



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Homeless Solutions for Boulder County (HSBC) is an innovative, systems approach to addressing homelessness across the county that was launched in October 2017. Participants include government agencies from Boulder County and the Cities of Boulder and Longmont, nonprofits working to impact homelessness, and the faith community. This new approach is organized around the Housing First model; an evidence-based approach that prioritizes helping individuals and families experiencing homelessness obtain a stable housing solution as quickly as possible. The goal of HSBC is to provide adults experiencing homelessness with targeted, responsive services to support quick, stable housing solutions.

System Overview

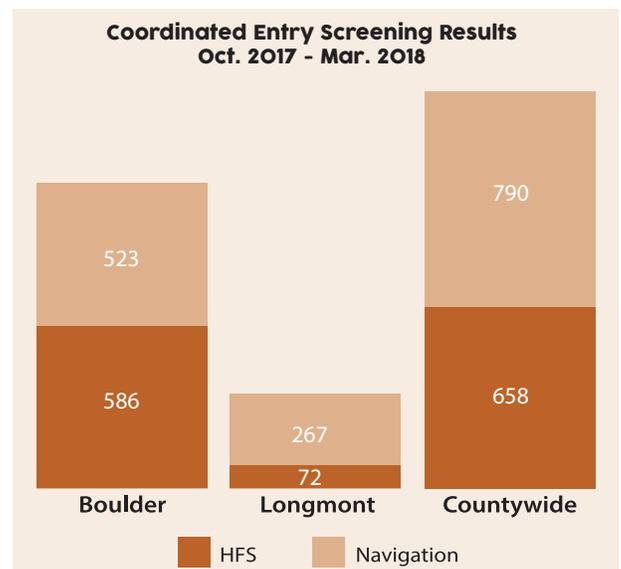
People seeking services now access the system through a new Coordinated Entry (CE) process with access points in either Boulder or Longmont. Clients are assessed to determine if they are most appropriate for Navigation Services or Housing-focused Shelter. All screenings are conducted by Boulder Shelter for the Homeless (BSH) staff. Navigation Services are provided by Bridge House in Boulder, and HOPE and the OUR Center in Longmont. These services are focused on providing short-term resolution assistance to lower need individuals who have fewer barriers to obtaining and maintaining permanent housing, or those who recently arrived in Boulder County. Services can include case management, mediation, financial assistance, legal assistance, reunification assistance, and linkage to mainstream supports. Housing-focused Shelter (HFS) is provided to moderate- to high-needs individuals who need more intensive supports to obtain and maintain housing. They can reserve a bed and stay at BSH until they are housed. Services are provided by BSH staff, and include housing-focused case management and wrap-around supports aligned with a tailored housing plan.

Early Implementation Data

A core component of HSBC efforts is implementation of a robust and utilization-focused evaluation strategy. The following data was gathered during the first six months of operations.

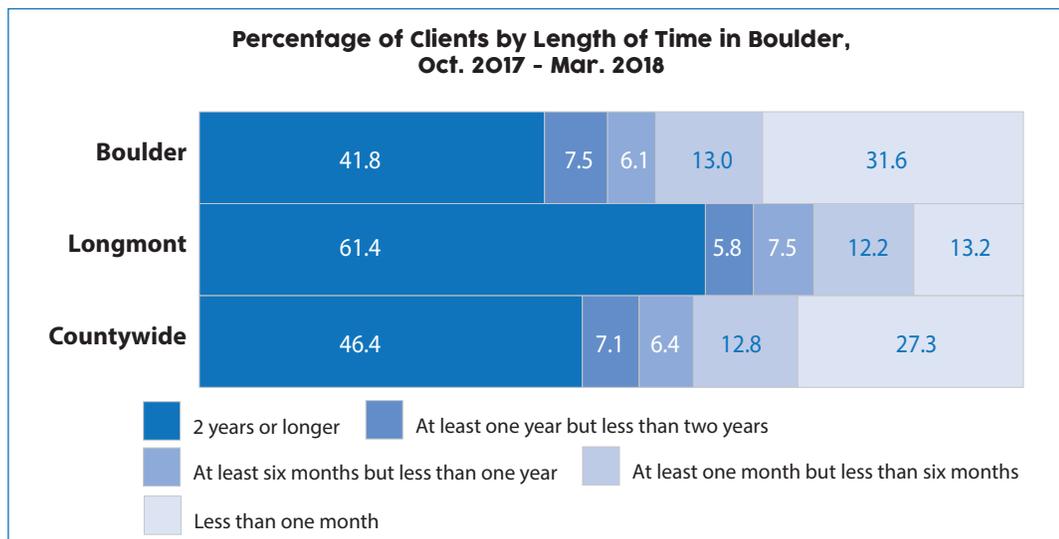
Coordinated Entry:

1,448 single adults were screened for homeless services, 77% of them in Boulder and 23% in Longmont. Of those screened in Boulder, 53% were eligible for longer-term HFS services, and 47% for shorter-term Navigation Services. In Longmont, 79% were eligible for Navigation Services, and 21% were eligible for HFS. Countywide, 658 people were eligible for HFS and 790 for Navigation Services.



Connections to Boulder County:

To prioritize housing resources for local community members, connections in the county are considered when determining a client's service eligibility. Countywide, more than half of those screened reported being in the county for at least one year, with 46% being here two years or more. About 67% of people screened in Longmont reported being in the county for one year or more compared to 49% from Boulder. Overall, 27% of clients were new to the County (less than one month); 13% in Longmont and 32% in Boulder. Countywide about 26% of clients report having family in Boulder County, 48% in Longmont and 19% in Boulder.



Experience with Homelessness:

Three out of five clients screened countywide had been homeless at least 12 months out of the past three years; 62% in Boulder and 54% in Longmont. About 71% reported a disabling condition, 59% in Longmont and 73% in Boulder. Taken together, these indicators suggest many clients will require a housing resource to exit homelessness.

Outcomes to Date:

Within the first six months of HSBC implementation, 184 clients countywide exited services to successful outcomes. These include 72 exits to the client's own housing, 84 reunifications with family or other support systems either inside or out of Boulder County, and 28 entries into other programs including transitional housing programs like Ready to Work and the Inn Between, and substance use treatment programs.

Future of the HSBC System

Like any new effort, particularly one with so many moving parts, time is needed to evolve, adjust and stabilize the service model. HSBC places a high priority on the collection and analysis of evaluation data to help drive improvement efforts, and to ensure that resources are used efficiently and effectively. While it is difficult to predict how much money will be available in future years to invest in the system and where investment might be targeted, it is expected that more resources will go toward the development of permanent supportive housing and related services. HSBC will continue to use evaluation data to explore potential modifications to the mix of service investments as more is learned about current efforts, and the changing needs of the service population.