



## PATHWAYS TO HOUSING: THE FACTS

---

### THE PROBLEM

- Over the course of a year, between 2.5 and 3.5 million people will live either on the streets or in an emergency shelter. This population, if it was a city, would be the third largest city in the U.S., ranking between Los Angeles and Chicago.
- 23 percent of homeless people are chronically homeless, meaning that they have been homeless for a year or more or four times in the past three years and they suffer from mental or physical disabilities.
- 16 percent of all homeless people in America suffer from mental illness.

### THE SOLUTION

Pathways' Housing First approach to ending chronic homelessness for people with mental disabilities has been proven to work. The principles are:

- Provide immediate housing without prerequisites.
- Listen to clients—offer them the support and services needed to achieve recovery on *their* terms.
- Integrate clients in the community—provide independent apartments in buildings across a city, rather than in designated “homes.”

### THE EVIDENCE

- The number of chronically homeless people in the United States dropped by almost 30 percent between 2005 and 2007. Administration officials attribute much of that one-third drop to the Housing First Strategy.
- Public cost of an average chronically homeless person per year, living on the streets and in shelters: \$40,000.

Public cost of an average chronically homeless person per year, living in a supportive housing program like Pathways to Housing: \$16,000

- Pathways to Housing clients have an 85% five-year retention rate and drastic drops in emergency room visits, contacts with law enforcement, and psychiatric hospitalizations.
- More than 200 cities in the US and Canada adopted 10-year plans to *end* chronic homelessness, 67% of these plans include a Housing First program.