



# OPPORTUNITY STARTS AT HOME

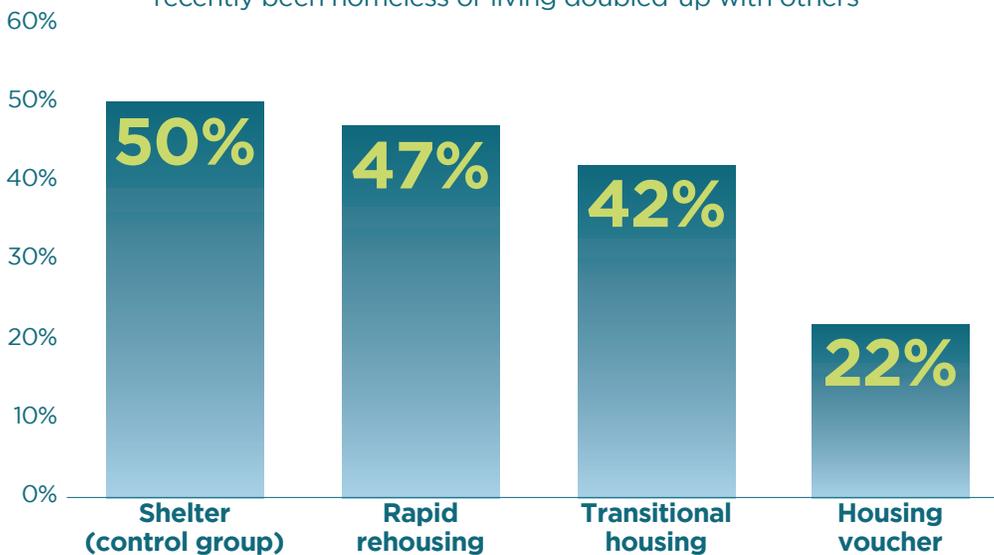
## ANTI-HOMELESSNESS ADVOCATES ARE HOUSING ADVOCATES

### **Access To Affordable Housing Increases Stability For Vulnerable Households And Helps Avert Homelessness.**

“Extensive research demonstrates that housing subsidies solve homelessness for the majority of families...The continuing crisis in affordable housing has led to a situation in which all too many poor families have become homeless. Many of these parents came of age when housing costs were high, and they were never able to break into the housing market. Others have lost housing and cannot find a new home that they can afford. For the vast majority of families, affordable housing, typically secured with a voucher or other subsidy, is sufficient to assure housing stability (Shinn, 2009).” Quoted from [National Alliance to End Homelessness, 2009](#)

### **Housing Vouchers Most Effective Way to Reduce Homelessness for Families in Shelters**

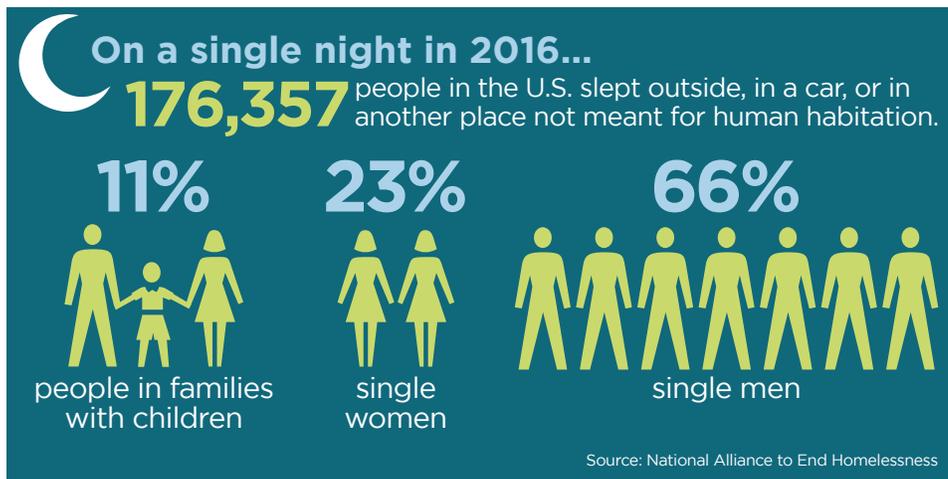
Share of families reporting, 18 months after receiving assistance, that they had recently been homeless or living doubled-up with others



Note: the difference in outcomes for families receiving rapid rehousing assistance and those in shelters was not statistically significant  
Source: Department of Housing and Urban Development, “Family Options Study: Short-Term Impacts of Housing and Services Interventions for Homeless Families,” Exhibit ES-5.  
Chart originally produced by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

“Approximately 150,000 unaccompanied youth and young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 experience an episode of homelessness each year. However, resources to serve them fall far short of demand. As a result, approximately 15,000 youth were found to be unsheltered (sleeping on the streets, in abandoned buildings, tents, cars, or other places not meant for human habitation) on a single night in January 2015, and many more likely went undetected.” Quoted from [National Alliance to End Homelessness, 2015](#)

“HUD’s Family Options study showed that long-term housing subsidies had a greater positive impact on housing stability than emergency shelter care. Long-term housing subsidies reduced the proportion of families that were homeless or doubled-up in the previous six months by 50% and reduced the proportion of families who experienced a shelter stay by 75%. Project-based transitional housing also reduced the proportion of families who experienced a shelter stay (Gubits & Shinn et al., 2016).” Quoted from [NLIHC, A Place to Call Home](#).



“Other studies have repeatedly found that families leaving homeless shelters for subsidized housing live in safer and higher quality communities and are less likely to return to a shelter than families who did not receive housing assistance (Rog, Holupka, & Patton, 2007) (Shinn, Weitzman, et al., 1998) (Shinn, 2009).” Quoted from [NLIHC, A Place to Call Home](#)

“At a fundamental level, the homeless have higher premature mortality than those who are appropriately housed, with injuries, unintentional overdose, and extreme weather events being important drivers of this mortality. The homeless also have poor quality of life, characterized, as noted in various studies, by chronic pain associated with poor sleeping conditions and limited access to medications and other salutary resources (Baggett et al., 2013) (Hwang et al., 2011).” Quoted from [Boston University, 2016](#)

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