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# INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

ACTION PLAN MEETING – JULY 16, 2018 – COMMITTEE ON FAMILIES



## MISSION

The mission of the ICHH Committee on Families is to design and initiate the development of a comprehensive collaboration of state agencies and local partners to address the crisis of families facing housing instability and to prevent homelessness.

- DHCD invested in several strategic prevention, diversion and exit strategies that provided a local response to housing instability and homelessness and significantly reduced the use of hotels and motels as overflow shelter
- DHCD, EOHHS agencies and the ICHH have established a deeper partnership in their collaborative and coordinated work with families at-risk of or experiencing homelessness.

DHCD and EOHHS agencies continue their initiatives related to upstream prevention strategies including the TPP upstream project launched in FY'17.



- Between January 2015 and May 2018, 3,856 EA eligible families have chosen diversion through the use of the HomeBASE benefit as an alternative to entering shelter
- Between January 2015 and May 2018, 8,749 families exited shelter and hotels/motels through the use of the HomeBASE benefit
- As of June 1, 2018, the total EA caseload, including families who were staying in shelter and hotels/motels was 3,532 families, a 24 percent decrease since January 2015
- DHCD reduced the number of hotels – motels by 98% from 49 in January 2015 to 1 as of June 1, 2018
- As of June 1, 2018, 28 families were sheltered in hotels-motels. At the same time last year, DHCD sheltered 52 – a 46% reduction in one year and a 98% reduction since January 2015 when there were 1,565 families sheltered in hotels and motels.
- DHCD, EOHHS and MassHousing extended TPP contracts in FY'18 to expand services as a prevention and diversion strategy in high demand regions.
- Partnered with EOHHS agencies (DPH and DCF) in assessing and triaging families at the DHCD EA eligibility offices and those families sheltered in hotels/motels



## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ONGOING WORK

- For FY'19 in advance of EA system procurement, DHCD, in collaboration with local providers and EOHHS agencies will continue to expand current successful strategies of prevention, diversion and exit from shelter to further support a local response to families experiencing housing instability and homelessness.
- DHCD will offer a public Request for Information so that all stakeholders, advocates, providers and consumers can share their perspective and provide input on a proposed Emergency Assistance system re-design that will evaluate the benefit of strong local partnerships and upstream triage, assessment and homeless prevention strategies.
- The EA system procurement will be issued during FY '19.
- The ICHH Committee on Families will provide input and guidance on EA system RFI and future procurement with a focus on a deeper, systemic integration of EOHHS agencies in serving families experiencing housing instability and homelessness