



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE


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TO: CHG Grantees

SUBJECT: CHG Communications Issue #24

Here is your next installment of "CHG Communications." Please forward all information to your sub grantees. Contact your CHG program manager if you have any questions.

<b>HMIS/Data</b>	<b>Human Trafficking Victims Considered Homeless</b> HUD considers human trafficking, including sex trafficking, to be "other dangerous or life threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or family member" under the definition of "homeless," and Commerce agrees! Housing Status Category 4 should be used in HMIS.
<b>CHG Myth Buster/ CHG Program Policy Clarification</b>	<b>MYTH: It's ok not to serve gay people because of religious freedom.</b>  <b>FACT:</b> RCW 49.60 "The Washington State Law Against Discrimination" prohibits practices of discrimination against any of its inhabitants because of <b>race, creed, color, national origin, families with children, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability.</b>  CHG Grantees agree to comply with all federal, state and local nondiscrimination laws, regulations and policies when they sign a contract with Commerce. These terms and conditions are required to be passed to CHG sub contractors.  <b>Read more about fair housing and religious freedom:</b> <a href="https://www.aclu.org/feature/using-religion-discriminate">https://www.aclu.org/feature/using-religion-discriminate</a>  <b>Read more about fair housing as it applies to Nonprofit Housing and Shelter Providers:</b>  Non-Profit HO 2015.pdf
<b>Resources/Training Opportunities</b>	<b>New Funding Opportunity: Homelessness and Human Trafficking</b> [DEADLINE: November 20, 2015] – The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released a <a href="#">Notice of Funding Availability</a> (NOFA) for the FY 2015 Continuum of Care Program, which includes programs serving victims of human trafficking and other populations at high-risk for human trafficking.

<p><b>Good Reading!</b></p>	<p><b>Shelter Provider Statement in Thurston County</b></p> <p><i>Side Walk Philosophy – provided to people accessing services</i></p> <p>A lot of service agencies will ask you to tell your story – your problems, challenges, hardships, and how you became homeless – and you may have had to tell this story over and over again as you’ve visited different programs.</p> <p>We won’t ask this of you. We don’t need to know your story to trust that you know what you are doing or to trust that you will make the most of what we offer.</p> <p>No social service organization should pretend that it can solve your problems more effectively than you can. You are the expert in your own life and it is unlikely that anyone could make better decisions for you than you already make for yourself. In the matters of your own life, you are far more creative and resourceful than anyone else could be.</p> <p>So we will not ask you to share your hardships so much as your ideas. We will not tell you what to do, what decisions to make, or how to make those decisions. We won’t require you to work a program or to participate in anything that you don’t want for yourself.</p> <p>What we <u>will</u> do is offer a <u>very small</u> amount of assistance and ask you questions designed to spark your creativity in putting that assistance to work for you. We will trust that, assistance in hand, you can succeed without us – though we are available to help if you need us.</p>
<p><b>Resources</b></p>	<p><b>Coordinated Entry and Systems Change</b></p> <p>View recorded webinar from the National Alliance to End Homelessness Center for Capacity Building:  <a href="http://www.endhomelessness.org/library/entry/coordinated-entry-and-systems-change">http://www.endhomelessness.org/library/entry/coordinated-entry-and-systems-change</a></p>