HUD Racial Equity Demo
Chicago Community Conversation

August 25, 2021
Agenda

• Welcome
  • Please share your name, pronouns, and workgroup or agency affiliation

• Overview of HUD Racial Equity Demo Project

• Progress on Goal #1 – Replace the Single Individual VI

• Progress on Goal #2 – Improve Housing Outcomes for Justice Involved Folx

• Next steps
HUD Racial Equity Demo

• This demonstration project involved eight communities across the country working to improve the racial equity of their Coordinated Entry and Homelessness Systems.

• Chicago received HUD technical assistance, training, coaching, and we learned from other communities in our cohort.
  • Special thanks to our coaches, LaMont Green with TAC and Stacey Matthews with Cloudburst!
One key truth that is part of the Racial Equity Demo is that:

**PEOPLE WHO ARE CLOSEST TO THE PROBLEM ARE CLOSEST TO THE SOLUTION.**

With this in mind, people with lived experience of homelessness are driving decisions and next steps for our community.
Homelessness & Chicago Populations Demographics

**Race**

- Black/African American: 80%
- White: 14%
- Other Races: 3%
- No Response: 0.00%

**Ethnicity**

- Hispanic/Latino/a: 26.98%
- Non-Hispanic/Latino/a: 73.02%
- No Response: 2.80%

*For Chicago census data – other races includes 6.63% Asian and 13.76% Other/multi racial*
Chicago Goals
Chicago Goals

The Chicago Equity Demo Core Team established two goals to improve racial equity within the Coordinated Entry System:

1. Replace the Individual Vulnerability Index

2. Improve the housing outcomes of justice involved folx
Goal 1: Replace the Individual VI
Goal 1: Replace the Single Vulnerability Index

Why Replace the Single VI

• Reviewed acuity workgroup progress on areas of need that extend beyond medical vulnerability

• Single VI is based on a morbidity study for the Homeless with predominantly white people
  • Length of homelessness
  • Disability and hospitalization
  • Physical medical conditions
  • Substance use and mental health
Single Vulnerability Index Tool

- What is the total length of time in days you have lived on the streets or shelter?
- Have you been diagnosed with a disabling condition?
- How many times have you been to the emergency room in the past three months?
- How many times have you been hospitalized as an inpatient in the past year?
- Do you have now, or have you have had, or has a healthcare provider ever told you that you have any of the following medical conditions?
  - Kidney disease, history of frostbite, hypothermia, immersion foot, history of heat stroke/heat exhaustion, liver disease, cirrhosis, or end stage liver disease, heart disease, arrhythmia, or irregular heartbeat, HIV/AIDS, emphysema, diabetes, asthma, cancer, hepatitis C, tuberculosis
- Have you ever abused drugs/alcohol or been told you do?
- Have you consumed alcohol every day for the past month?
- Have you ever been treated for drugs or alcohol abuse?
- Are you currently or have you ever received treatment for mental health issues?
- Have you ever been taken to the hospital against your will for mental health reasons?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Have you ever in your life, spent any amount of time in a juvenile or adult correctional facility, jail, prison, or detention center?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Growing up, did your family experience housing instability such as frequently moving due to financial reasons, living with other families, relatives, (also known as doubling up), living in a shelter, living in nightly or monthly rentals, or anything like that?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Have you ever been discriminated against because of your sexual orientation or gender identity?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Do you identify as a Black, Indigenous/Native, and/or a Person of Color who has been discriminated against because of your race or ethnicity?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Have you experienced violence in a home where you lived or seen others experience violence in a home where you lived? Violence can be physical or emotional.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Are you currently being hurt or experiencing violence on the streets or in a shelter or attempting to avoid people who have hurt you since experiencing homelessness?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Race and Sexual Orientation

• This test used questions to understanding the experiences of Black and Brown people with one question focused on discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.
• Other communities such as Seattle, Portland, and San Antonio have begun to award points
Goal 1: What Happened

What Happened

• March – May: Individuals completed both the Pilot Tool and the Single VI
  • The goal was to assess a minimum of 50 single individuals with both tools
    • Between March to April - Total assessed 174 but only used 155
      • 7 duplicates – took latest submission
      • 12 could not use – combination of missing HMIS id, family/youth assessment or no assessment
  • Reopened for month of May – Total assessed 62 but only used 58
    • 4 could not use
      • 2 participants were youth
      • 2 missing VI assessment
  • Total Sample size consist of 213
Sample Size Comparison

**VI Tool**
- Currently being used for singles over the ages of 25
- Consists of 8 questions

**Pilot**
- Created based off Acuity workgroup & community input
- Consists of 6 questions

**Race & Sexual Orientation**
- Created based off reported race and response to experienced discrimination due to sexual orientation
- Consists of 2 questions
Tool Categorization

• Single VI score ranges between 0 to 8
• Pilot score ranges between 0 to 6

High
• VI score 6 – 8
• Pilot score 5- 6
• Race & Sexual Orientation 6

Medium
• VI score 3-5
• Pilot score 3-4
• Race & Sexual Orientation 5

Low
• VI score 0-2
• Pilot score 0-2
• Race & Sexual Orientation 0
Demographics – Sample Size & Homeless System

**Race**

- Black/African American: Homeless System 84%, Pilot 80%
- White: Homeless System 14%, Pilot 13%
- Other Races*: Homeless System 3%, Pilot 3%
- No response: Homeless System 0%, Pilot 0%

**Ethnicity**

- Non-Hispanic/Latino: Homeless System 87.22%
- Hispanic/Latino: Homeless System 9.98%
- No response: Homeless System 2.8%, Pilot 0%
- Black/African American: Homeless System 97%
Tool Comparison – Average Score

Average Score

- VI Score: 0.83
- Pilot Score: 2.32
- Race & Sexual Orientation Score: 4.57
# Tool Scores by Race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Size - Race</th>
<th>Total PP</th>
<th>Average VI Score</th>
<th>Average Pilot Score</th>
<th>Average Race &amp; Sexual Orientation Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Indian or Alaska Native</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/ African American</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White and Non-Hispanic</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>1.32</td>
<td>2.57</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Tool Scores by Ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Size - Ethnicity</th>
<th>Total PP</th>
<th>Average VI Score</th>
<th>Average Pilot Score</th>
<th>Race &amp; Sexual Orientation Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Potential Scoring Options

- Vulnerability Index (current state)

- Pilot questions

- Score by length of time homeless and unsheltered status instead of asking additional questions
  - People receive one point if they are unsheltered and one point for each full year of homelessness.

- Score based on if the person completing the assessment is a person of color and if they have been discriminated against based on sexual orientation or gender identity.
  - People of color receive five points and people with sexual or gender identity discrimination in their past receive one point.
Comparison Across Scoring Options
Feedback

• We want to hear your reactions to this information, ideas, and questions.
Coordinated Entry Prioritization and Next Steps

• The CE Leadership Team will be revisiting CE Prioritization this fall, and will be soliciting feedback from the community to be submitted by October 1st.

• As part of this process, these results and community feedback on the Individual VI will go back to the Acuity WG to make a recommendation to the CE Leadership Team on changes to be made.

• If you would like to join the Acuity workgroup or newly forming Youth VI or Family VI workgroup, please e-mail Jacob at Jacob Storck at jstorck@allchicago.org
Goal 2: Improve the housing outcomes of justice involved folx
Background

• On April 8, 2021, over 50 participants (people with lived experience, housing/service providers, advocates, and government staff) attended a Community Feedback Session on how the Homelessness System can improve housing outcomes for justice-involved folx. Inclusive Human-Centered Design Methodology was utilized throughout the process that was co-led by people with lived expertise of homelessness.

INCLUSIVE HUMAN-CENTERED DESIGN

SHARED POWER AND DECISION MAKING WITH PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE OF HOMELESSNESS
Background

• Three themes emerged from the April 8th Community Feedback session:

  • 1. Develop a Community of Practice for Housing Providers to remove barriers and implement strategies to better serve justice-involved folx experiencing homelessness.

  • 2. Strengthen Community and Cross System Collaboration to reduce barriers to housing and to ensure justice-involved folx exiting jails/prisons do not become homeless.

  • 3. Develop Peer Outreach and Peer Navigation Services tailored for justice-involved folx living homeless (for us – by us)
Background

• On June 30, 2021, Lived Experience Commission (LEC) and Youth Action Board (YAB) members prioritized the three themes and provided additional feedback for implementation.

• This resulted in a hybrid option that contained elements from all three themes.
Proposed Plan for Goal 2

Action Area 1: Launch Community of Practice for Housing Providers and Landlords to:

- Educate landlords and potential tenants about the Just Housing Amendment;
- Assist housing providers and landlords in removing eligibility, policy, and programmatic barriers to better serve justice-involved folx experiencing homelessness;
- Share best practices and other strategies to improve housing outcomes for justice-involved folx; and,
- De-incentivize programs that discriminate against justice-involved people.

Action Area 2: Develop Peer Outreach and Peer Navigation Services (by peers with lived experience of homelessness and justice involvement):

- Collaborate with jails/prisons to ensure housing needs assessments are routinely conducted to strengthen homelessness prevention and early intervention efforts;
- Shorten the length of time and increase placements into permanent housing for justice-involved households by offering housing location supports; and,
- Increase resources and supports for justice involved folx through a host of peer developed and delivered services.
Next Steps

• Proposal will go to the Racial Equity Leadership Committee to provide oversight for the implementation of Goal 2
  • Establish a justice involvement workgroup that will be charged with planning, implementation, and continuous quality improvement
  • Review recommendation on who should be a part of the Justice Involvement workgroup
  • Ensures that co-chairs of workgroup always include at least one person with lived experience
Proposed Justice Involvement Workgroup

• More people with lived experience of homelessness and justice system involvement
  • Ensure to have women, trans* and sex worker representatives
• Landlords and developers
• Justice system reps (state and county level) – focus on those release planning
• IDOC
• City officials (alderpersons)

• DCFS
• Services Providers (such as St Leonards and The Lyte Collective)
• CPS (Chicago Public Schools)
• Philanthropic Organizations
• HUD, local and state government funders
  • Illinois Dept of Housing Authority
  • IDHS (Illinois Dept of Human Services)
Feedback and Discussion

• We want to hear your reactions to this information, ideas, and questions.
Next Steps

- Acuity Workgroup: Will receive work to date from Goal #1
- Racial Equity Leadership: Will receive proposal on action areas
- Demo Project: Will stop convening as our work is grounded in the CoC