

Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Vermont Annual Report - State Fiscal Year 2014

Vermont's Emergency Solutions Grants program, administered by the State Office of Economic Opportunity, provides a blend of state and federal (HUD) funding to support operations, staffing and homelessness prevention and re-housing assistance at approximately 40 non-profit emergency shelter, transitional housing and prevention programs serving all regions of the state. The State Office of Economic Opportunity works in close partnership with both HUD-recognized Homeless Continua of Care - Chittenden and the Balance of State (i.e., Vt Coalition to End Homelessness) - to consult on performance measurement, data management and developing coordinated entry and assessment systems within both systems of care.

Overnights Sheltered

Between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014, Vermont's ESG-funded emergency shelters, domestic violence shelters, veteran's shelters and youth shelters, reported the following.

- **3,934** persons sheltered for a total of **141,778** shelter bed nights.
- **3,034** were adults and **891** were children under the age of 18.
- The average length of stay was approximately **36** days.

Emergency Solutions Grant funds support basic operations and essential services at 28 overnight emergency shelters, including 3 warming shelters open only during cold weather months and 9 shelters for persons fleeing domestic/sexual violence. In addition, ESG funding supported 3 day shelters for people experiencing homelessness. Shelters range in size from only a few rooms for families to more than thirty beds for single adults.

Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing

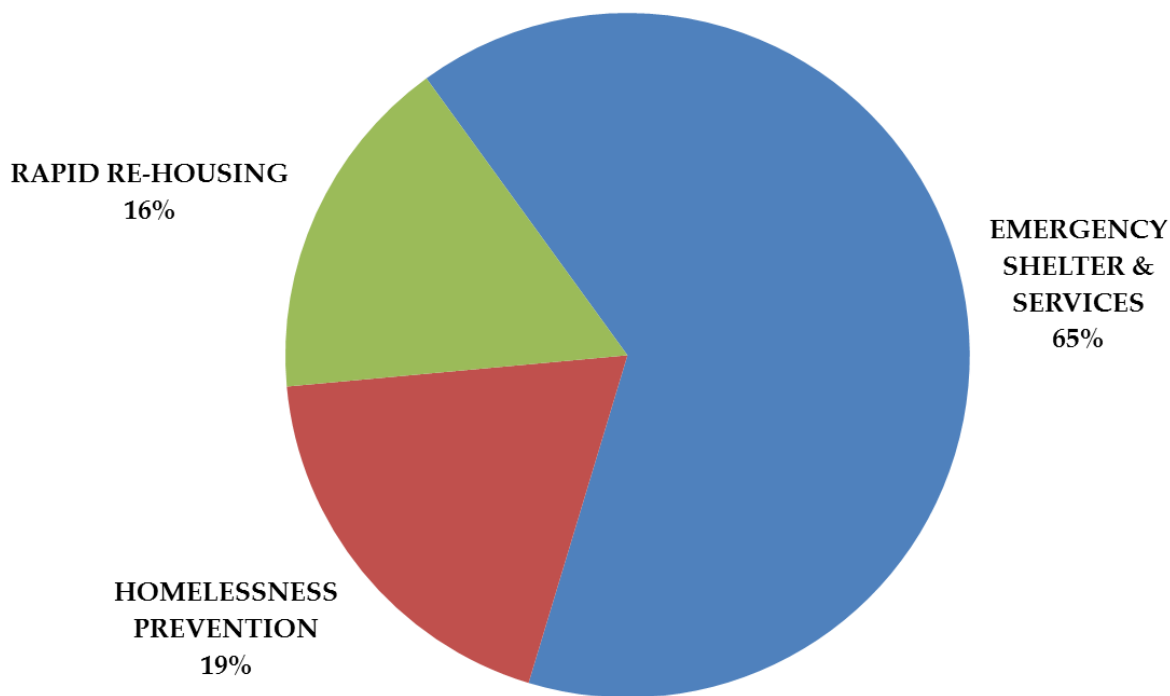
Other ESG-funded programs provide homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing assistance such as housing support services and financial aid to prevent eviction or help a family enter new housing. These activities provided housing stability for **1,703** persons in **771** households, 60% of these households were literally homeless.

Both homelessness prevention and rapid-rehousing strategies provide housing relocation and stabilization support such as housing search and placement, landlord-tenant mediation,

housing case management, follow-up or supportive services to help maintain housing, money management and financial assistance such as security deposits, utility payments and deposits, moving costs, rental arrearages and short-term rental assistance. Using the HUD and AHS definition, homelessness prevention targets assistance to those who are “at-risk of homelessness” (e.g., “couch surfing”, exiting an institution, or facing eviction) whereas rapid re-housing serves those experiencing literal homelessness (e.g., sleeping in a place not meant for habitation or a staying in an emergency shelter).

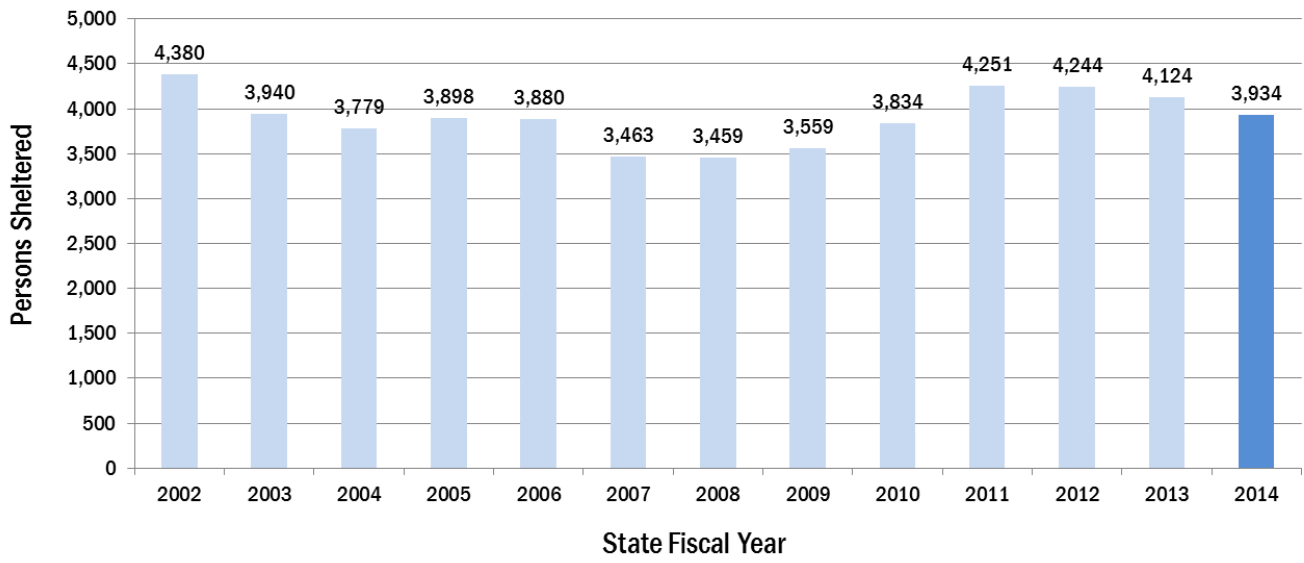
Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing services in this report are only those paid for with Emergency Solutions Grant dollars. Numbers do not reflect other activities by these grantee providers paid for with funding such as Crisis Fuel, Community Housing Grant, Vermont Rental Subsidy, FEMA, or CSBG. Though in reality, community-based providers often combine these various resources in order to meet the presenting needs.

Emergency Solutions Grant - All Funding Sources - SFY 2014 Program Components, as % of Total Grants Awarded



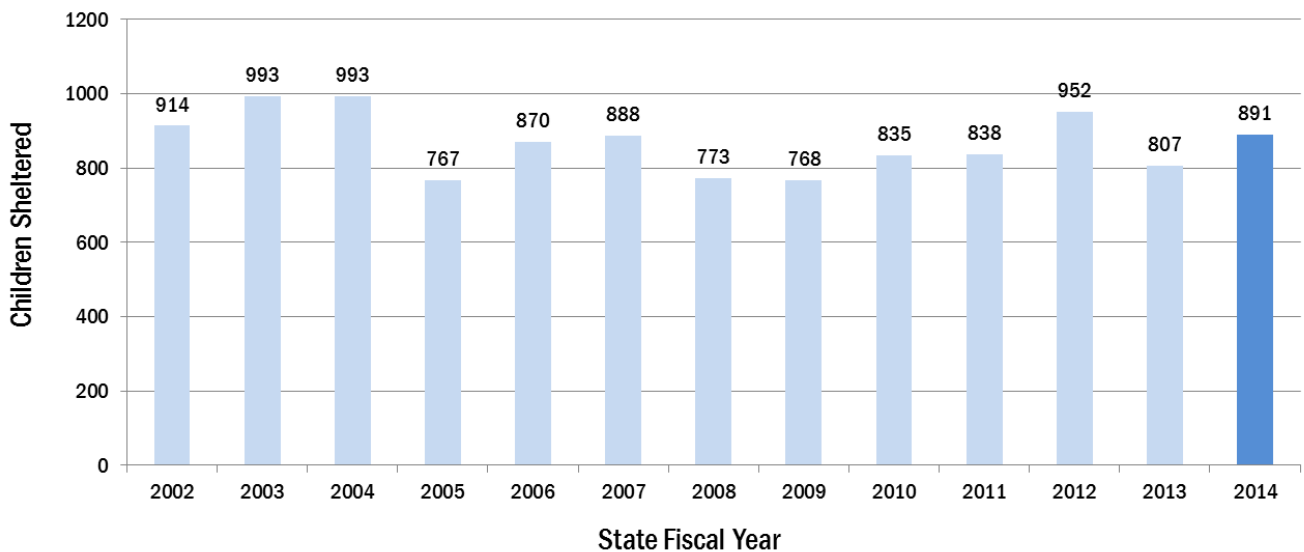
Approximately \$1.6 million in state and federal funding was awarded under the Emergency Solutions Grant program. Just over half of funds supported direct service staff, such as case managers or housing counselors. Approximately one-third of funds supported basic shelter operations, such as utilities, rent, building insurance, shelter supplies or basic maintenance. The remaining funds (approximately \$300,000) provided client financial or rental assistance such as security deposit, rental or utility arrearages, or short-term rental assistance.

Persons in Vermont's ESG Homeless Shelters (2002-2014)

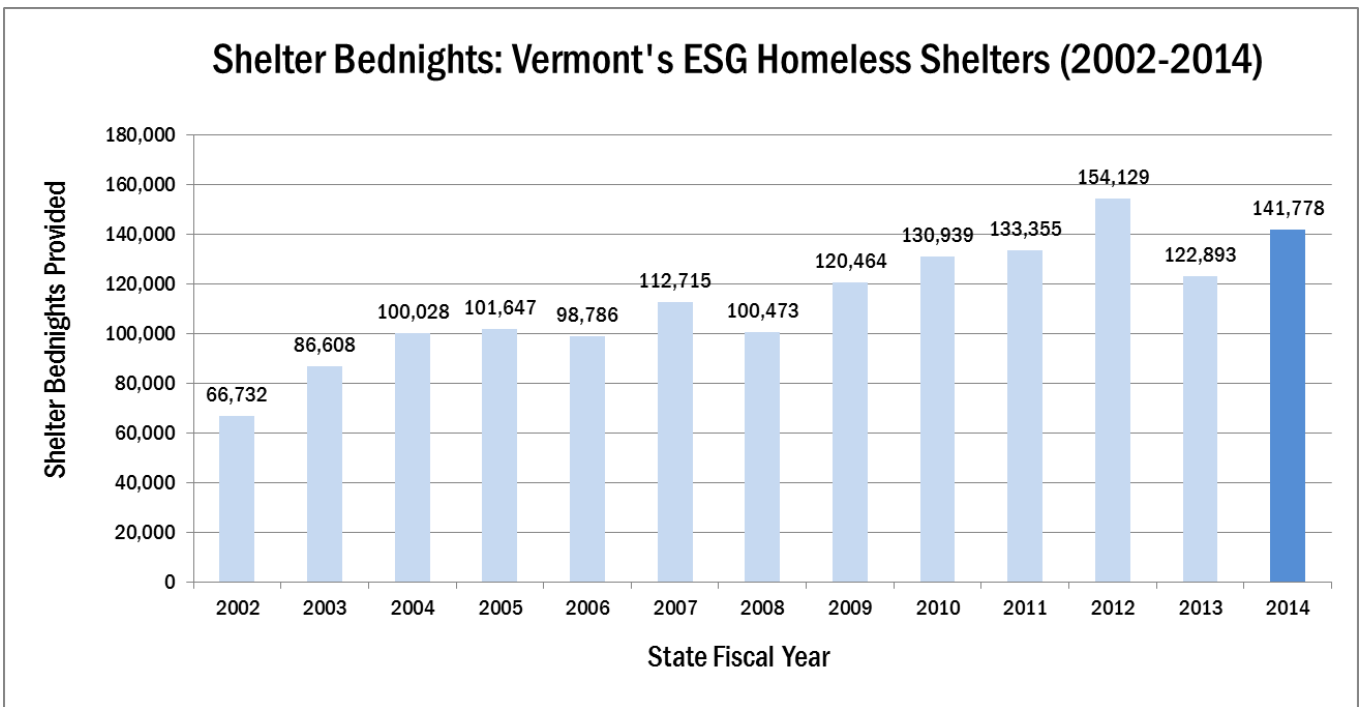
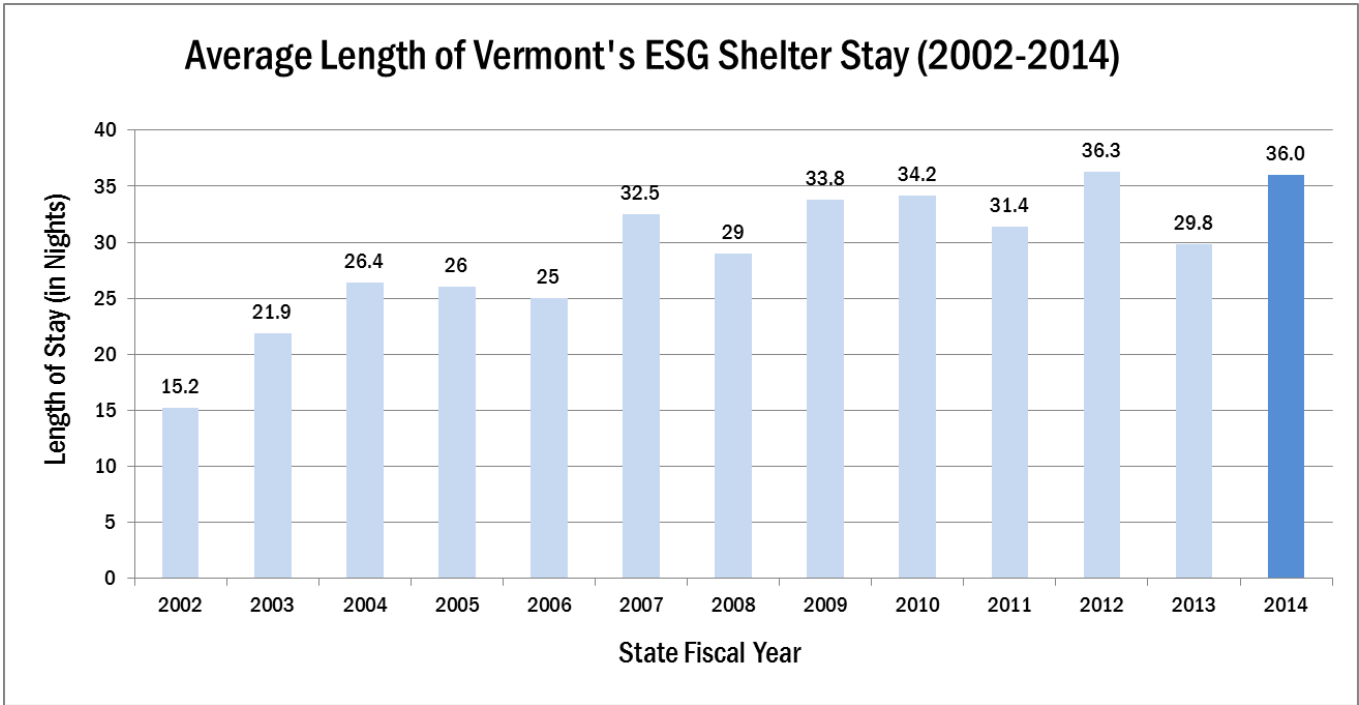


Overall, the number of persons staying in ESG-funded emergency shelters decreased last year; however, this might be expected when combined with an increase in the average length of stay. Some emergency shelters were at capacity for a significant portion of the year, while serving fewer individuals for longer lengths of stay. Statewide data can also mask regional differences. In fact, 1 in 3 shelters reported increases in the number of persons served during SFY 2014. During this same time period, capacity to serve homeless families and individuals saw regional changes; in Addison and Springfield two warming shelters opened while one family shelter program in Bennington added capacity. Total persons served by shelters reflects changes in the homeless population, but is also impacted by changes in homeless shelter capacity.

Children in Vermont's ESG Homeless Shelters (2002-2014)



We continue to see an increase the number of families staying in ESG-funded Homeless Shelters from 517 (SFY 2012) to 713 (SFY 2014). In addition, 32% of children and 49% of families spent their stay at a domestic/sexual violence shelter. The majority of the increase in children at emergency shelters was at domestic violence shelters.



EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS PERFORMANCE: Beginning July 1, 2011, the State Office of Economic launched new results based performance measurement. Grantees report on measures tied to the category of funding received: Shelter Operations, Case Management, Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing. Performance targets and 2014 performance are included below. By reporting the “% of Grantees Meeting Target”, the Office of Economic Opportunity is able to better understand which areas the network may require training and support to improve or where targets may need to be reconsidered.

Performance Measures by Activity	Target	State FY 2014 Performance	% of Grantees Meeting Target
EMERGENCY SHELTER OPERATIONS			
Year-round Shelter facilities are open, staffed, insured, clear of safety violations, and available to shelter the homeless ¹	365 nights	Open 362 nights on average or 99.2%	85%
Warming/Seasonal shelter facilities are open, staffed, insured, clear of safety violations, and available to shelter the homeless	166 nights ²	Open 148 nights on average or 89%	n/a
Shelter households (individuals or families) will have an initial meeting with a case manager (or equivalent) within 3 days of entering the program ³	90%	Emergency	95%
		Day Shelter	38%
		Transitional	100%
		Youth	99%
Households who exit emergency shelter, exit to stable permanent or transitional housing	baseline	44%	n/a
YOUTH SHELTER & SERVICES			
Youth exiting the program will have “safe exits” as defined by one of the following: College, Friends, Home With Family, Independent Living, Job Corps, Military, Relative’s Home, or Residential Treatment/Rehab	70%	92%	100%
CASE MANAGEMENT⁴			
Homeless households referred for case management will meet with a case manager within 3 days of the referral.	90%	94%	88%
Within 90 days of referral, households receiving case management will have at least 1 adult who is employed, OR enrolled in an educational or training program, OR has qualified for income benefits such as TANF, SSI or GA	70%	70%	41%
Within 90 days of referral, households receiving case management will be stabilized in transitional or permanent housing	70%	39%	18%
Households stabilized or re-housed will continue to be in stable housing at least 90 days following assistance	70%	84%	76%
HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION			
Households at-risk of homelessness will have their housing stabilized or be safely re-housed within 28 days	70%	81%	92%
Households stabilized or re-housed will continue to be in stable housing at least 90 days following assistance	70%	83%	75%
RAPID RE-HOUSING			
Homeless households will be safely re-housed within 28 days	70%	73%	80%
Households re-housed will continue to be in stable housing at least 90 days following assistance	70%	76%	100%

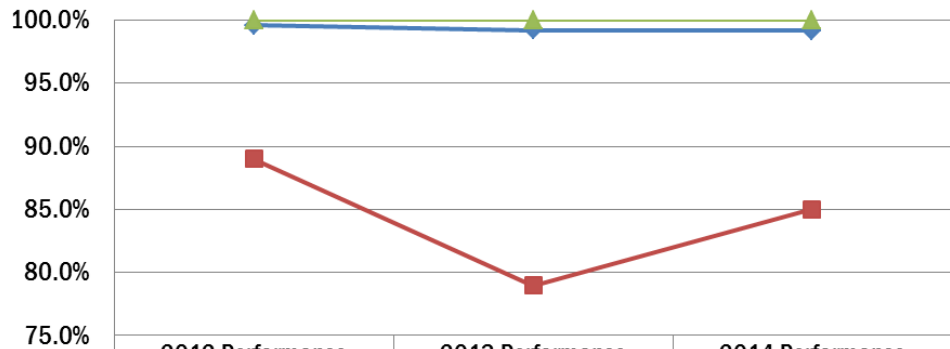
¹ Figures do not include day shelters, warming shelters or transitional housing.

² 166 nights is November 1st – April 15th, cold weather months.

³ Figures include 28 year-long and warming emergency shelters; 2 day shelters; and 1 transitional shelter; for some programs, this is accomplished through referral.

⁴ Only organizations that receive funding for case management report on these performance measures.

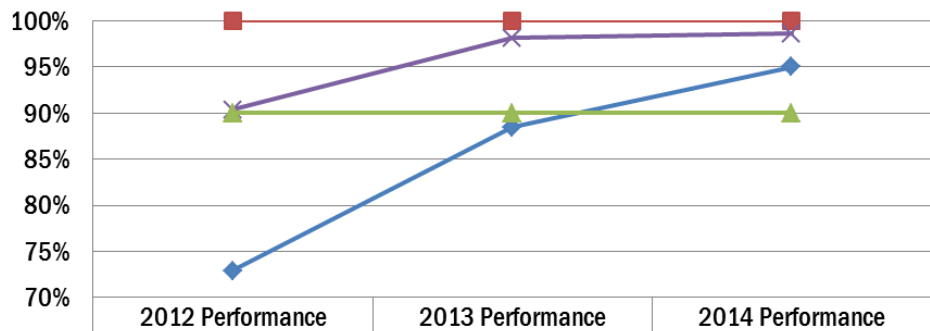
Emergency Solutions Grant Performance: Emergency Shelter Operations



	2012 Performance	2013 Performance	2014 Performance
◆ % of calendar days that the shelter was open, staffed, insured, clear of safety violations and available to shelter residents	99.6%	99.2%	99.2%
▲ Target	100%	100%	100%
■ % of Grantees Meeting Target	89%	79%	85%

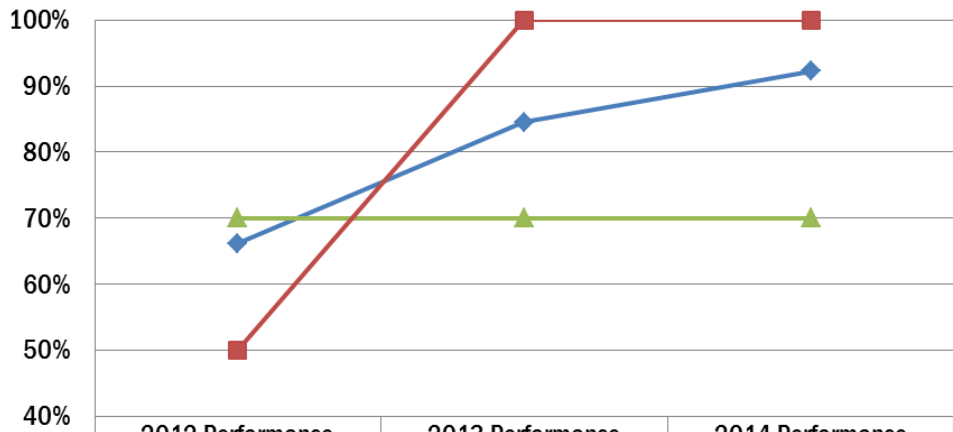
Statewide, our year-round emergency shelters were open and available to shelter the homeless for 99.2% of calendar days.

Emergency Solutions Grant Performance: Shelter Operations, Service Referral



	2012 Performance	2013 Performance	2014 Performance
◆ Emergency Shelter: % of new HH who met with a case manager or advocate within 3 days of entrance	73%	88%	95%
■ Transitional Housing: % of new HH who met with a case manager within 3 days of entrance	100%	100%	100%
× Youth Shelter: % of youth who met with a case manager within 3 days of entrance	90%	98%	99%
▲ Target	90%	90%	90%
◆ % of Grantees Meeting Target			

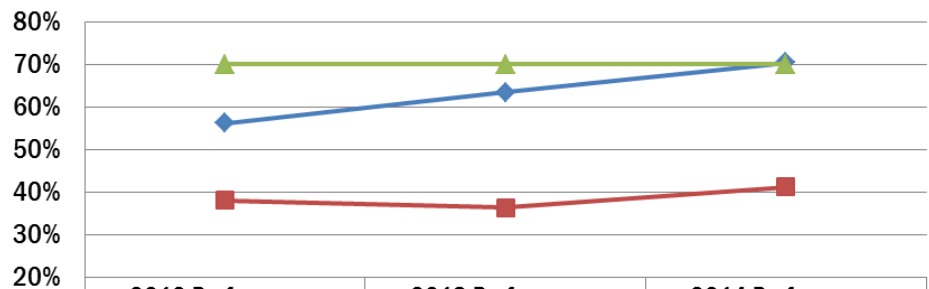
Emergency Solutions Grant Performance: Youth Shelter & Services



	2012 Performance	2013 Performance	2014 Performance
◆ % of Youth exiting the program who had "safe" exits	66%	85%	92%
▲ Target	70%	70%	70%
■ % of Grantees Meeting Target	50%	100%	100%

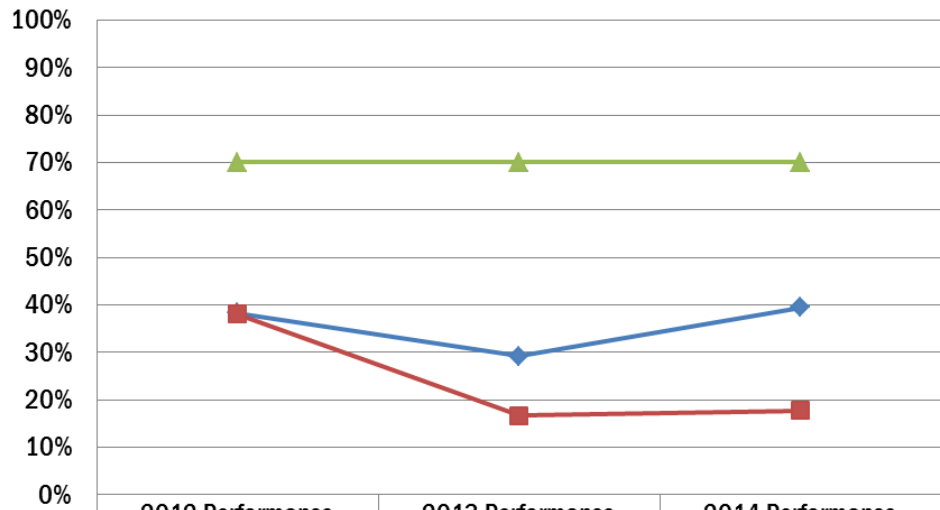
While it is difficult to draw broad conclusions about the efficacy of all homeless assistance programs from the above performance measures, it is clear that some strategies are successful. Access to case management and supportive services is critical for households experiencing homelessness; however, financial assistance and services together through rapid re-housing demonstrates an effective combination of resources to help families achieve and maintain housing stability.

Emergency Solutions Grant Performance: Case Management for Homeless Households (HH), Income



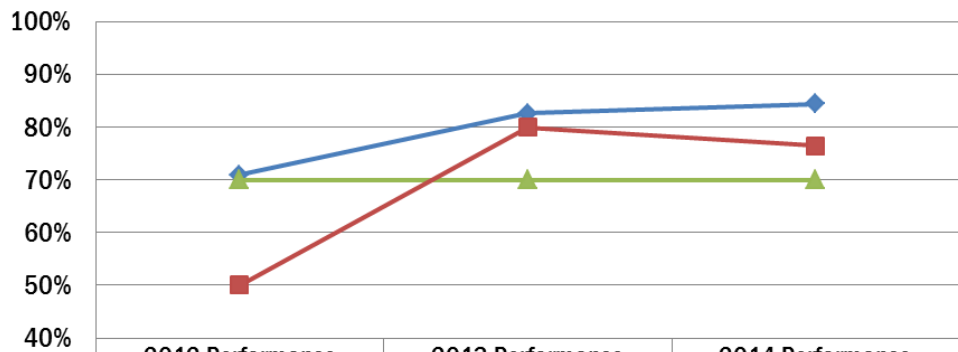
	2012 Performance	2013 Performance	2014 Performance
◆ % of HH who - within 90 days of case management - have at least 1 adult who has found employment OR enrolled in education or training OR qualified for income benefits (e.g., TANF, SSI, GA)	56%	63%	70%
▲ Target	70%	70%	70%
■ % of Grantees Meeting Target	38%	36%	41%

Emergency Solutions Grant Performance: Case Management for Homeless Households (HH), Housing



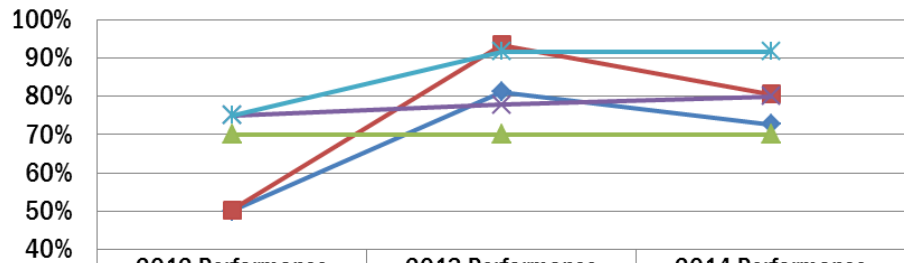
	2012 Performance	2013 Performance	2014 Performance
◆ % of HH who - within 90 days of case management referral - are stabilized in transitional or permanent housing	38%	29%	39%
▲ Target	70%	70%	70%
■ % of Grantees Meeting Target	38%	17%	18%

Emergency Solutions Grant Performance: Case Management for Homeless Households (HH), Housing Stability



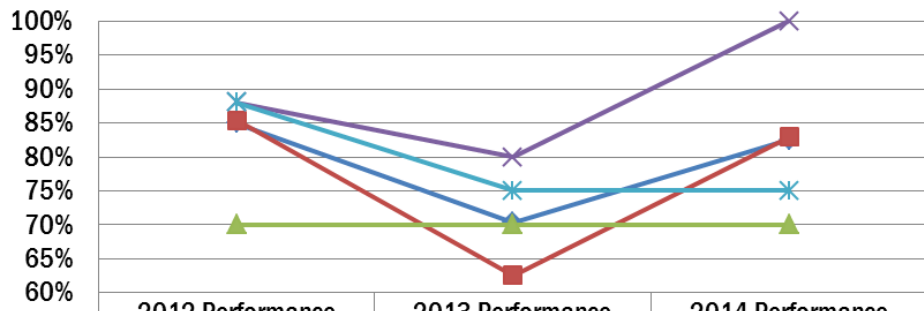
	2012 Performance	2013 Performance	2014 Performance
◆ % of HH who were stabilized in transitional or permanent housing AND remained stably housed for at least 90 days	71%	83%	84%
▲ Target	70%	70%	70%
■ % of Grantees Meeting Target	50%	80%	76%

Emergency Solutions Grant Performance: Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing



	2012 Performance	2013 Performance	2014 Performance
◆ % of homeless households who were re-housed within 28 days (rapid re-housing)	50%	81%	73%
■ % of households at-risk of homelessness who were stabilized or re-housed within 28 days (prevention)	50%	93%	81%
▲ Target	70%	70%	70%
✕ % of Rapid Re-Housing Grantees Meeting Target	75%	78%	80%
✧ % of Homelessness Prevention Grantees Meeting Target	75%	92%	92%

Emergency Solutions Grant Performance: Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing - Housing Stability



	2012 Performance	2013 Performance	2014 Performance
◆ % of homeless HH who remain in stable housing 90 days after assistance (rapid re-housing)	85%	70%	83%
■ % of HH at-risk of homelessness who remain in stable housing 90 days after assistance (prevention)	85%	63%	83%
▲ Target	70%	70%	70%
✕ % of Rapid Re-Housing Grantees Meeting Target	88%	80%	100%
✧ % of Homelessness Prevention Grantees Meeting Target	88%	75%	75%

⁵ In SFY 2012, Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing performance was combined in reporting.