



Fresh Start to End Family Homelessness

Department of Human Services

Guiding Principles

- Homelessness in DC is not an intractable problem – it can be solved.
- When members of our community experience homelessness, we all suffer. Our entire community must be a part of the solution.
- Every neighborhood, and every resident, has a stake in preventing homelessness and supporting people who experience homelessness.
- By committing to action and using proven strategies, the District of Columbia has an opportunity to lead the nation in ending homelessness.
- As a community, we should close and replace DC General with smaller, more dignified private-room emergency housing for families across the District.

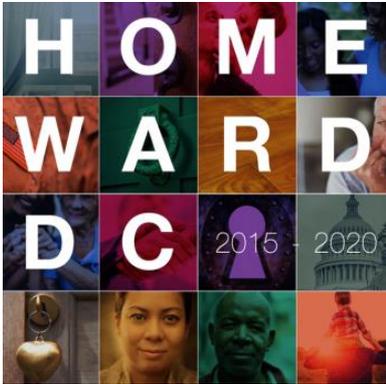
New Investments To End Homelessness

The FY 2016 budget includes \$145 million in locally funded homeless assistance resources, including \$23 million down payment on *Homeward DC*.

New Resources:

- \$45 million in funds to close and replace DC General
- \$200,000 for additional homelessness prevention for families
- \$6.2 million in rapid re-housing for families and individuals
- \$6.7 million in permanent supportive housing to help 110 additional chronically homeless families and 363 additional chronically homeless individuals
- \$4 million for a new targeted affordable housing program to help 147 families and 339 individuals
- \$800,000 for a new daytime center

Implementing HomewardDC: Strategy 1



Strategy 1: Develop a more effective crisis response system.

We need to transform our system into an effective crisis response system, where people experiencing homelessness feel safe and are supported to quickly get back on their feet. Key areas of focus within this strategy include transitioning to smaller, community-based shelters (including closing DC General by 2017), increasing the number of specialized shelter beds (e.g., medical respite), creating a day-time service center for single adults, developing and implementing a plan for year-round access to shelter, and redesigning the Rapid Re-Housing program.

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What is an Effective Crisis Response System?



Developing an Effective Crisis Response System for Families

Improve Client Engagement and Eligibility Services at Virginia Williams

- Launch new prevention initiatives
- Develop clearer standards for eligibility →
- Create “interim eligibility” placements →

Increase Access to Quality Emergency Shelter

- Provide year-round access to emergency shelter
- Improve quality and condition of shelter (close and replace DC General) →

Increase Permanent Housing Resources and Rapid Exits from Shelter

- Invest in Affordable Housing
- Improve FRSP and invest in Rapid Re-housing
- Invest in Permanent Supportive Housing
- Implement Progressive Engagement model



Strategy 1: *Develop a more effective crisis response system.*

Legislative Action Needed to Develop a More Effective Crisis Response System

- Create an “interim eligibility placement” provision (with due process for appeals) by amending the Homeless Services Reform Act (HSRA).
- Clarify in statute the legal configuration of shelter as apartment-style or private-room.

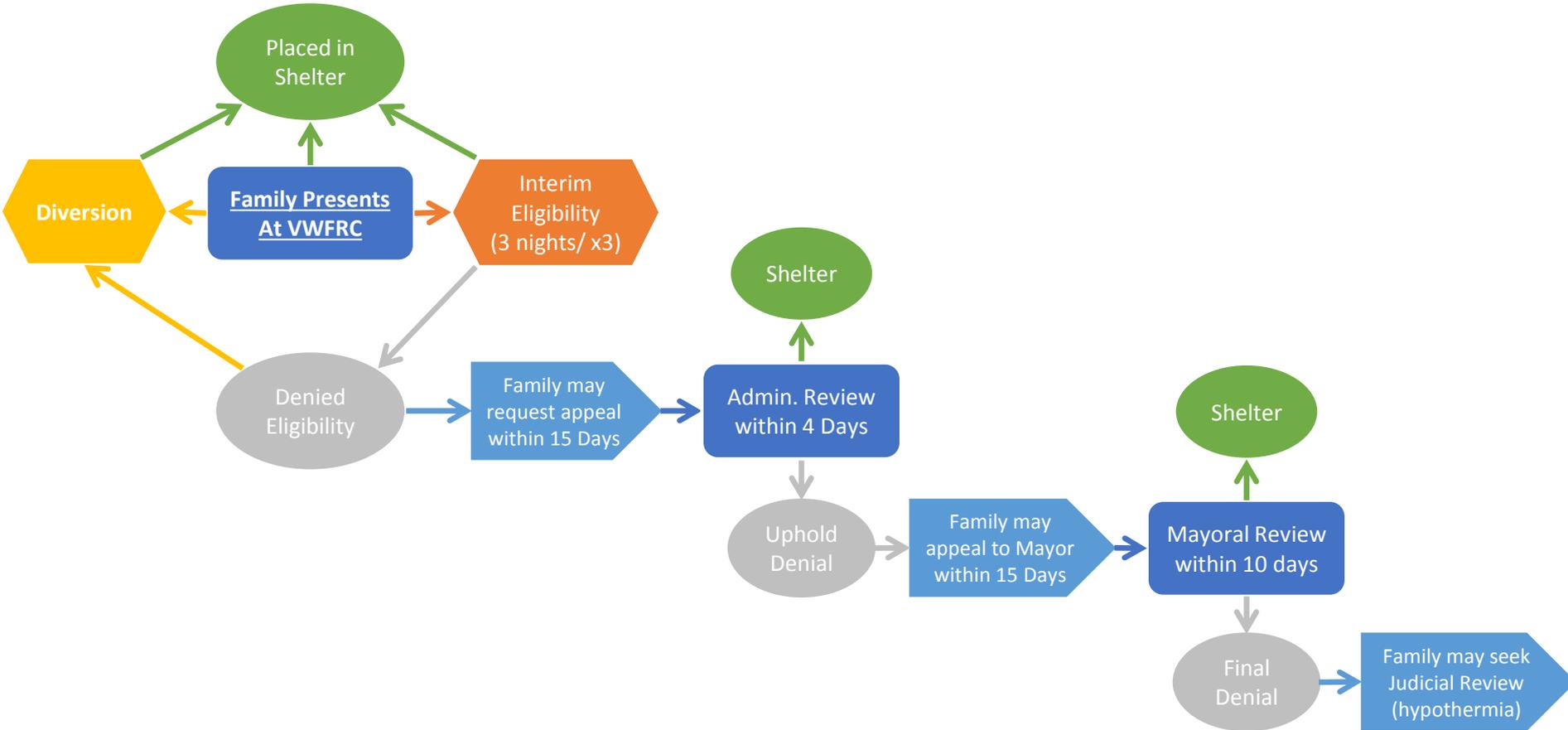


Strategy 1: *Develop a more effective crisis response system.*

Creating Interim Eligibility

- Provides the Mayor authority to administer interim eligibility placements in emergency shelter and creates a expedited appeals process.
- If denied at anytime, families are given written notice of denial and the right to appeal.
- First appeal is an administrative review performed by DHS and carried out within 4 business days.
- Second and final appeal is performed by the Mayor's office and carried out within 10 business days.

Due Process for Interim Eligibility



Legislative Action: Private Room and Apartment-style Shelter

- Clarify in statute that the Mayor has authority to provide apartment style and **private-room shelter** to families.
- Allows the District to close and replace DC General with smaller, community based emergency housing facilities with private-room units and the amenities families need to quickly exit shelter into permanent housing.
- Ensures that the District can develop the emergency housing inventory necessary to close DC General and still meet the emergency housing needs of DC families.

Private room shelter should be viewed in the context of *Homeward DC*



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Unprecedented investments in affordable housing & programs that support exits to permanent housing will facilitate faster exits, allowing shelter to serve its purpose.

Resources to transition to small community based shelters and close DC General only feasible by permitting private rooms.

Length of Stay is shorter in private rooms, allowing the system to serve more families, thus increasing the feasibility of year-round access.

The Importance of Length of Stay in Systems Change



The Importance of Length of Stay and Unit Turnover in Systems Change

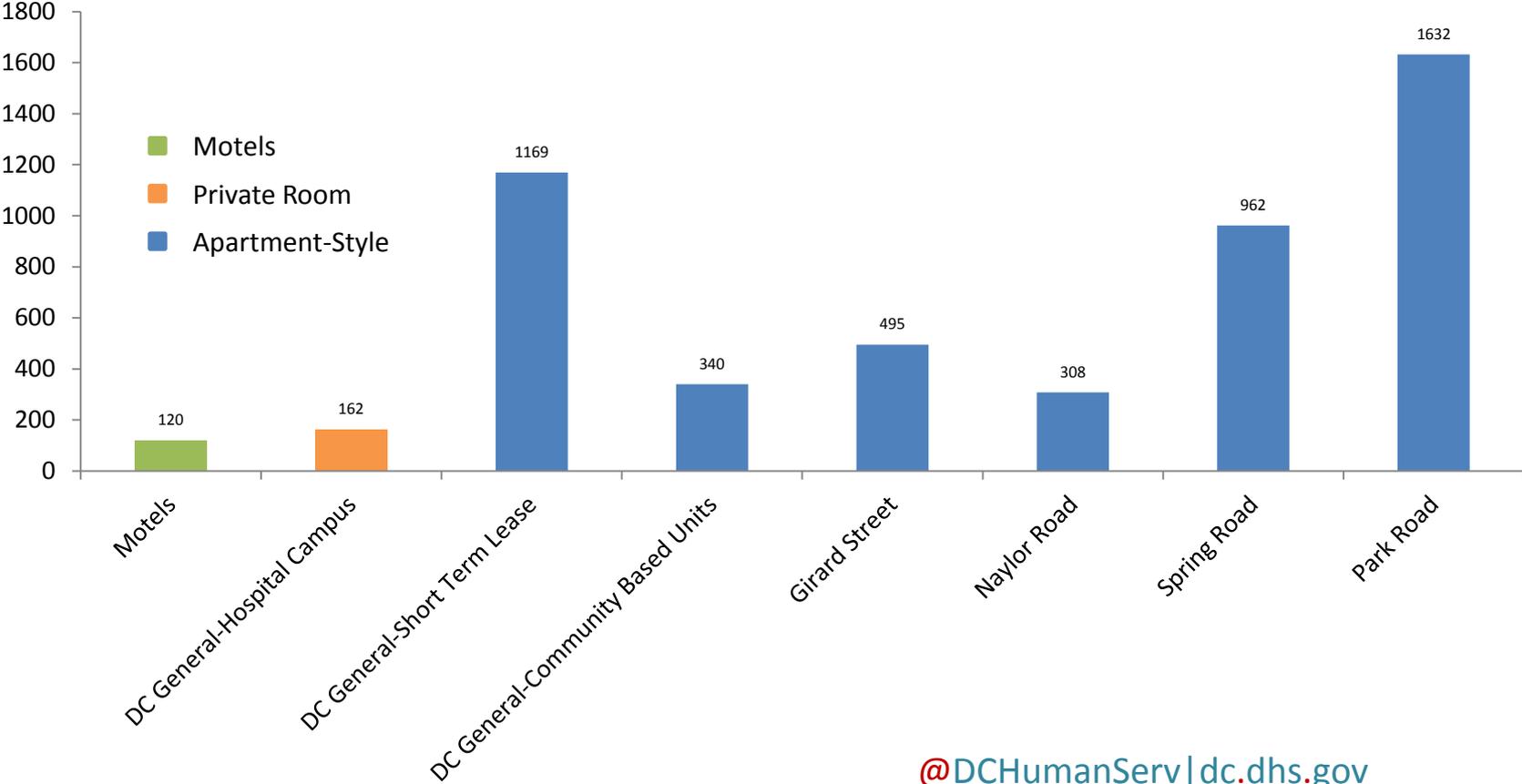
Homeless assistance programs are all designed differently. On one end of the continuum is emergency shelter programs, which are typically high volume, high turnover programs. On the other end of the continuum is the most intensive type of assistance, permanent supportive housing (PSH), which typically has very low turnover.

Emergency Shelter. In the District, because of rising housing costs and a shrinking affordable housing base, it has become more and more difficult for people to quickly exit shelter. As the average length of stay in shelter increases, the system requires more shelter units/beds to simply serve the same number of households.

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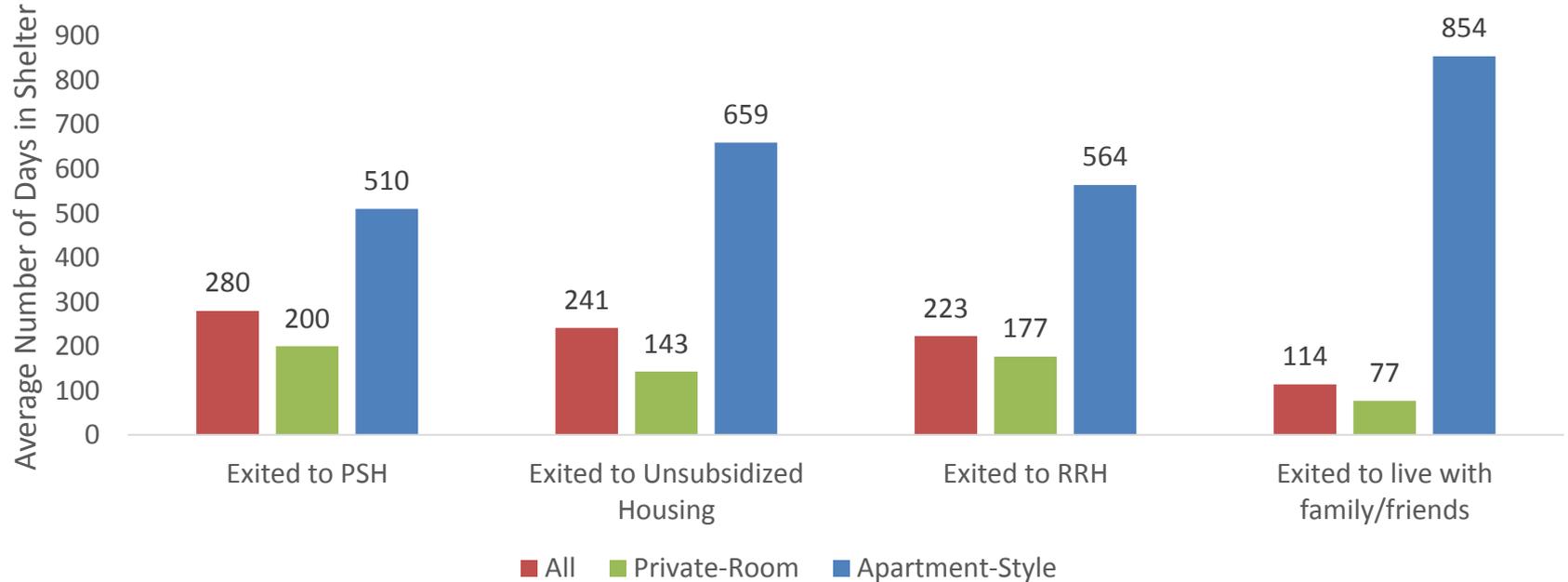
Transitioning to Permanent Housing

Average Length of Stay of Families who Exited Shelter to Permanent Housing in FY 2015



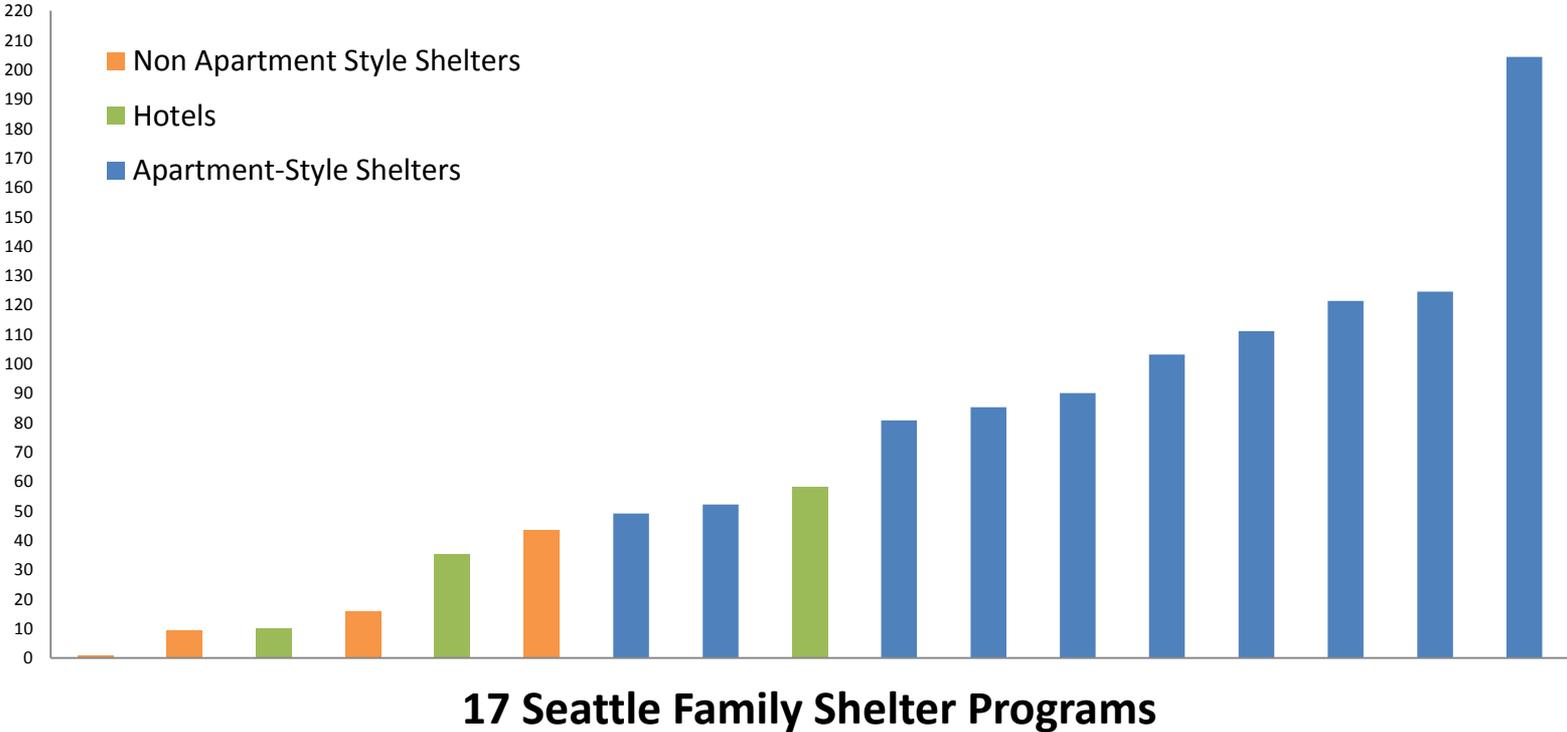
Transitioning to Permanent Housing

Average Length of Stay for Nearly 1800 Families Who Exited Shelter to Permanent Housing Destinations Between 2011 - 2015

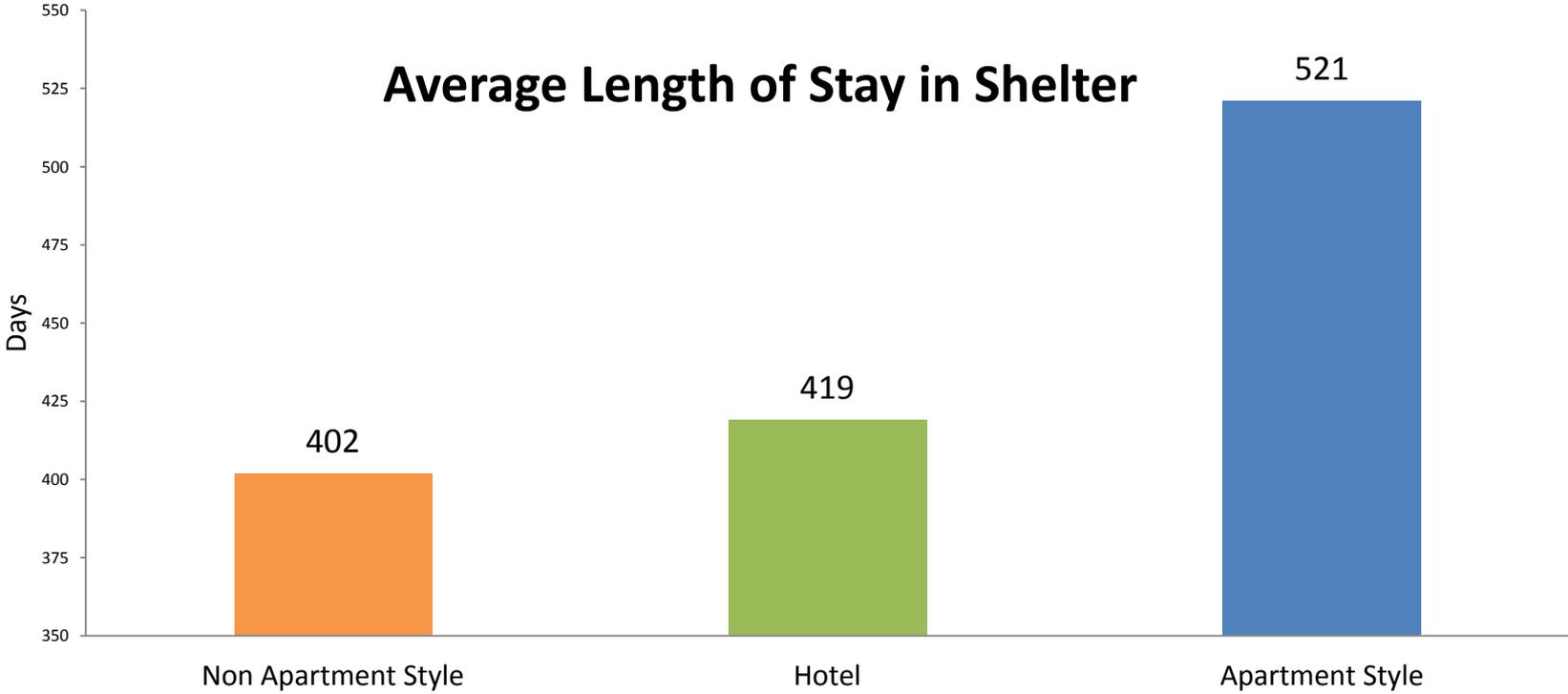


Data from Other Jurisdictions: Seattle

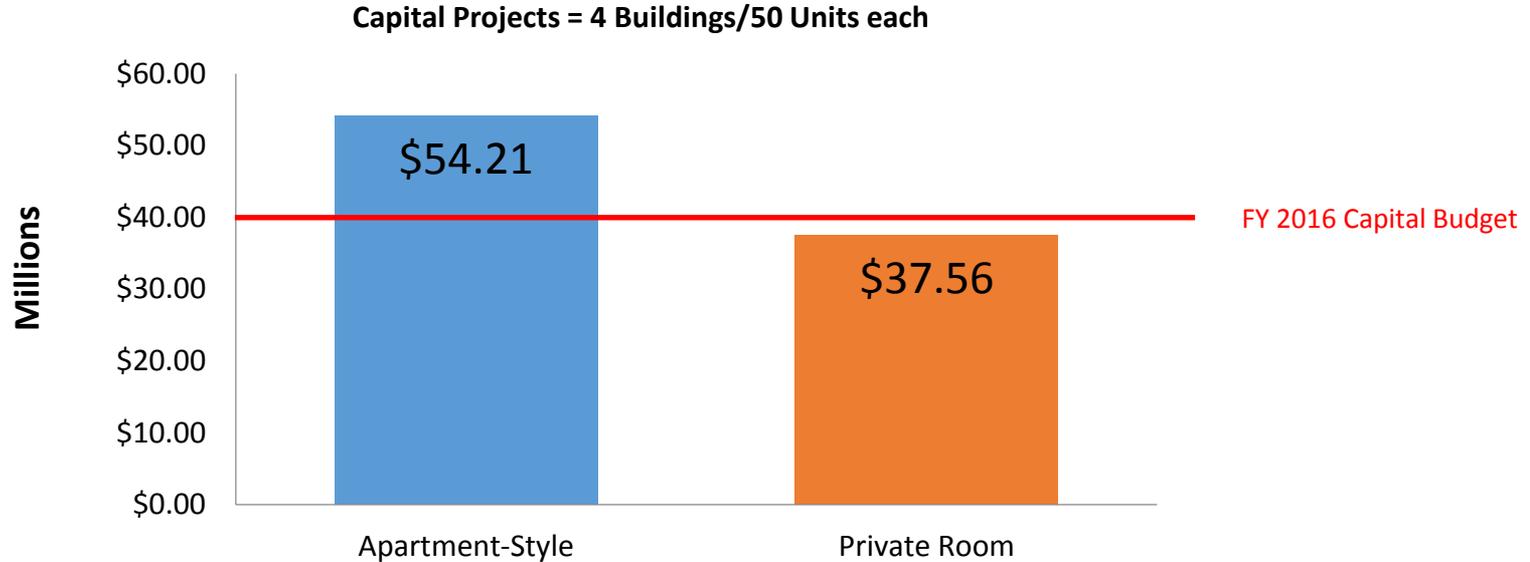
Average Length of Stay in Shelter



Data from Other Jurisdictions: New York City



Achieving our Goals with Limited Resources



Unit type	Approx. SF	Cost/sf to Develop*	Cost/Unit	Cost of 50 units	Relative cost of building
Common spaces	10,700	\$333/sf	--	3,563,100	
Private Rooms	350	\$333/sf	\$116,550	\$5,827,500	\$9,390,600
Apartment-Style	600	\$333/sf	\$199,800	\$9,990,000	\$13,553,100

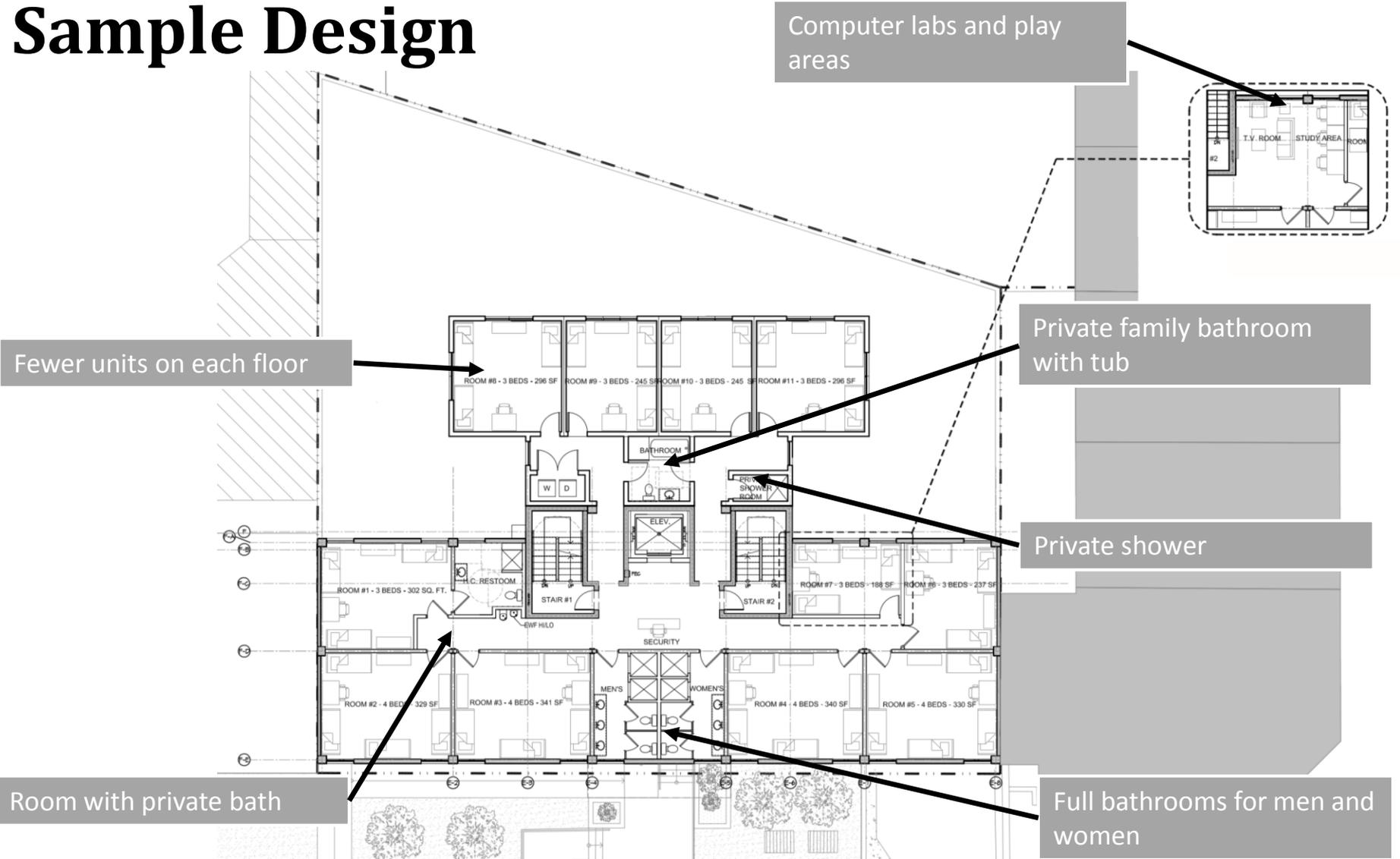
Principles of Design

The District will develop smaller, more dignified emergency housing facilities across the city. These facilities will incorporate modern, clean, and attractive designs—made for families and in keeping with the surrounding neighborhood.

Prototypical design elements include:

- Computer labs and study areas located throughout
- Outdoor spaces, including passive and active recreation space and playground space
- Dining, lounge and gathering spaces
- Laundry facilities on each floor
- 4.5 Bathrooms for every 11 units, including
 - Private shower room on each floor
 - Family bathroom with tub
 - Separate, full bathrooms for men and women
 - At least one unit with private bathroom on each floor
 - A variety of bathroom configurations on each floor

Sample Design



What We've Heard So Far

- Very supportive of year round access
- Very supportive of the new investments
- Very supportive of providing more safety when eligibility is unclear
- Concern about less due process in an interim eligibility appeal
- Concern about impact of prevention/diversion programs
- Concern about upholding standard on dignity, privacy, and safety in private rooms

We Need Your Input

Knowing we have to move with urgency and act within budget to implement Strategy 1 of *HomewardDC: Develop a More Effective Crisis Response System...*

1. *How do we best create private room emergency housing that upholds our shared standard of privacy, safety, and dignity.*
 - *What are the essential amenities and services families need in shelter?*
2. *How do we create a due process system for interim eligibility that protects the rights of families and applies equal standards to all?*

What are your Questions and Concerns?

Stay in Contact

- Please sign-up for email updates and takeaways from this meeting
- Contact darrell.cason3@dc.gov for additional information Or call (202) 671-4200
- Tweet with us at [@DCHumanServ](https://twitter.com/DCHumanServ) and visit us at dc.dhs.gov



PLEDGE TO END HOMELESSNESS IN DC

Please sign the Pledge to End Homelessness

Copies are available here or visit dc.gov