

OUTREACH INCENTIVE GRANT FUNDING: END-OF-YEAR PROJECT REPORT

Title of Proposal: Study of Housing First Outcomes for Formerly Homeless Individuals

Your Name: Dr. David Patterson Project Date: 05/01/2011-6/30/2012

Additional project support received from other university or external sources:

Source	Amount	Title
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Please use this sheet to answer each of the following questions about your project (1-2 pp total)

- ASSESSMENT:** How did this project document or assess its engagement with the community? KnoxHMIS engages with the Volunteer Ministry Center (VMC), a homeless service organization, once or twice weekly by completing regular site visits, meeting with clients for assessment, holding informal and formal meetings with case managers in person, on the phone, and via email. KnoxHMIS assesses our level of community involvement by the consistency and regularity in which we engage with the community and VMC as well as the level of meaningful interactions and exchanges between KnoxHMIS staff and VMC clients and case managers that foster increased collaboration and coordination.
- PARTNERSHIP/RECIPROCITY:** How did the university and community work together? KnoxHMIS partnered with the administration and case managers at VMC to evaluate the effectiveness of a new permanent supportive housing facility developed by the agency. The staff of VMC helped determine the research design, instruments, and incentives with researchers from KnoxHMIS. Since the beginning of the project, case managers, administration, and KnoxHMIS researchers have maintained a collaborative partnership to implement participant recruitment strategies and keep the project within the proposed timeframe.
- BENEFITS:** What were the benefits (University/community) of this partnership? For VMC, the benefits of this partnership include programmatic evaluation and information to be shared with interested community members. With the results from the study, staff at VMC will be able to address community concerns regarding the efficacy and outcomes of housing for formerly homeless individuals. For individuals experiencing homelessness in our community, the project may provide evidence for the efficacy of permanent supportive housing, which may help guide program development and affordable housing policy formation in the future. For KnoxHMIS and the University of Tennessee, this university/community partnership has afforded the opportunity to research the emergent trend of Housing First and permanent supportive housing as a strategy to end homelessness. In addition, the University was chosen as an exemplary project in the national C. Peter Magrath University-Community Partnership competition. UT will be recognized at a national conference on university-community engagement later this year.
- SHARED DECISION-MAKING:** Did the community have a “voice” or role for input into this project? In response to community concern regarding housing options provided by homeless service agencies, as well as the agency’s need to conduct a thorough program evaluation, it was mutually decided by VMC and KnoxHMIS to design and conduct this study. Most recently, the staff of VMC voiced an alternative recruitment strategy to help bring in additional participants. Instead of case managers simply asking clients to join the study upon entry into Flenniken Landing, they staff of VMC have invited KnoxHMIS to a regularly scheduled community breakfast to answer questions about participation.

5. **SCHOLARSHIP:** Are there any examples of faculty scholarship that will be informed by this project? The PIs have recently submitted a manuscript on conducting research through collaborative relationships between the community and university. Another article on university-community partnership has been chosen for inclusion in an edited volume. At the conclusion of the study, results will be disseminated to academic journals as well as to the community at large. It is anticipated that this research will help inform the broader national conversation about the effects of permanent supportive housing on addressing homelessness as well as overall health and well-being of formerly homeless individuals.

6. **CONCLUSIONS:** What conclusions and best practices can be drawn from the partnership? The importance of actively listening to the concerns of the community and of the partner agency during the research design phase cannot be underestimated. Because this study was designed to answer a question that is of significant importance to our local community, the partner agency has been very active in the recruitment of participants, flexible and open to hold formal and informal meetings in a timely manner, and responsive to communication. This level of engagement by the partner agency reflects a genuine ownership of the research process and will likely result in an ongoing partnership between the university and our local community.

7. **FUTURE PLANS:** What are the future plans for this partnership? KnoxHMIS plans to continue the study at VMC's Minvilla Manor and at Flenniken Landing.