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Colorado Springs / El Paso County Continuum of Care Fact Sheet

Criteria for designation of "Chronic Homeless" includes a disabling condition

- Physical, developmental, mental illness, chronic substance use, chronic health condition
- All "chronic homeless" could qualify for AND, SSI, SSDI if diagnosed & documented

2013 Study on Cost of Care for Chronic Homeless in Colorado Springs/El Paso County

- \$57,760 is the annual cost of medical treatment, incarceration, police intervention, and emergency response for a chronically homeless person remaining on the streets
- \$30,000 is the annual savings when housing & services are provided instead
- Acquisition of AND, SSI, or SSDI leverages housing & services funds through rent contribution; allows communities to serve more clients

Challenges for the Chronically Homeless Population

- SSI/SSDI application can take 2-3 months to put together
 - No primary care doctor so disabling condition diagnosis is difficult
 - Medical records are scattered across clinics & emergency rooms
 - Keeping appointments is difficult
 - No permanent address so contact is sporadic
 - Disabling condition interrupts intentions
- AND assistance is delayed while SSI/SSDI application is prepared because of current co-submission requirement
 - Contributes to prolonged instability

Benefits of acquisition of AND, SSI, SSDI

- Clients can make a contribution to own housing stability
- Housing stability creates personal and medical stability
- Long-term stability can lead to some level of employment, depending on disabling condition, which then increases economic independence

Homeless Point In Time Survey – 26 January 2014

- 712 people with no shelter (269) or staying in emergency or cold weather shelters (443)
 - 336 (47%) chronic homeless individuals & persons in families
 - 221 (31%) persons with mental illness
 - 202 (28%) persons with chronic substance use
- 414 persons in permanent supportive housing
 - All have disabling conditions
 - Most were chronically homeless before program entry
- 5 open permanent supportive housing beds on the night of the Point In Time (due to timing of turnover)