

MASSACHUSETTS HOUSING AND SHELTER ALLIANCE

INITIATING SOLUTIONS TO END HOMELESSNESS

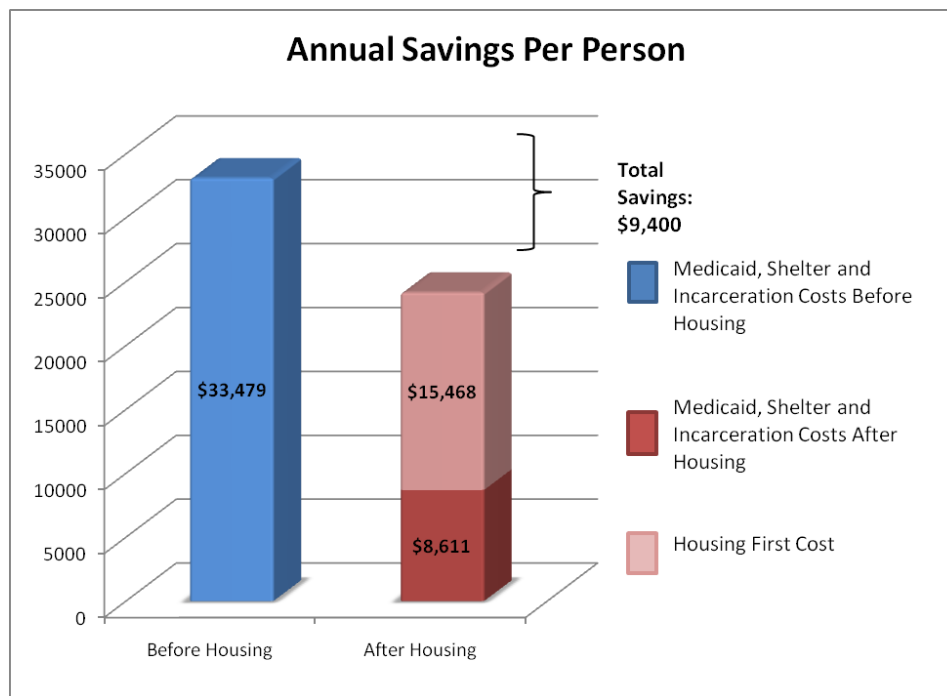
Home & Healthy for Good: A Statewide Housing First Program

Housing First represents a significant paradigm shift in addressing the costly problem of homelessness. This strategy demonstrates impressive outcomes when chronically homeless people are placed in permanent supportive housing rather than targeted for intensive services in shelters or on the streets.

In FY07, the state allocated \$600,000 to MHSA through the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) to operate the program, known as *Home & Healthy for Good* (HHG). Funding for this program was increased to \$1.2 million in FY08. As of July 1, 2009, *Home & Healthy for Good* and other homeless programs funded by the state have been moved to the Department of Housing and Community Development. *Home & Healthy for Good* has been funded at \$1.2 million for FY10 in line item **7004-0104**.

Home & Healthy for Good (HHG) has **provided homes to more than 432 chronically homeless individuals** to date. In addition to being housed, these individuals have also been **given access to intensive case management** through the program. The average retention rate in housing stands at **84 percent** and *Home & Healthy for Good* has been recognized as a **“best practice”** by the Massachusetts Commission to End Homelessness.

Highlights of the March 2010 *Home & Healthy for Good* Report:



- As of February 19, 2010, **432 formerly chronically homeless people** have been housed in the *Home & Healthy for Good* (HHG) program.
- Tenant retention stands at **84 percent**.
- The annual costsⁱ per person decreased from **\$33,479** before housing to **\$24,079** after housing placement, resulting in an annual savings of **\$9,400** per person.
- A recent analysis by the state Office of Medicaid showed that on average, **Medicaid costs per HHG participant dropped by 67 percent** after participants moved into housing.

ⁱ Incarceration and shelter costs were estimated based on participants' self-reported number of nights spent incarcerated or in shelter multiplied by the average costs of a night in jail or shelter. Actual Medicaid costs for participants before and after housing were obtained from the Office of Medicaid.

The Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance is a public policy advocacy organization dedicated to ending homelessness in the Commonwealth through permanent residential solutions. MHSA is committed to ending homelessness by decreasing the dependence of homeless people on the government and creating options for homeless people to exercise their self determination. MHSA persists in raising a sense of moral indignation that any person should be without a decent place to live. Through strategic partnerships formed with government, private philanthropy, service providers, homeless individuals and business, MHSA works to ensure that homelessness does not become a permanent part of the social landscape.