October Housing Security Update

Thank you for your continued interest and commitment to this process and to the end result toward which we are all working – a meaningful and sustainable community plan that leads to equitable housing outcomes for marginalized communities.

Design Team
The Design Team has been focusing on identifying the systemic root causes of housing insecurity and homelessness and the leverage points within those root causes. The Design Team also broke into small groups to create a vision statement for the future that addresses those specific areas.

The following root causes have been identified (in no particular order):

- Strategies and responses to homelessness are divorced from larger economic forces.
- Racist practices and policies combined with cultural racism lead to inequities in housing and homelessness services.
- The model and process are not customer-centric.
- The belief that homelessness is an individual rather than a systemic problem.
- The system lacks a common goal, philosophy, narrative, language, and alignment among providers.
- The system lacks a cohesive housing strategy across the spectrum.
- The system is based on scarcity, not prevention. Resource constraints lead to crisis mode/triage style management.
- Historical and systematic racism and generational poverty are root causes of the overrepresentation of people of color in crisis.

The Design Team will be working on refining the draft of the Common Agenda and Roadmap in upcoming meetings leading up to the Housing Accountability Partners Council meeting on December 6.

Content Expert Team
The Content Expert Team has been working to gather information on community assets in Kent County that impact the Housing and Homelessness System. These collaborative pieces include:

- A list of municipal touchpoints
- A comprehensive survey of local organizations/services and a compilation of the results
- A review of available public funding
- System performance measures
- Resource referrals
- A resource inventory
- Housing prioritization list

The previous Content Expert meetings have included several of the Context Experts participating in this process. There were extensive discussions about the information available,

the processes used for gathering information, the value of certain types of information, as well as the role of neighbors in gathering and understanding information. The group was then split into two and asked to identify themes, gaps, and opportunities related to the data and the overall process.

Members of the Content Expert Team and Design Team continue to attend each other's meetings and provide regular updates on the process.

Context Expert Team
The Context Expert Team is made up of individuals that have experience in the homeless system. They continue to share their lived experience with both the Design Team and Content Expert Teams in order to provide a frame of reference as strategies are developed to address the disproportionate outcomes in the system.

Scout/Research Team
This team is working on locating and studying system-level interventions across the country and around the world. They are specifically identifying strategies that address the root causes identified by the Design Team.

Communications Team
This team is distributing a blog series that focuses on the data, disparities, impact on students, and overall process. Thank you to the organizations who have shared it so far. If you have not, please consider sharing the upcoming posts. Follow KConnect's social media to stay up to date. The Communications Team acts as a resource to all the other teams. If there are any communications pieces you would find helpful, please contact KConnect's Communications Manager, Katie Hop, at khop@k-connect.org.

Housing Accountability Partners Council
Please **save the date** for the Housing Accountability Partners Council (HAPC) meeting on **December 6th from 8 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at GRPS University**. More information will follow.

We will continue to provide updates as the work progresses. You may also visit our housing security page at http://k-connect.org/housing.