

Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Vermont Annual Report - State Fiscal Year 2015

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., the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness) - to consult on performance measurement, data management and developing coordinated entry and assessment systems within both systems of care. This report details the services and shelter provided by publicly-funded, privately operated non-profit partners. It provides insight into changes in the population experiencing homelessness in Vermont, as it details the level of service and results achieved by this system of care. It is best understood in tandem with reports from the General Assistance program and the statewide homeless Point-in-Time count.

Overnights Sheltered

Between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015, Vermont's publicly-funded emergency shelters, domestic violence shelters, and youth shelters, reported the following.

- **4,303** persons sheltered for a total of **153,361** shelter bed nights.
- **3,446** were adults and **857** were children under the age of 18.
- The average length of stay was approximately **36.8** days.

Emergency Solutions Grant funds support basic operations and essential services at 29 overnight emergency shelters, including 4 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. In some cases, a crisis bed is provided in a scattered site program with a short-term apartment stay.

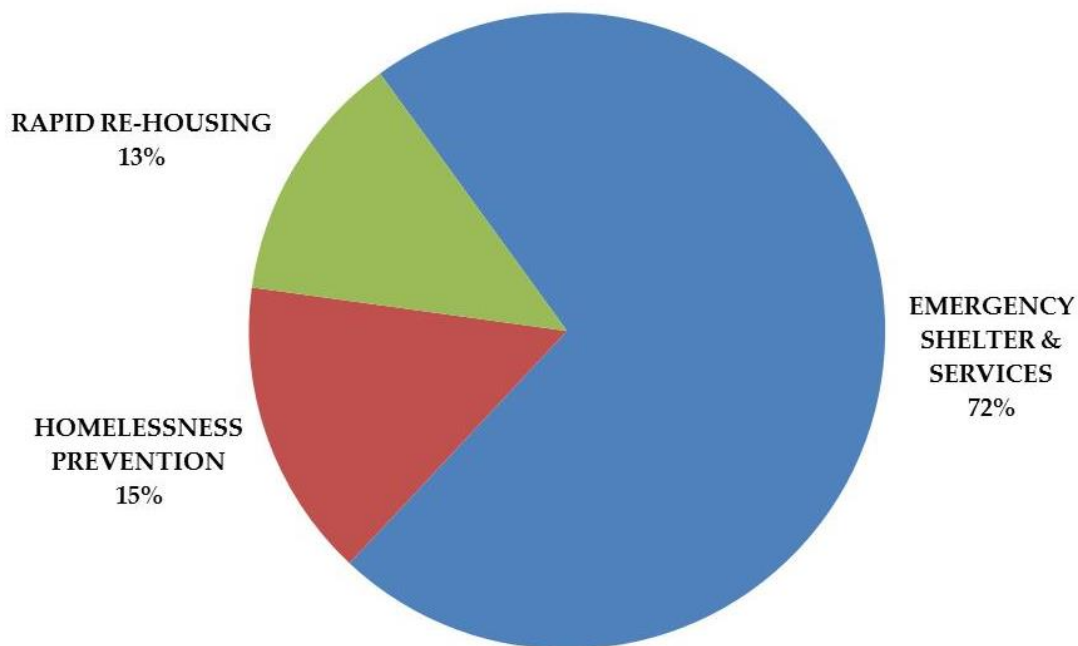
Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing

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 **2,164** persons in **867** households, approximately 50% 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 AHS/HUD 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 rehousing serves those experiencing literal homelessness (e.g., sleeping in a place not meant for habitation or staying in an emergency shelter).

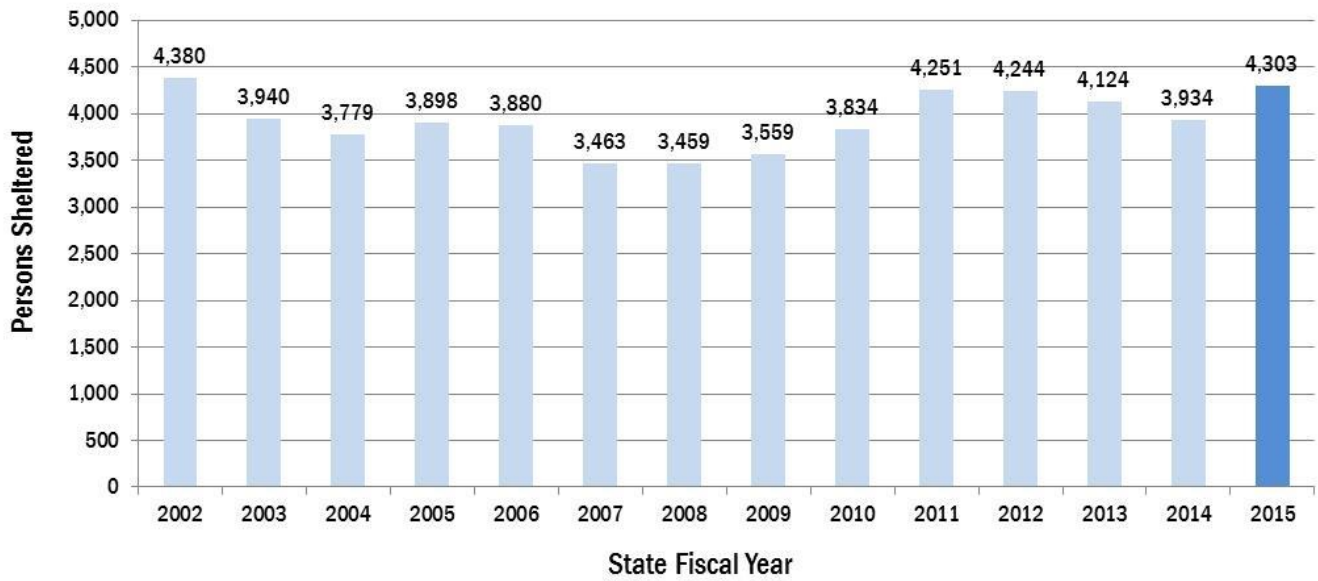
Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing services in this report are only those paid for in whole or part with Emergency Solutions Grant dollars. Numbers do not reflect other activities by these grantee providers paid for with funding such as Crisis Fuel, Community Housing Grant, Vermont Rental Subsidy, FEMA, 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 2015 Program Components, as % of Total Grants Awarded



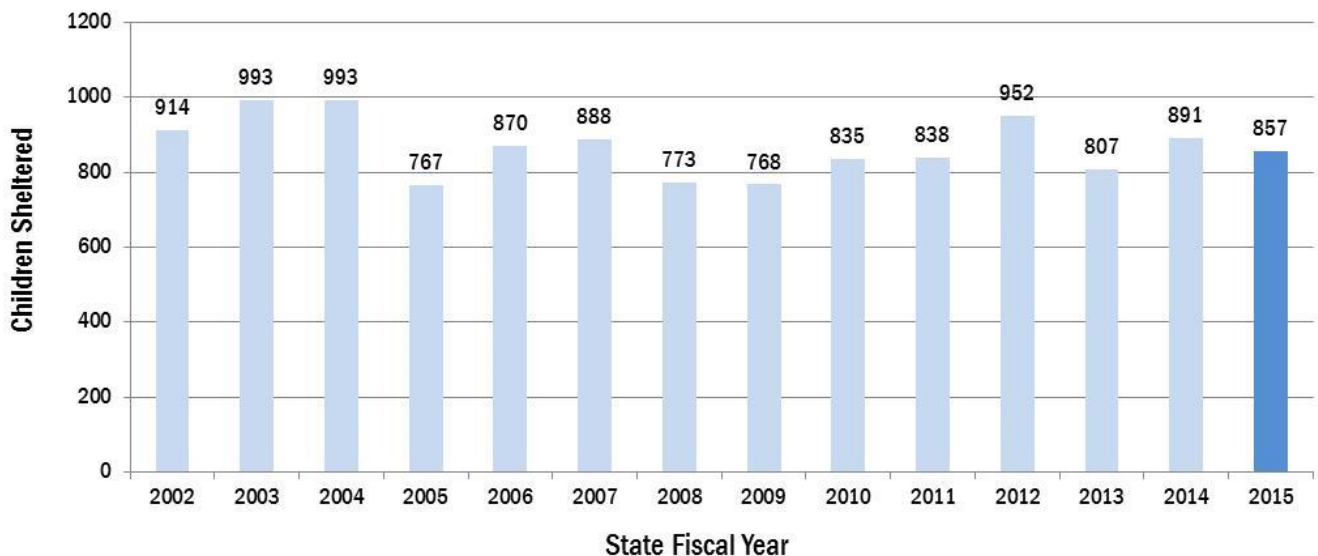
Approximately \$1.9 million in state and federal funding was awarded under the Emergency Solutions Grant program. Approximately half of funds supported direct service staff, such as case managers or housing specialists. Approximately one-third of funds supported basic shelter operations, such as utilities, 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 (2002-2015)

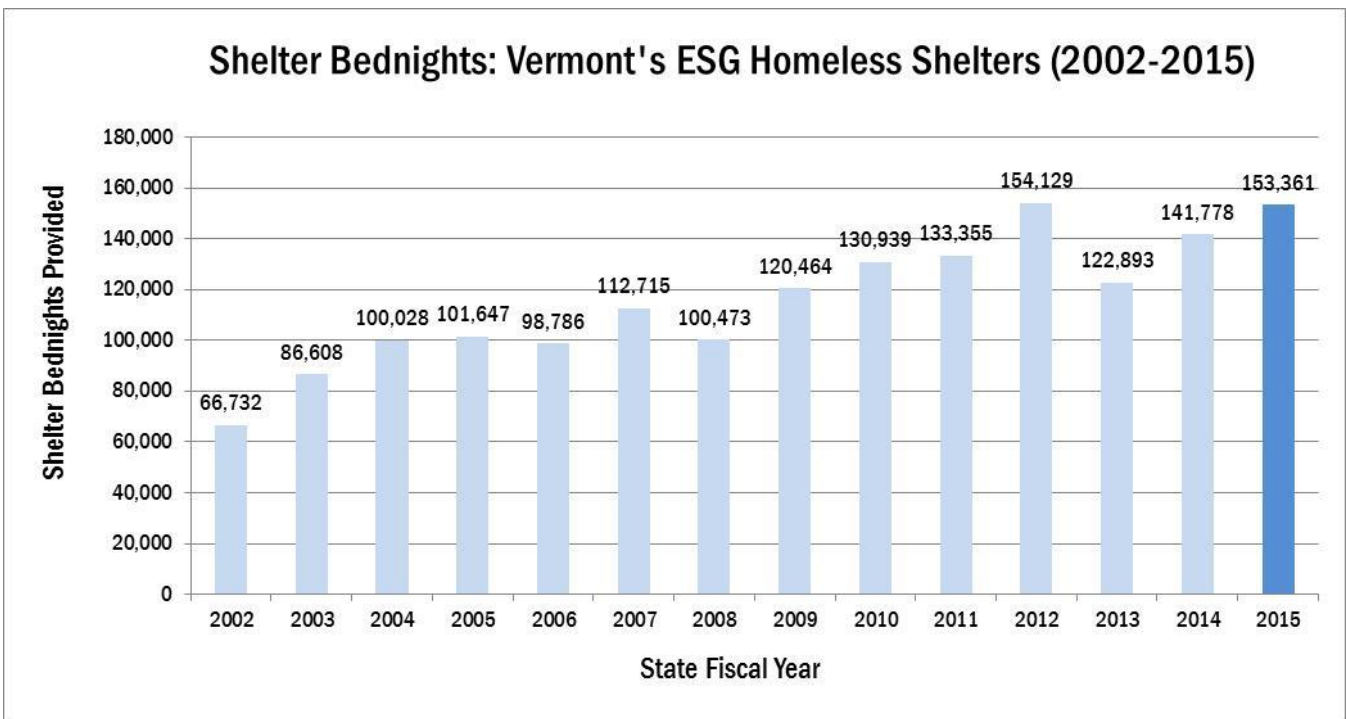
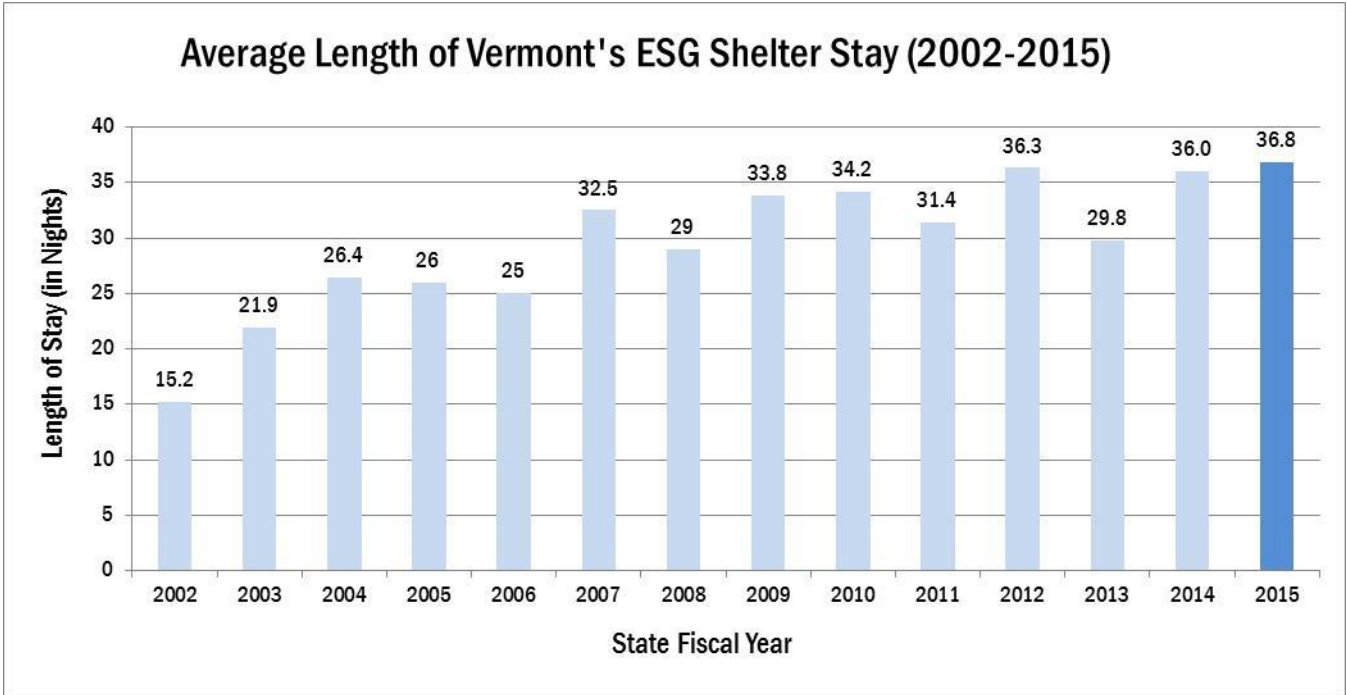


Overall, the number of persons staying in publicly-funded emergency shelters increased last year, as did the average length of stay in shelters. Approximately 35% of children and 40% of families spent their stay at a domestic/sexual violence shelter. Approximately one quarter (23% of all adults served by shelters, homelessness prevention or rapid re-housing programs were between the age of 18 and 24, and just four percent were elderly (123 persons). Of all those served, other special subpopulations identified include those who are/have: Veterans, 3%; chronic homeless, 9%; severe mental illness, 11%; chronic substance abuse, 7%; other disability, 13%.

Children in Vermont's ESG Homeless Shelters (2002-2015)



Statewide data can mask regional differences. Approximately half of all shelters reported increases in the number of persons served during SFY 2015. During this same time period, capacity to serve homeless families and individuals saw regional changes. In Burlington a warming shelter opened; in Barre, daytime capacity was added seasonally which increased utilization; while three emergency shelter programs in Caledonia County saw significant changes, including 3 site closures and subsequent program changes to place homeless Vermonters in short or long term apartment stays. Total persons served by shelters reflects changes in the homeless population, but is also impacted by changes in homeless shelter capacity.



EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS PERFORMANCE: Grantees report on measures tied to the category of funding received: Shelter Operations, Case Management, Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing. Performance targets and 2015 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 2015 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%	95%
Warming/Seasonal shelter facilities are open, staffed, insured, clear of safety violations, and available to shelter the homeless	166 nights ²	Open 140 nights on average or 84%	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	92%
		Day Shelter	53%
		Transitional	100%
		Youth	100%
Households who exit emergency shelter, exit to stable permanent or transitional housing	baseline	42%	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%	93%	100%
CASE MANAGEMENT⁴			
Homeless households referred for case management will meet with a case manager within 3 days of the referral.	90%	94%	89%
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%	59%	39%
Within 90 days of referral, households receiving case management will be stabilized in transitional or permanent housing	70%	35%	28%
Households stabilized or re-housed will continue to be in stable housing at least 90 days following assistance	70%	73%	75%
HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION			
Households at-risk of homelessness will have their housing stabilized or be safely re-housed within 28 days	70%	67%	80%
Households stabilized or re-housed will continue to be in stable housing at least 90 days following assistance	70%	66%	78%
RAPID RE-HOUSING			
Homeless households will be safely re-housed within 28 days	70%	44%	60%
Households re-housed will continue to be in stable housing at least 90 days following assistance	70%	72%	89%

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 29 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.

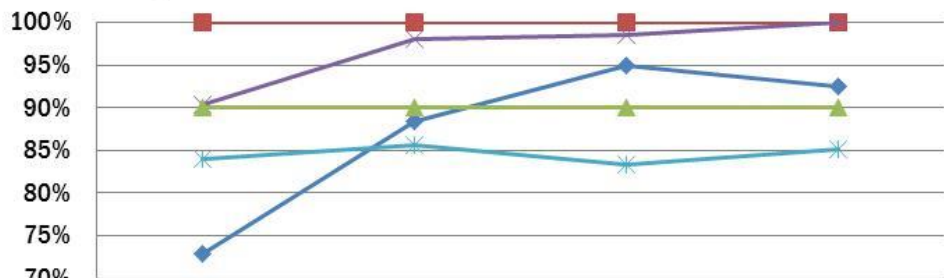
Emergency Solutions Grant Performance: Emergency Shelter Operations



	2012 Performance	2013 Performance	2014 Performance	2015 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%	99.2%
▲ Target	100%	100%	100%	100%
■ % of Grantees Meeting Target	89%	79%	85%	95%

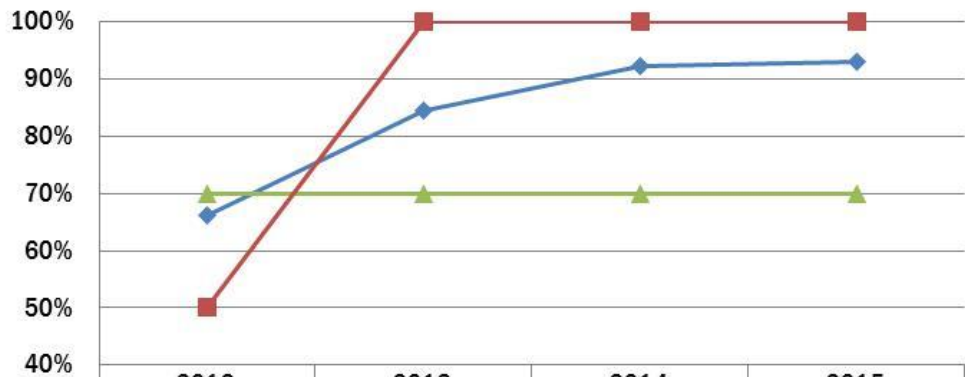
Statewide, our year-round emergency shelters were open and available to shelter the homeless for 99.2% of calendar days.

Emergency Solutions Grant Performance: Shelter Operations, Service Referral



	2012 Performance	2013 Performance	2014 Performance	2015 Performance
◆ Emergency Shelter: % of new HH who met with a case manager or advocate within 3 days of entrance	73%	88%	95%	92%
■ Transitional Housing: % of new HH who met with a case manager within 3 days of entrance	100%	100%	100%	100%
✕ Youth Shelter: % of youth who met with a case manager within 3 days of entrance	90%	98%	99%	100%
▲ Target	90%	90%	90%	90%
* % of Grantees Meeting Target	84%	86%	83%	85%

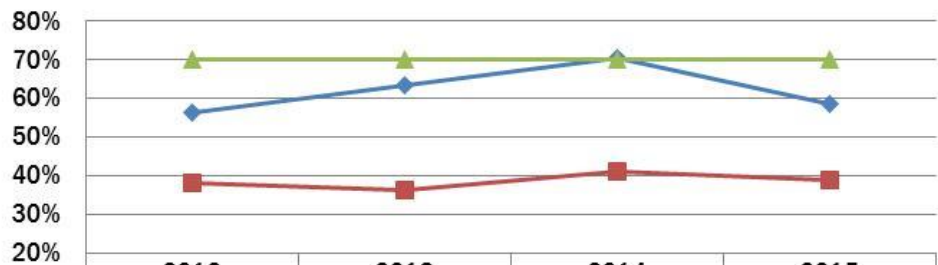
Emergency Solutions Grant Performance: Youth Shelter & Services



	2012 Performance	2013 Performance	2014 Performance	2015 Performance
◆ % of Youth exiting the program who had "safe" exits	66%	85%	92%	93%
▲ Target	70%	70%	70%	70%
■ % of Grantees Meeting Target	50%	100%	100%	100%

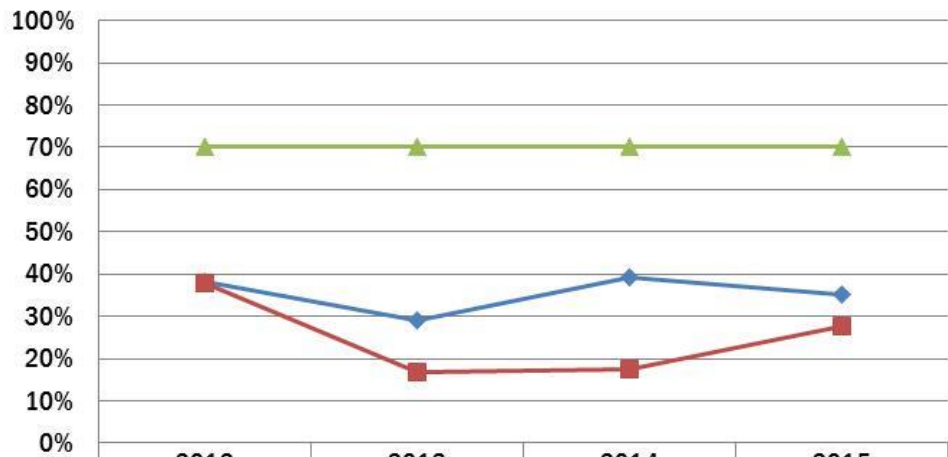
While it is difficult to draw broad conclusions about the efficacy of all homeless assistance programs from the above performance measures, it is clear that some strategies are successful. Access to case management and supportive services is critical for households experiencing homelessness; however, 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



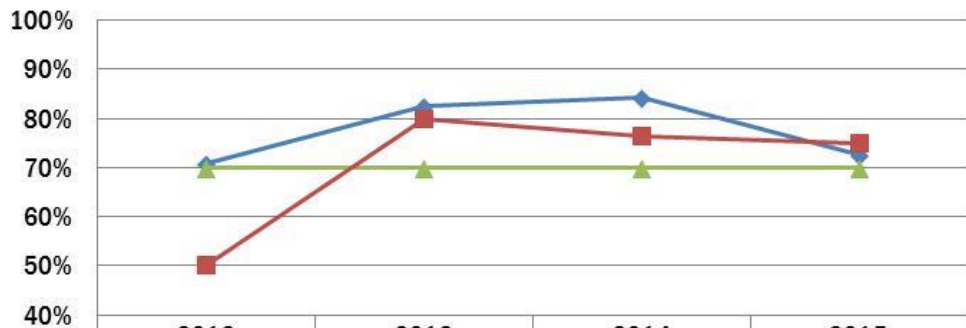
	2012 Performance	2013 Performance	2014 Performance	2015 Performance
◆ % of HH who - within 90 days of case management - have at least 1 adult who has found employment OR enrolled in education or training OR qualified for income benefits (e.g., TANF, SSI, GA)	56%	63%	70%	59%
▲ Target	70%	70%	70%	70%
■ % of Grantees Meeting Target	38%	36%	41%	39%

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



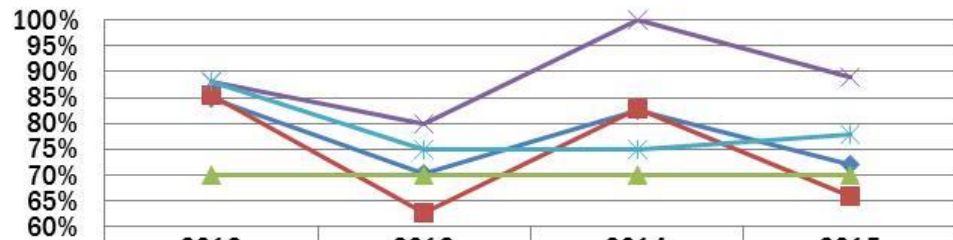
	2012 Performance	2013 Performance	2014 Performance	2015 Performance
◆ % of HH who - within 90 days of case management referral - are stabilized in transitional or permanent housing	38%	29%	39%	35%
▲ Target	70%	70%	70%	70%
■ % of Grantees Meeting Target	38%	17%	18%	28%

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



	2012 Performance	2013 Performance	2014 Performance	2015 Performance
◆ % of HH who were stabilized in transitional or permanent housing AND remained stably housed for at least 90 days	71%	83%	84%	73%
▲ Target	70%	70%	70%	70%
■ % of Grantees Meeting Target	50%	80%	76%	75%

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



	2012 Performance	2013 Performance	2014 Performance	2015 Performance
◆ % of homeless HH who remain in stable housing 90 days after assistance (rapid re-housing)	85%	70%	83%	72%
■ % of HH at-risk of homelessness who remain in stable housing 90 days after assistance (prevention)	85%	63%	83%	66%
▲ Target	70%	70%	70%	70%
✕ % of Rapid Re-Housing Grantees Meeting Target	88%	80%	100%	89%
✱ % of Homelessness Prevention Grantees Meeting Target	88%	75%	75%	78%

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