


TANF Funds and Homeless Prevention
Joe Scalise – Director Housing Services


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OH-506 Akron/Barberton Summit County Continuum of Care

- Summit County Population 541,787
- Akron is the largest city in Summit County – Population 197,846
- Entitlement Community - \$4.6 million CoC funds
- PIT Counts: 2015-**760**; 2016-**679**; 2017-**507**; 2018-**587**
- Shelter System: 1- DV Shelter; 2- Family Shelters; 1 shelter serving individual men & women
- Centralized Intake system for Rental Assistance Screening.

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Shrinking Homeless Prevention

- Akron, Ohio – State leader in Evictions
- 2016 – Homeless Prevention funds available.
- TANF, HOME, ESG, HCRP
- 2019 Only TANF and ESG. All others RRH.

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TANF Funds in the Community

- First established in 2013 to bring more resources to families with minor children.
- 2 agencies administering these funds. Local DV provider for families in crisis and a RRH provider to move families out of shelter and prevent shelter entry.
- Assist with Centralized Intake funding.





The Cons of TANF Funds for Providers

- Not Housing First.
- Clients must demonstrate sustainability. Income necessary before rental assistance can be paid. Clients must be able to pay current month.
- Clients cannot exceed \$2000 in assistance and is limited to rental arrears over 30 days.
- Clients can only receive once in an 18 month period.
- Clients must not have sanctions from ODJFS.
- Paperwork intensive. Applications for both soft and hard services.





The Cons roll on...

- Staff spends more time completing forms and reports for TANF funds than any other funding.
- Approval wait times can be hard for landlords to understand. Case Managers need strong mediation skills. Case Managers cannot guarantee assistance until applications have been approved.
- Landlords tend to work with 'good' tenants only.





The Pros of TANF Funds

- In a system where Prevention funds are shrinking, TANF funds are a vital resource.
- For clients in a short-term crisis who are sustainable, the impact on retention is profound.
- Stability in school district for children is vital. Reduction of movement during school year plays a vital role in childhood development.
- Provides Centralized Intake with another diversion resource. Our shelter system has beds for 24 families, they are precious and must be protected.
- Adds to the RRH resources in Centralized Intake. Leaving other Housing First funding for those with higher prioritization.





Contact Information

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