

Connecting Youth in Rapid Re-Housing to Employment



NAEH RRH For Youth Learning Community | June 29, 2017

A Bit About Me...



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National Initiatives on Poverty & Economic Opportunity

We are dedicated to ending chronic unemployment and poverty.



National Center on Employment & Homelessness (NCEH)

NCEH works to ensure that employment in quality jobs is a key element in preventing and ending homelessness.



Where's This Information Coming From?

PROVIDING TRUE OPPORTUNITY FOR OPPORTUNITY YOUTH

Promising Practices and Principles for Helping Youth Facing Barriers to Employment

May 2015, Research Brief

Many "opportunity youth"—youth who are not working or in school—would benefit substantially from gaining work experience but need help overcoming barriers to employment and accessing the labor market. In response, advocates, policy makers, and program providers are driving a growing national movement toward better helping opportunity youth succeed in employment.

Those opportunity youth facing the most significant challenges, such as extreme poverty, homelessness, and justice system involvement, often need even more intensive assistance in entering and keeping employment, and are at risk of being left behind even by employment programs that are specifically designed to serve opportunity youth. There is limited evidence supporting best practices in employment services for these young people, although numerous program providers are developing and implementing innovative techniques for helping those youth facing the most barriers to enter and succeed in employment.

In order to fill this gap and equip the field to better serve these young people, this paper builds on the research literature with extensive interviews with employment program providers who have had success in helping the most vulnerable opportunity youth succeed in the work force. Six principles for effectively serving these youth are identified. Further research, funding, and replication are necessary to test and refine these principles in order to ensure that efforts to connect opportunity youth to employment do not leave behind those youth who need assistance the most.

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Target audience:
Workforce system.

INTEGRATING RAPID RE-HOUSING & EMPLOYMENT



Program & Policy Recommendations for Enhancing Rapid Re-Housing

MARCH 2017

HEARTLAND ALLIANCE

NATIONAL INITIATIVES

Target audience:
Homeless services system.

Build robust partnerships to offer a **continuum of employment, training, & related supportive services** that can meet a wide range of needs.



Deeper Dive | Building relationships with Local Workforce Investment Boards & American Job Centers.



Cross-pollinate systems leadership.

Co-location.

Cross-training.

(Silo busting) ↗

Immediately engage youth in RRH in employment, training, & related supportive services.

Approach workforce development from an “employment first” perspective.



Offer (or connect to) **paid workforce development opportunities.**



Real work for real pay delivers experience and skills. **It's also a powerful engagement tool.** Transitional Jobs programs and social enterprises = good approaches for youth.

Employment program service delivery principles that are especially important for youth experiencing homelessness...



Engage with youth for as long as it takes.

Offer multiple chances to “fail” and try again.

Apply therapeutic concepts to employment services.

Thank you – please be in touch!



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