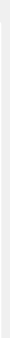




# **Securing Employment and Stabilizing Housing: Connecting SNAP Employment and Training with Housing Programs and Services**

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September 25, 2018



# Today's Presentation

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- **Nick Codd**, Senior Consultant, Seattle Jobs Initiative
- **Marcie Foster**, Senior Program Analyst, USDA Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Employment and Training
- **Jasmine Hayes**, Deputy Director, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)
- **Stephen Giese**, SNAP Director, Arkansas Department of Human Services
- **Ben Goodwin**, Executive Director, Our House Little Rock Arkansas
- **Laura Reiman**, SNAP E&T Specialist, Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA)
- **Maegan Pedemonti**, Program Manager of Employment Support Services, Way Finders, Fairfield, MA
- **Earl Fay**, WorkExpress Manager, Father Bill's & MainSpring, Quincy, MA

# FNS

- **Marcie Foster**, Senior Program Analyst,  
USDA Food and Nutrition Service, Office  
of Employment and Training

# United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

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[Find the Regional Coordinator for your state](#)



# Home.

Because we know that the only true end to homelessness is a safe and stable place to call home.

# Together.

Because the solutions are going to take all of us working together, doing our parts, strengthening our communities.





# Structure for Plan

## **Operational definition:**

Comprehensive response that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible, or if it can't be prevented, it is a **rare, brief, and one-time experience**.

## **Criteria and benchmarks:**

Essential **elements of comprehensive systems** and the **outcomes those systems must be able to achieve**.

**Rare,  
Brief &  
One-Time**



# Areas of Increased Focus

- Increasing **affordable housing** opportunities
- Strengthening **prevention and diversion** practices
- Creating solutions for **unsheltered homelessness**
- Tailoring strategies for **rural communities**
- Helping people who exit homelessness to find **career success and economic mobility**
- Learning from the **expertise of people with lived experiences of homelessness**



# Aligning Workforce Systems with Efforts to Prevent and End Homelessness

- Focus on **income and employment within coordinated entry systems** to effectively **target and connect** individuals and families (Strategy 2.3.c.)
- Increase **on-the-job training and apprenticeship** opportunities, **supported employment**, and other strategies (Strategy 3.1.b)
- Review **federal program policies, procedures, regulations, and administrative barriers** (Strategy 3.1.c)
- Share **examples and best practices** to promote long-term stability (Strategy 3.1.f)
- Strengthen **coordination between early childhood, education, housing, employment, and homelessness services** providers (Strategy 3.1.g)



# Read the Plan.

[www.usich.gov/home-together](http://www.usich.gov/home-together)

#HomeTogether



## Home, Together:

THE FEDERAL STRATEGIC PLAN TO  
PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS



UNITED STATES INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

# SNAP Employment and Training

- Flexible program which supports employment models & approaches that can meet the specific needs of unstably housed/low income SNAP participants.
- Supports key partnerships and service coordination efforts between employment and training programs and housing services including Public Housing Authorities, Continuums of Care, and Homeless Assistance Services.

# State SNAP Agencies

- The State SNAP agency plays a key role as the essential third leg in supporting partnerships with employment and training providers and housing programs and services for SNAP recipients.

# Arkansas

- **Stephen Giese**, SNAP Director, Arkansas  
Department of Human Services

Ben Goodwin  
Executive Director  
Our House, Inc.  
Little Rock, Arkansas  
September 5, 2018



# Building A Pathway Out of Homelessness

Using SNAP E&T to Help Homeless and Near-Homeless Adults Succeed



















**OUR**  **HOUSE**

**Programs for 150 Children Each Day**















# Career Center Highlights

- Open to the public.
- Accessible hours (8am-8pm).
- Child care two nights/week.
- Meals provided.



**561** adults found full-time jobs in 2017  
with **302** different employers.



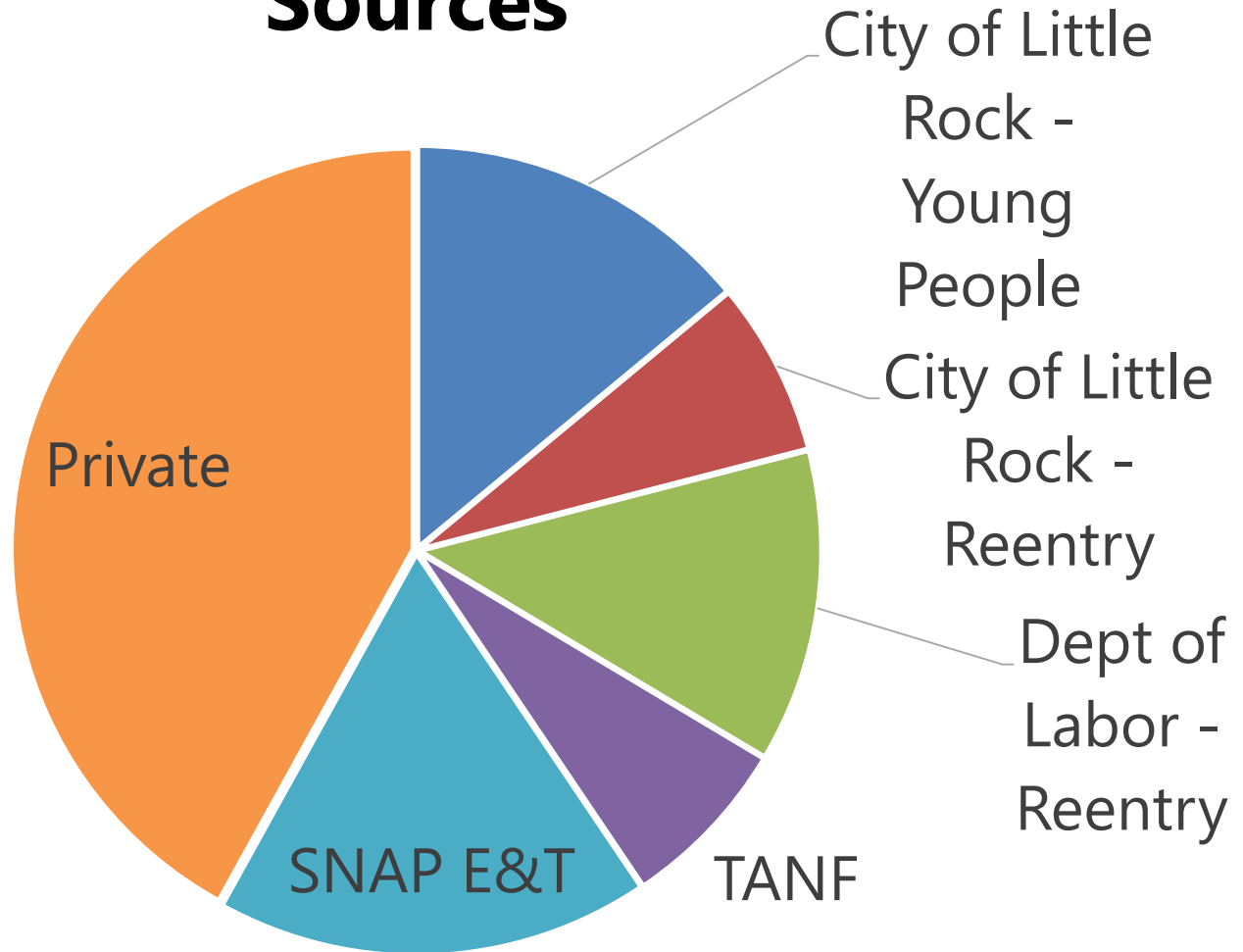
# Career Center Goals & Strategy

- Higher Paying Jobs, Better Retention.
- Employer Engagement.
- Paid training, work experience, OTJ training.

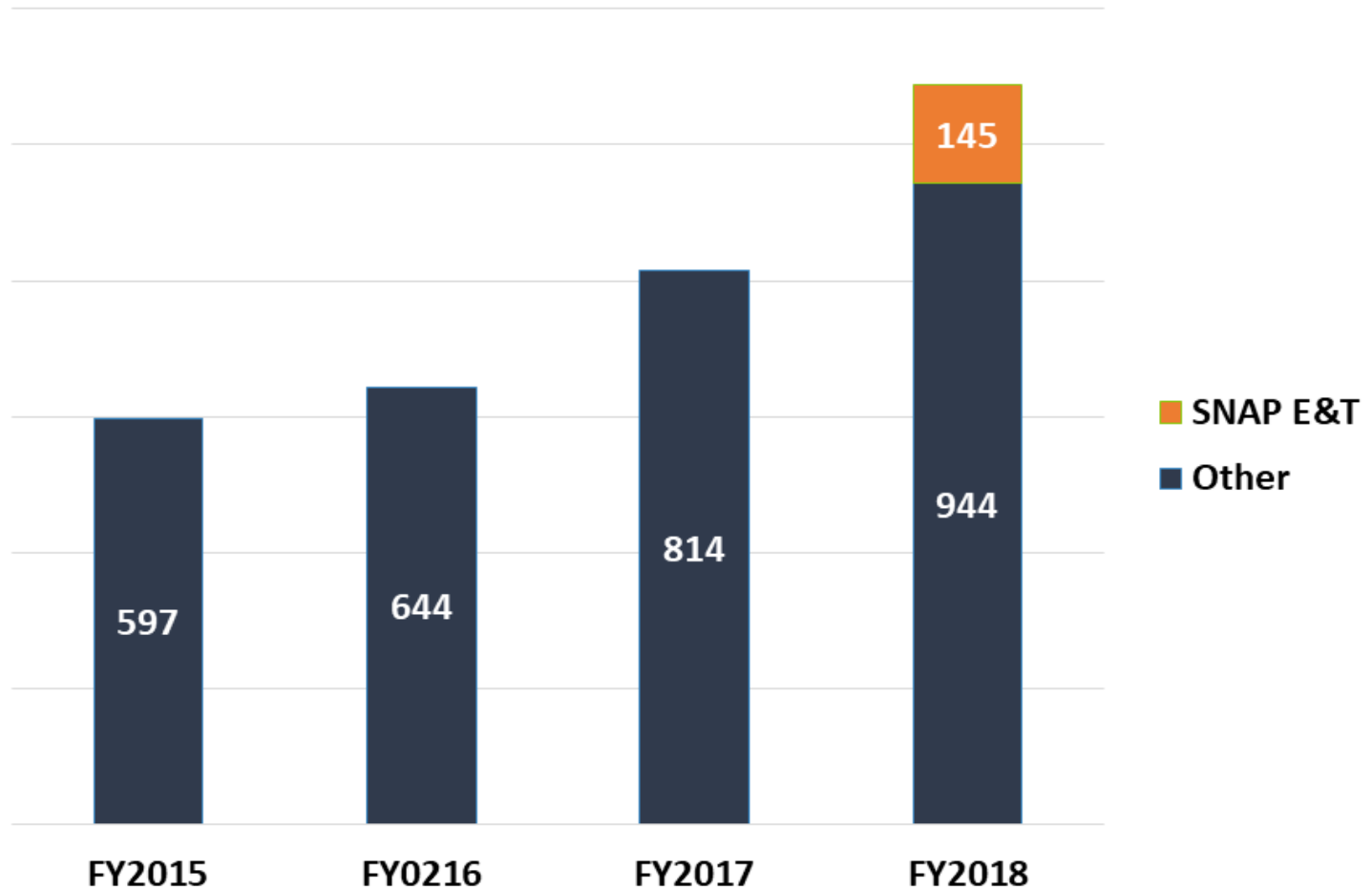




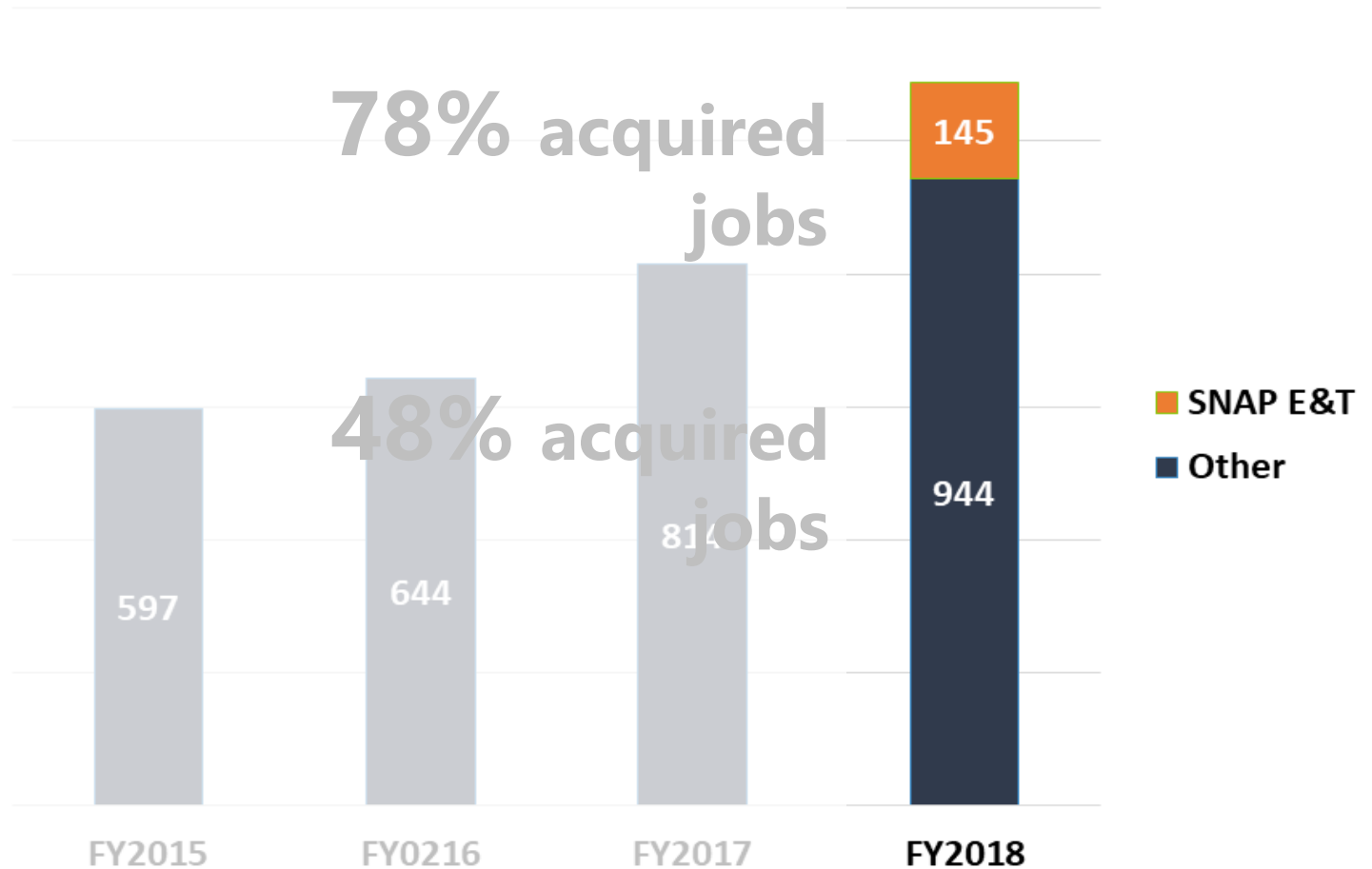
# Our House - Workforce Funding Sources



## Our House Career Center Total Served



## Our House Career Center Total Served





## Success Story





**Ben Goodwin**  
**501-944-5110**  
**[ben@ourhouseshelter.org](mailto:ben@ourhouseshelter.org)**



# Massachusetts

- **Laura Reiman**, SNAP E&T Specialist,  
Massachusetts Department of  
Transitional Assistance (DTA)

# Welcome

family.neighborhood.community.

# Way Finders

Regional Housing Authority for Hampden &  
Hampshire Counties



# Why SNAP Employment & Training?

- SNAP ET encourages the culture shift that Way Finders is creating.
- SNAP ET allows Way Finder's Employment Support Service team to work with an extended population.

# Housing & Employment Intersection

Client Needs

```
graph TD; A[Client Needs] --> B[Housing Case Manager]; A --> C[Employment Specialist];
```

## Housing Case Manager

Housing Goals to include:

- Budget
- Credit Recovery
- Referrals to providers for mental health services, parenting classes, childcare, employment, education, ESOL

## Employment Specialist

Workforce Development goals to include:

- Soft Skills Training
- Skilled Job Training
- Job placement
- Financial Literacy
- Connection to state agencies such as DTA, Unemployment, DOR, community colleges

# Flexible Funds & Reimbursements

- Transportation: bus passes, gas cards
- Test fees
- Books
- Dependent care expenses



**Father Bill's & MainSpring**

NOBODY SHOULD BE HOMELESS

**Father Bill's & MainSpring (FBMS)** is the leading provider of innovative and cost-effective services, including permanent, supportive housing, that aims to prevent and end homelessness in Southern Massachusetts.

More than  
**6,500**  
people served

People served from  
**40+** cities & towns  
across Southern Massachusetts

**95% of households**  
RECEIVING FBMS PREVENTION SERVICES  
AVOID HOMELESSNESS 

**500** permanent, supportive  
housing units  
managed by FBMS

**346**  
Veterans  
Served

**82**   
PEOPLE SECURED JOBS

**340+**  
*families avoided shelter*

**400+**  
CHILDREN PROVIDED  
EMERGENCY SHELTER

**217,230 MEALS SERVED AT TWO INDIVIDUAL SHELTERS**

**SAVINGS**   
TO THE TAXPAYER

For every **\$1 SPENT** toward  
permanent housing,  
**\$2.43 IN SAVINGS**  
on emergency healthcare costs\*



## A Social Enterprise

### WorkExpress Participants Receive:

- Soft Skills
- On the job skill training with oversight from the WorkExpress Crew Supervisor
- Dedicated WorkExpress Case Manager
- Access to Housing Specialist
- Resume Development, Interview Skills, Financial Literacy Classes
- Coordinated with help of volunteers, access to career specialists in our family programs, local banks, and local workforce development agencies

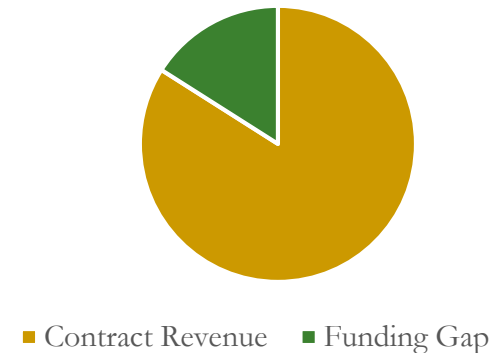
# WorkExpress - Funding

- Social Enterprise Contracts funded over 84% of program costs in FY17

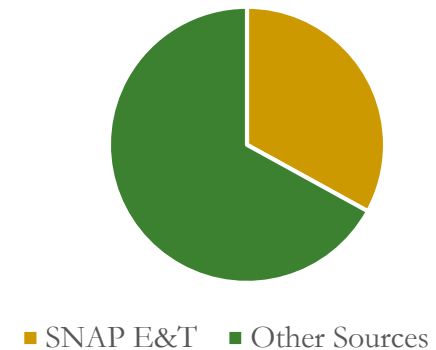
Contracts included:

- Commercial Cleaning
- Graffiti removal
- Apartment flips
- City Trash Removal
- Landscaping
- External Customers included municipalities, property management companies, housing authorities, and other nonprofits.
- Revenue \$405,000
- Expenses \$482,000
- Over \$26,000 SNAP E&T funding helped fill a third of the gap
- SNAP E&T Funding to exceed \$40,000 in FY18

Budget Sources



Funding Gap



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# Thank You!

## Learn More



[helpfbms.org](http://helpfbms.org)



[workxpress.org](http://workxpress.org)

## Contact

Earl Fay, WorkExpress Manager

54 North Main Street

Brockton, MA 02301

774-273-4011

[efay@helpfbms.org](mailto:efay@helpfbms.org)

## Follow Us



# Q&A



# Resources

- SNAP to Skills website  
<https://snaptoskills.fns.usda.gov/>
- Policy Brief; *SNAP E&T: Meeting the Needs of Unstably-Housed SNAP Households*  
<https://snaptoskills.fns.usda.gov/resources/s2s-policy-briefs>

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**Thank you for your  
participation  
in today's webinar!**