



# BUILDING CHANGES

**END** HOMELESSNESS  
TOGETHER



**The Dream Team: Erik, Marina, Zach, and Dawn**



## Diversion Strategies to Meet the Needs of Homeless Families

Early engagement can help many families avoid shelter and minimize the trauma of homelessness by utilizing safe, alternative resources.

### As a "front door" strategy, diversion:

- Engages family as early as possible;
- Draws on families' strengths, resources, and resilience;
- Helps families avoid entering the homeless system;
- Reestablishes recent housing situation, when possible;
- Helps reduce long waitlists for housing.

### As a community best practice, diversion meets HEARTH Act goals to:

- Reduce the number of people homeless;
- Reduce the length of time spent homeless;
- Reduce returns to homelessness.

by

- Reducing the number of families entering homelessness;
- Returning families to permanent housing more quickly;
- Reserving shelter beds and other housing and services to those who need it the most.

### Providers play a critical role.

Providers are already skilled at many of the services needed to make diversion successful:

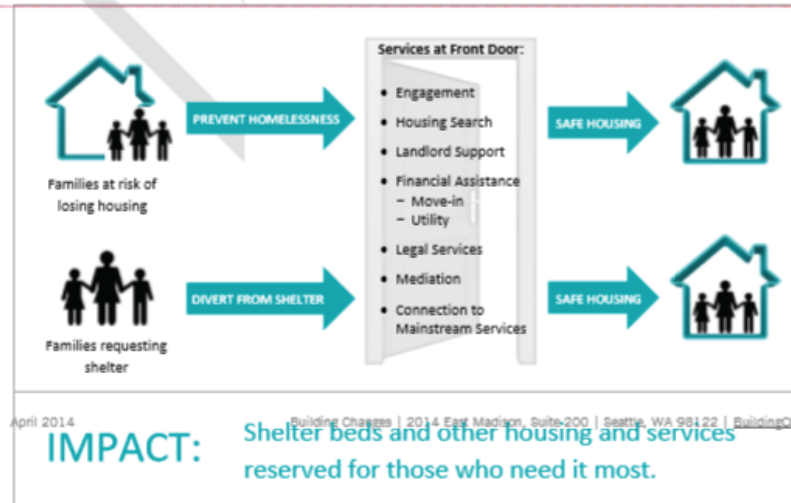
They identify and work with each families' unique needs.

They provide short-term assistance and partner with families on solutions that can include:

- Mediation and conflict resolution with landlords or family and friends
- Housing alternatives, such as shared housing
- Financial, utility, and/or move-in assistance
- Connections to other mainstream services
- Planning for long-term stability

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# WHAT IS DIVERSION?

more than just money BSEI  
NEVER ENTER A SHELTER  
WWW.BECU.ORG | 800-233-2328

more than just money BSEI  
PREVENT PEOPLE FROM ENTERING THE HOMELESS SERVICE SYSTEM  
WWW.BECU.ORG | 800-233-2328

more than just money BSEI  
CONNECTING WITH LANDLORDS, EMPLOYMENT, FAMILY  
WWW.BECU.ORG | 800-233-2328

more than just money BSEI  
CONNECTING PROVIDERS W/ THE (optimal) RELEVANT RESOURCE  
WWW.BECU.ORG | 800-233-2328

more than just money BSEI  
GIVE THE RIGHT HELP AT THE RIGHT TIME  
WWW.BECU.ORG | 800-233-2328

more than just money BSEI  
CREATING THE RIGHT PARTNERSHIPS  
WWW.BECU.ORG | 800-233-2328

more than just money BSEI  
FLEXIBLE SUPPORT  
WWW.BECU.ORG | 800-233-2328

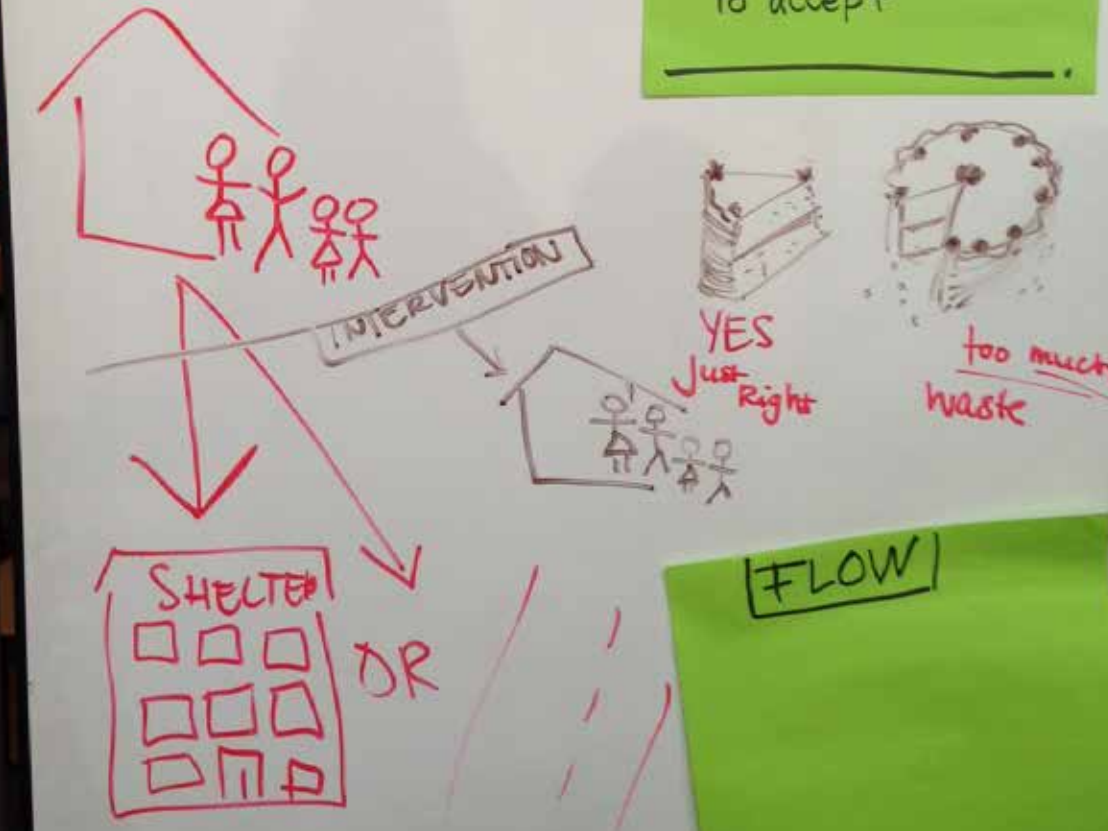
more than just money BSEI  
CREATIVE STRATEGIES?  
WWW.BECU.ORG | 800-233-2328



Goal: (WOOD) <sup>in laws</sup>  
DIVERSION PILOT

COMPANION  
PIECE

Question: FOCUS  
Given limited time, how can we provide a tool that can persuade/help SERVICE providers to accept



FLOW



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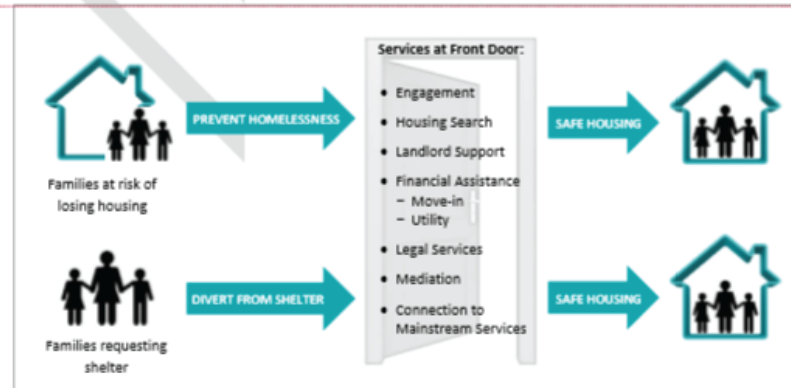
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April 2014

**IMPACT:**

Shelter beds and other housing and services reserved for those who need it most.

Building Changes | 2014 East Madison, Suite 200 | Seattle, WA 98122 | BuildingChanges.org

# WHAT IS DIVERSION?

We divert people from entering the homeless service system. We give families exactly what they need so other resources are freed up for those who need it most.

DIVERSION

**SERVICE PROVIDER**

STRATEGY

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



Shelters play a critical ROLE:

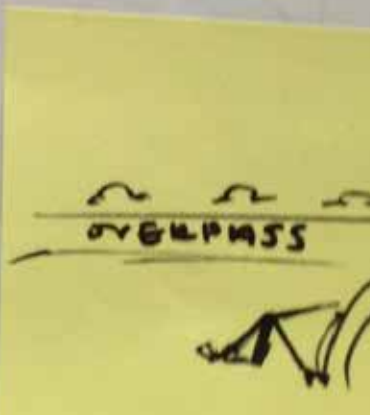
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~~EVICTED~~  
17  
OR

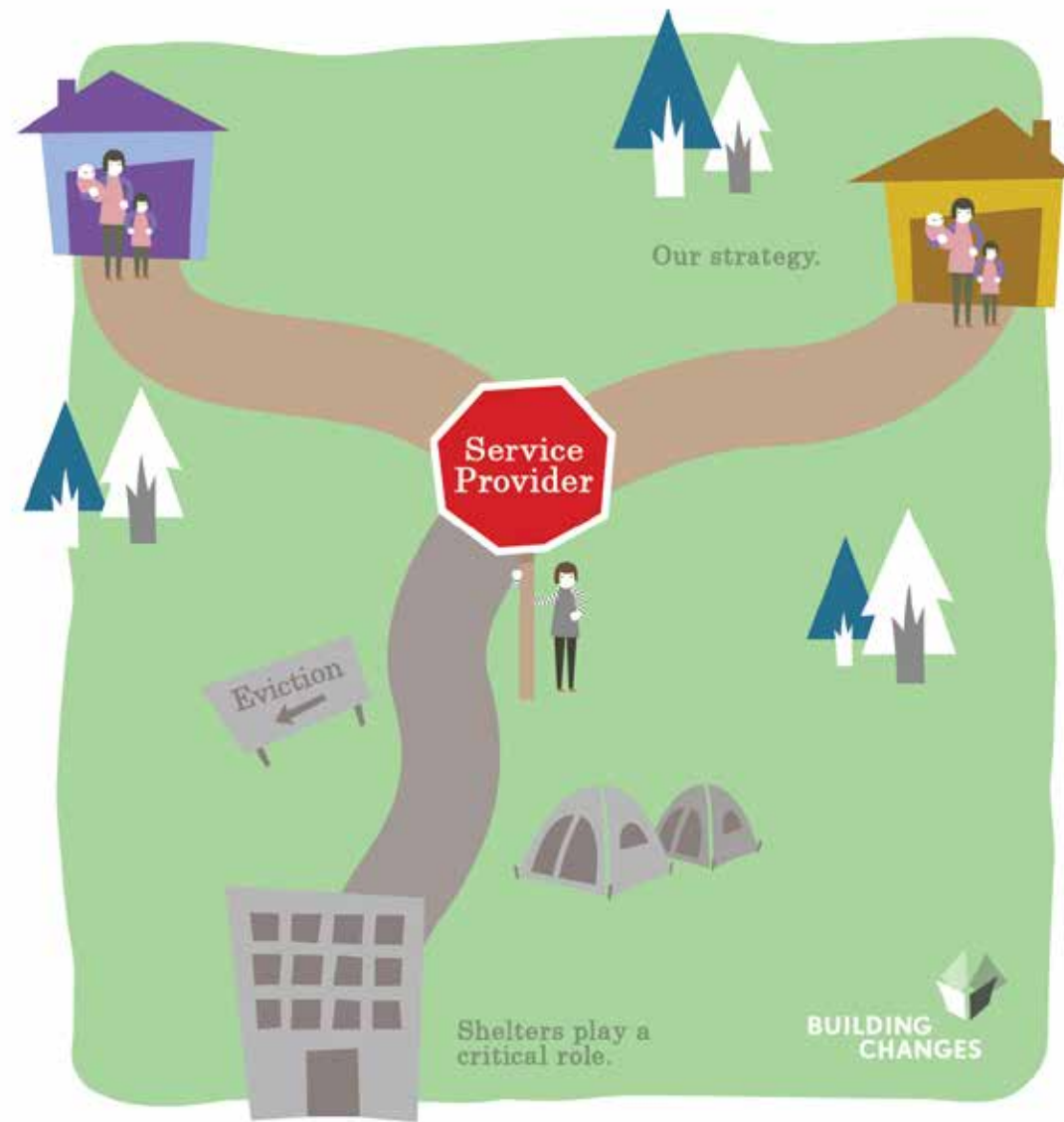


SHELTER

Walmart  
Jane Doe  
Sally Smith



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# Thank you!