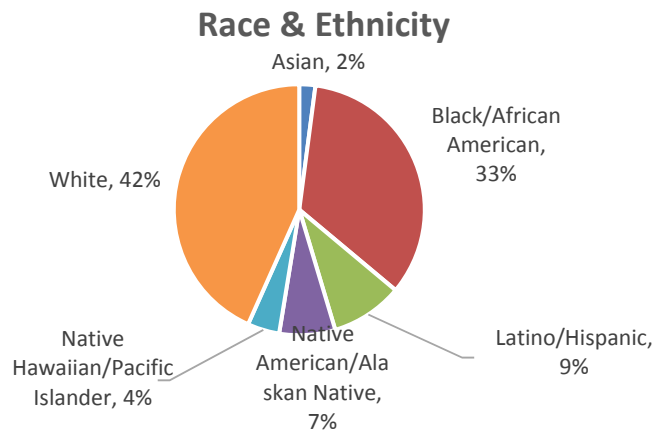
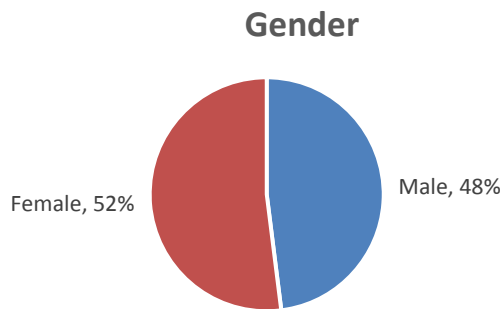
January 1, 2014 to June 30, 2014

Background:

Home Start began with a \$1,700,000 City GF investment for rent assistance, as well as housing placement and support services for families and vulnerable adults experiencing homelessness, particularly those from “hotspot” areas. Providers are ensuring equitable access for people of color experiencing homelessness and strengthening partnerships among culturally-specific providers, law enforcement and health and behavioral health care providers, to ensure households are connected to available services. Contract Period: January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014.

Housing Outcomes:

- In the first 6 months, 989 individuals in 391 households were assisted with permanent housing, transitional housing, eviction prevention rent assistance, or temporarily with a motel voucher
- Of these, 612 individuals in 242 households moved into permanent housing, of which 172 were families. The program is 74% towards its total annual goal of 325 households.
- Demographics of participants served include:



Home Start Highlights:

- Nearly 1 in 4 (24%) of all households served have a disabling condition(s) or special needs
- 58% of the individuals served through the program are from communities of color, including 33% African American, 4% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, 9% Latino and 7% Native American/Alaskan Native
- 9% of households served experienced chronic homelessness²
- 20 veterans received services
- *Home Start for Vulnerable Adults:*
 - Continues to partner with the Portland Police Bureau (PPB)'s Central and East Precincts for referrals from "hot spot" areas, yielding housing successes for some of the highest barrier individuals in our community.
 - Officers in inner-southeast and downtown, including PPB's Behavioral Health Unit and East Precinct Neighborhood Response Team, referred more than 40 individuals who are housed or in the housing process, with another 78 individuals identified.
 - NW Pilot Project was able to serve more clients by prioritizing clients who received benefits quickly.
- *Home Start for Families* effectively used City funds to assist 172 families and leverage support to hire culturally-specific staff for the mobile outreach team

Challenges:

- Critical lack of affordable housing: Providers were challenged to find rental housing within client incomes. Additionally, much of the screening criteria limited access for people lacking strong credit and rental history, or with other issues such as evictions or convictions.
- Lack of shelter options for heterosexual couples who need a safe place to sleep while in the housing search process
- High barriers for participants: Some of the participants have cycled through emergency shelter multiple times, have long histories of homelessness, extensive and sometimes very serious criminal histories, little or no income, unresolved legal cases and warrants, no identification, challenges with active and untreated substance use, and mental health issues. Individuals who are actively using drugs or alcohol are often denied Social Security benefits.
- Sustaining permanent housing: Some *Home Start* participants have disabling conditions that preclude employment and need a longer period of rent assistance to either transition to a permanent rent subsidy or qualify for benefits.
- Demand far outstripped the available funds

² Chronic homelessness is defined as long-term or repeated homelessness, often coupled with a disability.