

Subsidized Housing for Human Trafficking Survivors: A Look at the Chicago Housing Authority Collaboration



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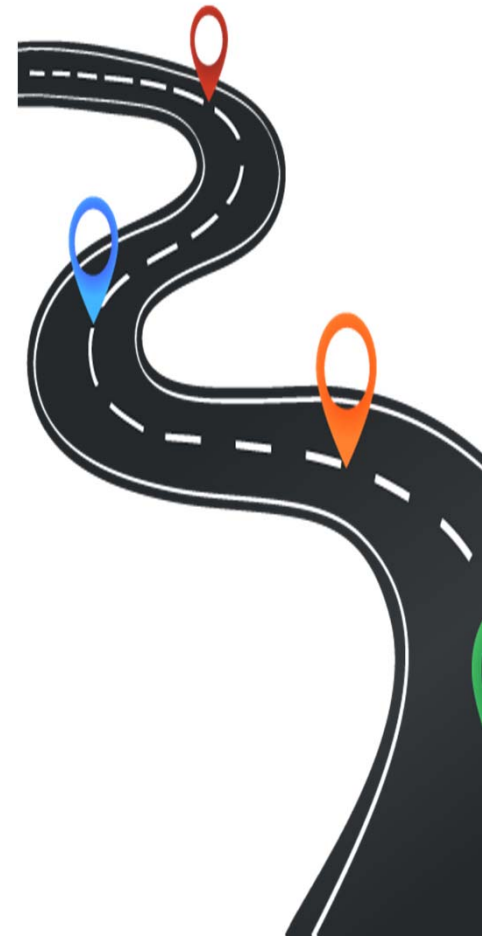
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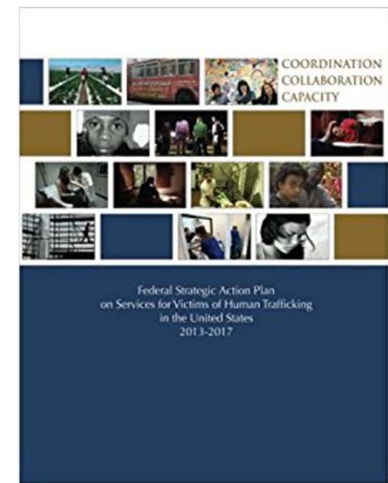
Presentation Outline

- How the Collaboration Came Together
- Roles of Steering Committee Members
- About the Program
- Assessment & Referral Process
- A Look at the Early Data
- Successes, Impact & Challenges
- Lessons Learned & Recommendations
- Questions and Discussion



Federal Strategic Action Plan on Human Trafficking 2013-2017

- Reaffirm commitment to combat modern day forms of slavery through Government Action
- Provided concrete actions for federal agencies to:
 - Align Efforts
 - Improve Understanding
 - Expand Access to Services
 - Improve Outcomes
- Written feedback on plan from over 150 survivors and stakeholders



Objective 8: Improve Access to Victim Services by Removing Systemic Barriers

Special efforts were made by Federal agencies to identify the needs of vulnerable populations and to ensure they have equal access to services and support.

“Evaluate the appropriateness and feasibility of housing demonstration projects”

ACF and HUD Regional Efforts

- June 16, 2015 Region 5 (R5) ACF requested HHS Secretary to support exploration of housing solutions for human trafficking survivors in R5.
- With the support of HHS and HUD Secretaries, R5 ACF and HUD discussed opportunities for housing human trafficking survivors on September 1, 2015.
- March 2016 ACF, HUD and Chicago Based Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) deliberated strategies on how to deal with this crisis. ACF and HUD proposed implementing a housing pilot for human trafficking survivors with PHAs.
- June 2016, ACF invited Heartland Alliance and Salvation Army Stop-It program to present on the human trafficking population and needs to HUD and Chicago Based PHAs.

Approval from CHA Board of Commissioners

July 19, 2016, the CHA Board of Commissioners approved a demonstration program for survivors of human trafficking. Board approved 60 tenant-based Housing Choice Vouchers over a three-year period.

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-CHA-

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Chicago Housing Authority has reviewed the Board Letter dated July 19, 2016 entitled "Recommendation to Approve a Demonstration Program for Survivors of Human Trafficking.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY:

THAT, the Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chief Executive Officer or his designee to execute the demonstration program to provide housing subsidies for survivors of human trafficking through the Housing Choice Voucher program utilizing 60 vouchers over a three-year period.

Eugene E. Jones, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer
Chicago Housing Authority

Collaboration Members



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES



HEARTLAND
ALLIANCE
HUMAN CARE



Pilot Steering Committee

Collaborative efforts between public and private agencies have contributed to the design and implementation of the program, and remain involved to support its continuous success, ongoing monitoring, and improvement.

- **ACF/HUD Region 5:** Proposed housing solutions; provides program oversight
- **CHA:** Provides pilot vouchers, administers Housing Choice Voucher Program, and supports housing pilot with technical assistance
- **Pilot Agencies:** Designed and developed materials, assess potential participants, make referrals, provide supportive services, and send quarterly benchmark reports to lead agency
- **Lead Pilot Agency:** Creates client identification numbers, tracks voucher distribution, stores data, analyzes data, and compiles quarterly report

Supportive Services

- Navigating the public housing system is a complex process, and participants require support throughout.
- The six Referring Agencies provide a standard of supportive services as outlined in the *Supportive Services Pledge*.



Housing Choice Voucher Program

- For this pilot CHA chose to use tenant based vouchers
- All PHA's have established wait lists, preferences and eligibility for admission
- CHA utilized its language of Demonstration & Special Initiatives
- Other PHA's can consider using Limited Preferences and keeping the wait list open for such.

Who We Serve

- Survivors who
 - Meet the federal definition of human trafficking—regardless of type of trafficking experienced, age, race, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, or disability;
 - Demonstrate a need for housing; and
 - Have achieved a relative degree of stability—including legal status—so as to be able to adhere to the rules and requirements of public housing.



Desired Outcomes



- Make sure participants are stably housed, and remain stably housed, in a safe environment.
- Increase survivors' ability to achieve self-sufficiency.
- Increase survivors' ability to access needed services to maintain housing stability in a safe environment.

Long-term Impact

As a result of this program, survivors may:

- Cut off ties to their traffickers;
- No longer be reliant on engaging in commercial sex for survival;
- Be more successful at treating substance use disorders;
- Successfully participate in a job training program;
- Be more likely to engage in mental health services;
- Be more likely to find and keep a job;
- See their income increase;
- Obtain or regain custody of their children;
- Obtain legal status more quickly;
- Enjoy stronger relationships with family and friends;
- Enjoy improved health outcomes;
- Enjoy increased feelings of safety, hope, self-worth, and dignity;
- Be better able to build trust with others and engage in healthy relationships; and
- Be less likely to find themselves in abusive and exploitative situations in the future.

Program Limitations

- Not able to meet the housing needs of all survivors
 - Survivors trafficked in Chicago but who want to live outside the city or in other states
 - Undocumented survivors*
 - Survivors who have not achieved a certain degree of stability in order to successfully adhere to program requirements
- Interpretation limited to telephonic
- Not a Housing First model



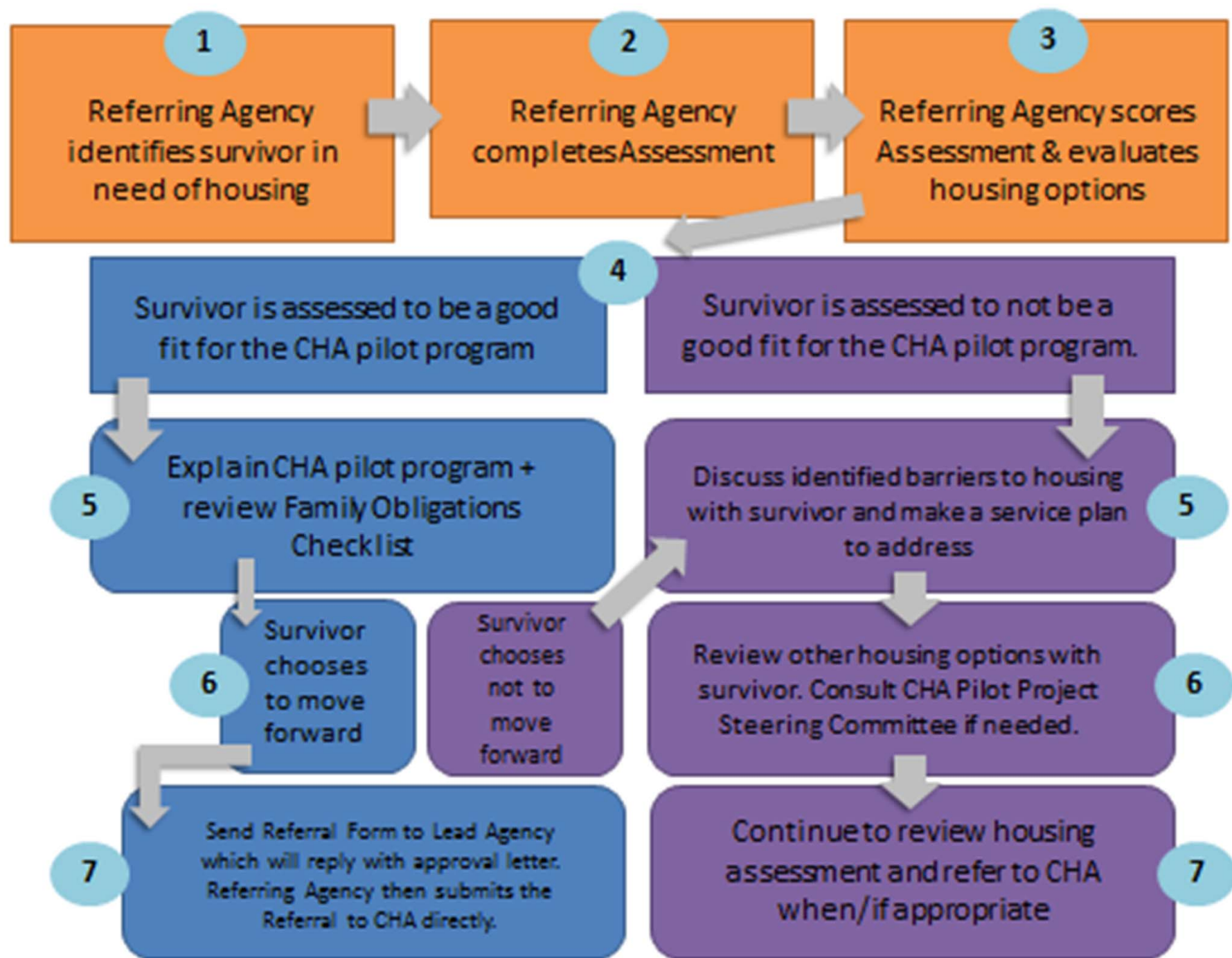
Assessment & Referral Process

- Referring Agencies conduct an assessment in order to identify possible housing options—including the pilot—for the survivor and his or her family.
- If the survivor is assessed to be a good fit, Referring Agency staff go on to explain the Human Trafficking Housing Pilot and review the *Family Obligations Checklist*.
- If the survivor is assessed NOT to be a good fit or if he or she decides not to move forward with the pilot after reviewing the Family Obligations Checklist, Referring Agency staff identify alternative housing options that may be available.

Assessment & Referral Process

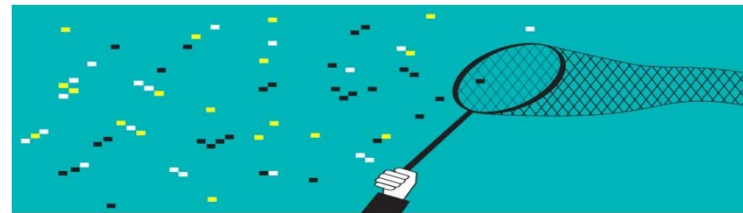
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- Before making a referral to CHA, the Referring Agency sends a referral form and the assessment tool to the Lead Agency (with all data de-identified).
- The Lead Pilot Agency generates a client i.d. number and sends an approval letter to the Referring Agency—which includes the # of slots remaining in the pilot. (The Lead Pilot Agency does not assess or make a determination of eligibility.)
- Once a client i.d. has been issued, the Referring Agency makes a referral to CHA using the *CHA Referral Request Form*.



Data Collection & Tracking

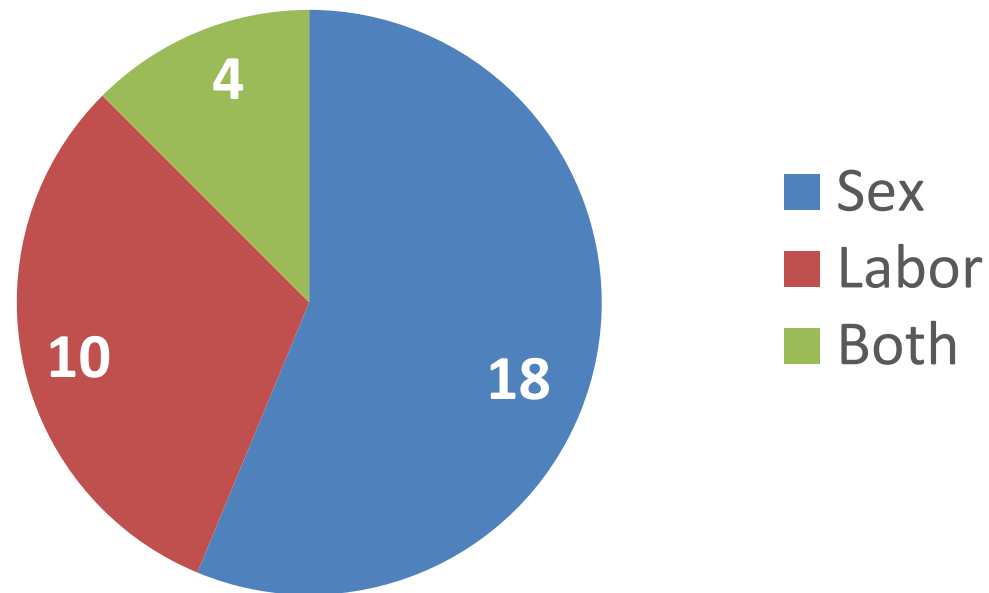
- The Lead Agency is responsible for storing and analyzing data derived from referral forms, assessment forms, and quarterly reports from Referring Agencies.



- Data collected includes:
 - Demographic information
 - Quantitative data from Assessment tool
 - Date referral was received
 - Date of scheduled interview with CHA
 - Date of voucher determination
 - Date of moving paper expiration
 - Date of moving paper extension(s) (if applicable)

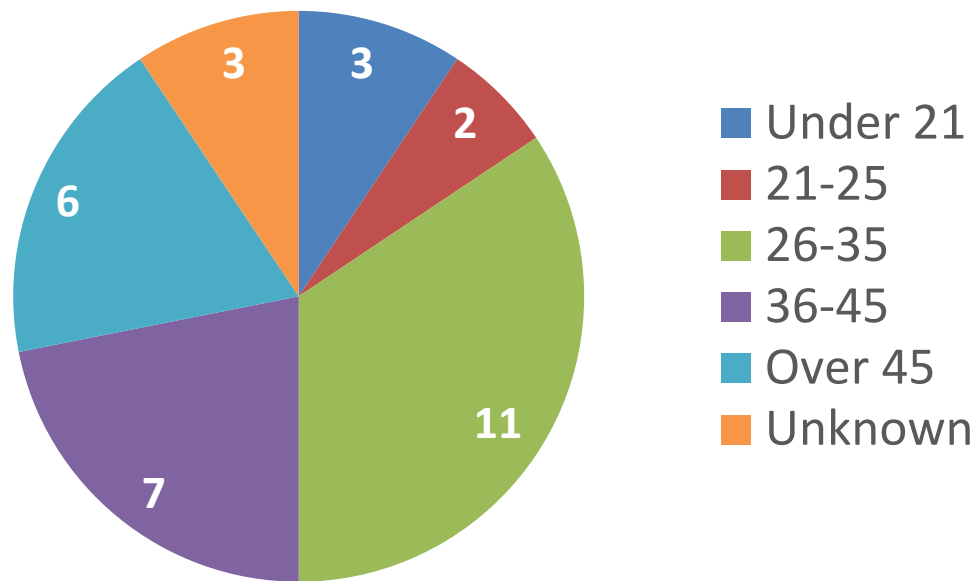
A Look at the Early Data

Referrals by Trafficking Type



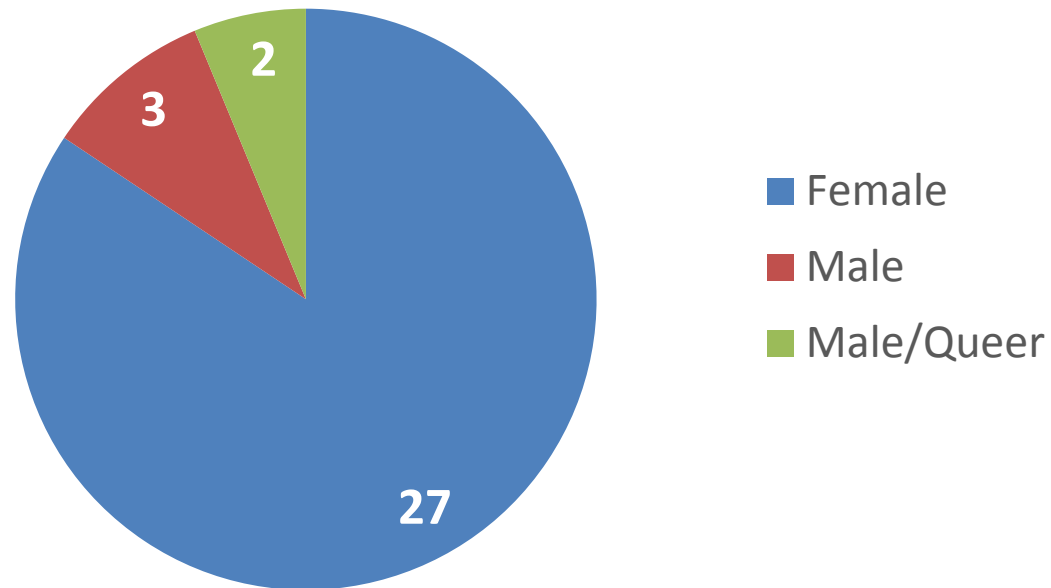
A Look at the Early Data

Referrals by Age



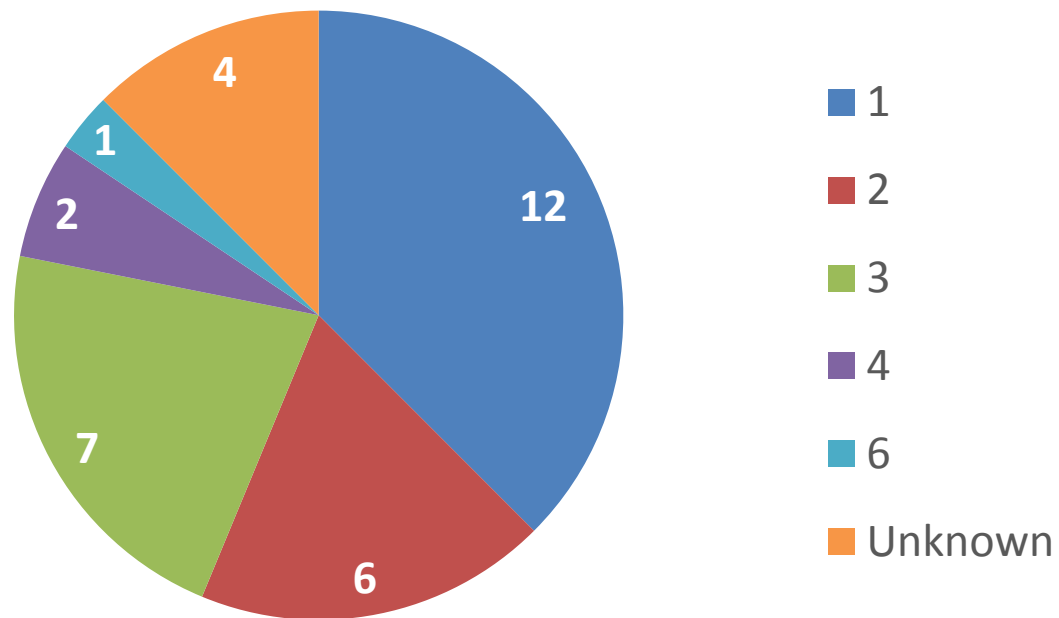
A Look at the Early Data

Referrals by Gender Identity



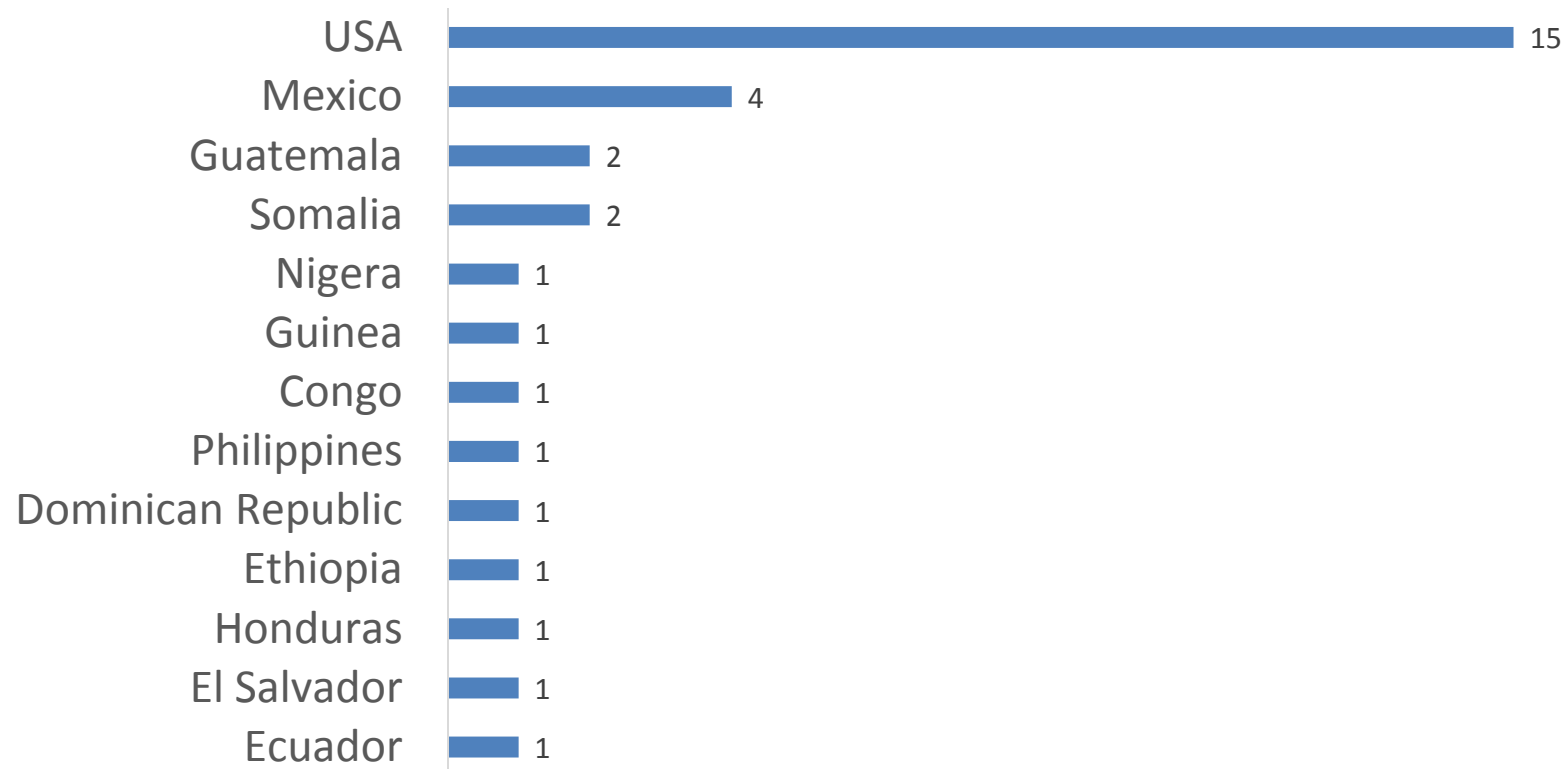
A Look at the Early Data

Referrals by Family Size



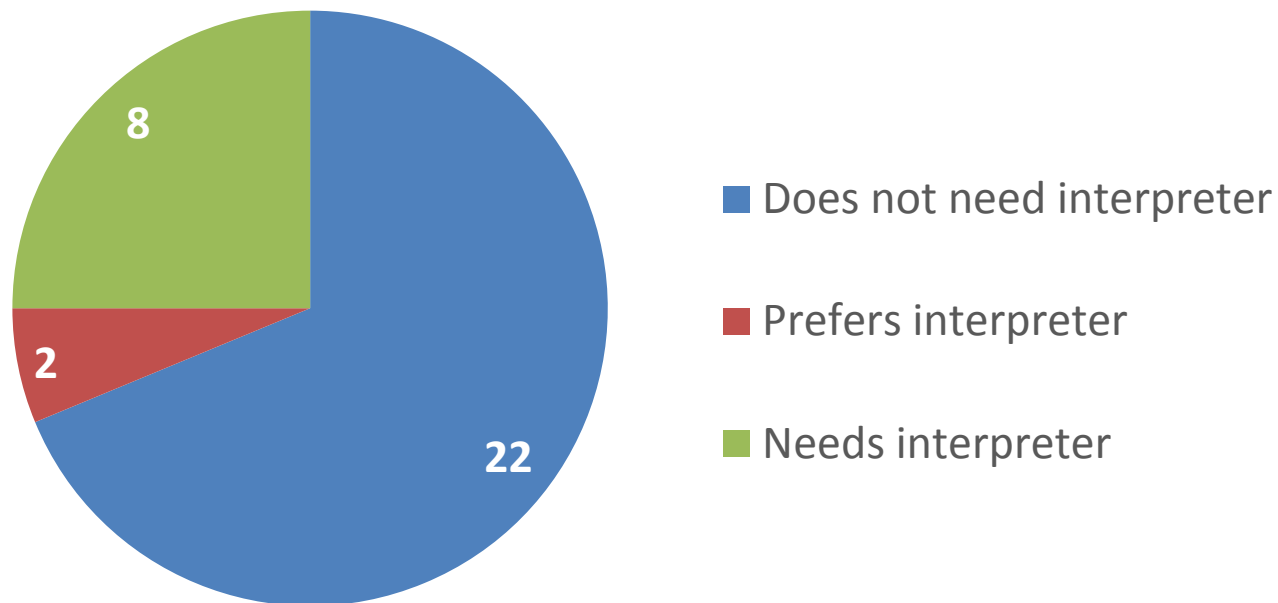
A Look at the Early Data

Referrals by Country of Origin



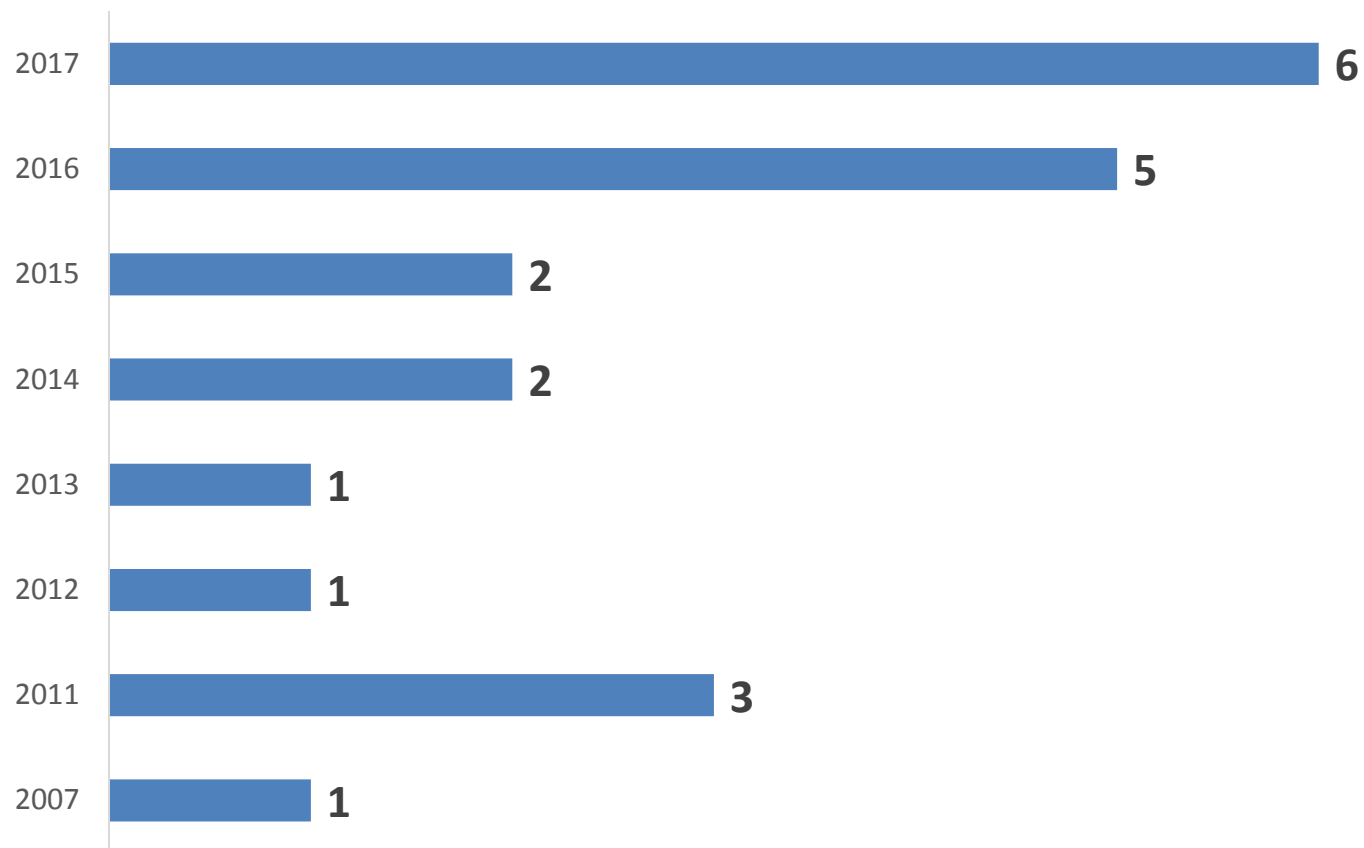
A Look at the Early Data

Referrals by Need for an Interpreter



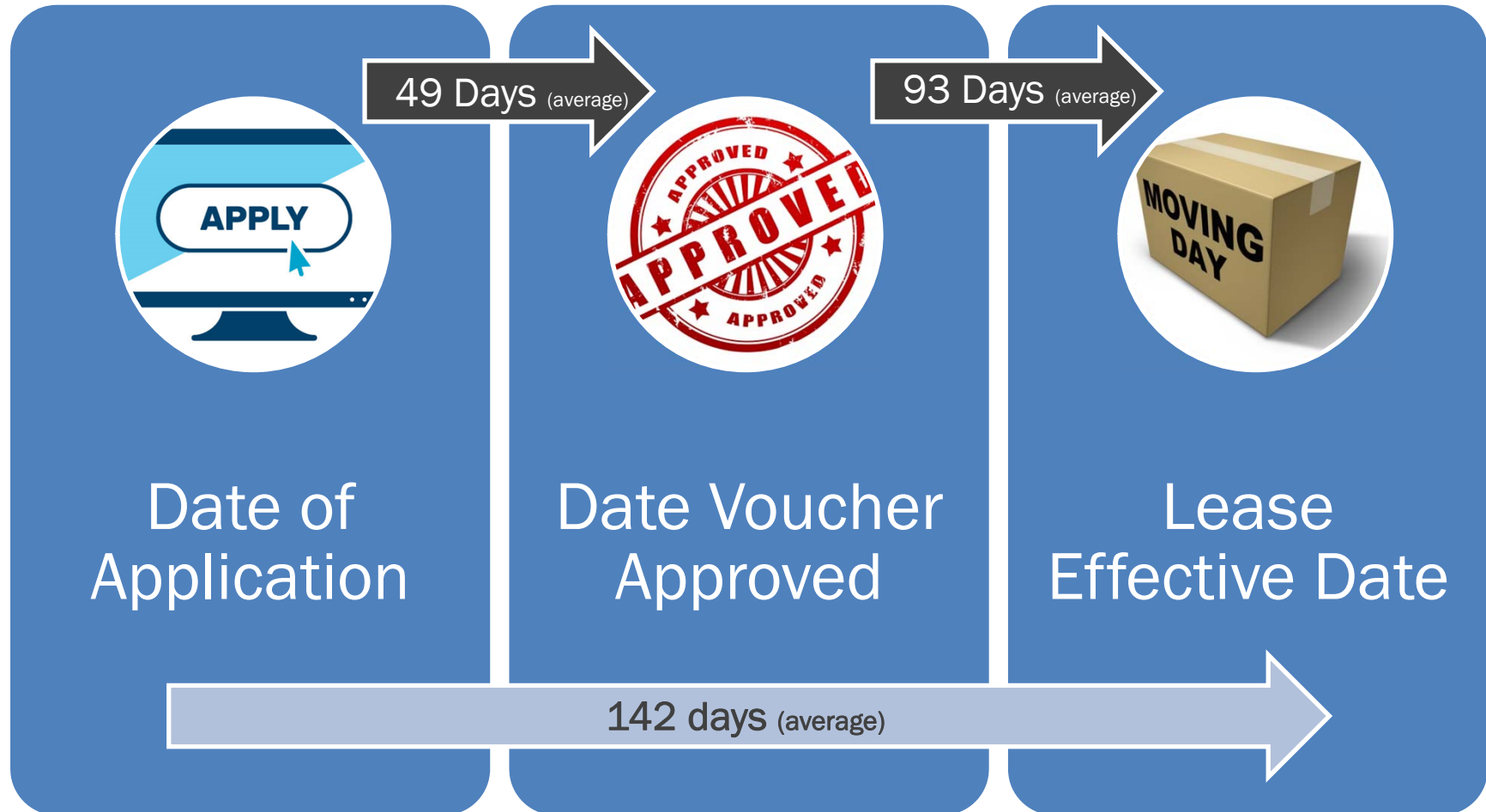
A Look at the Early Data

Referrals by Year Left Trafficking Situation*



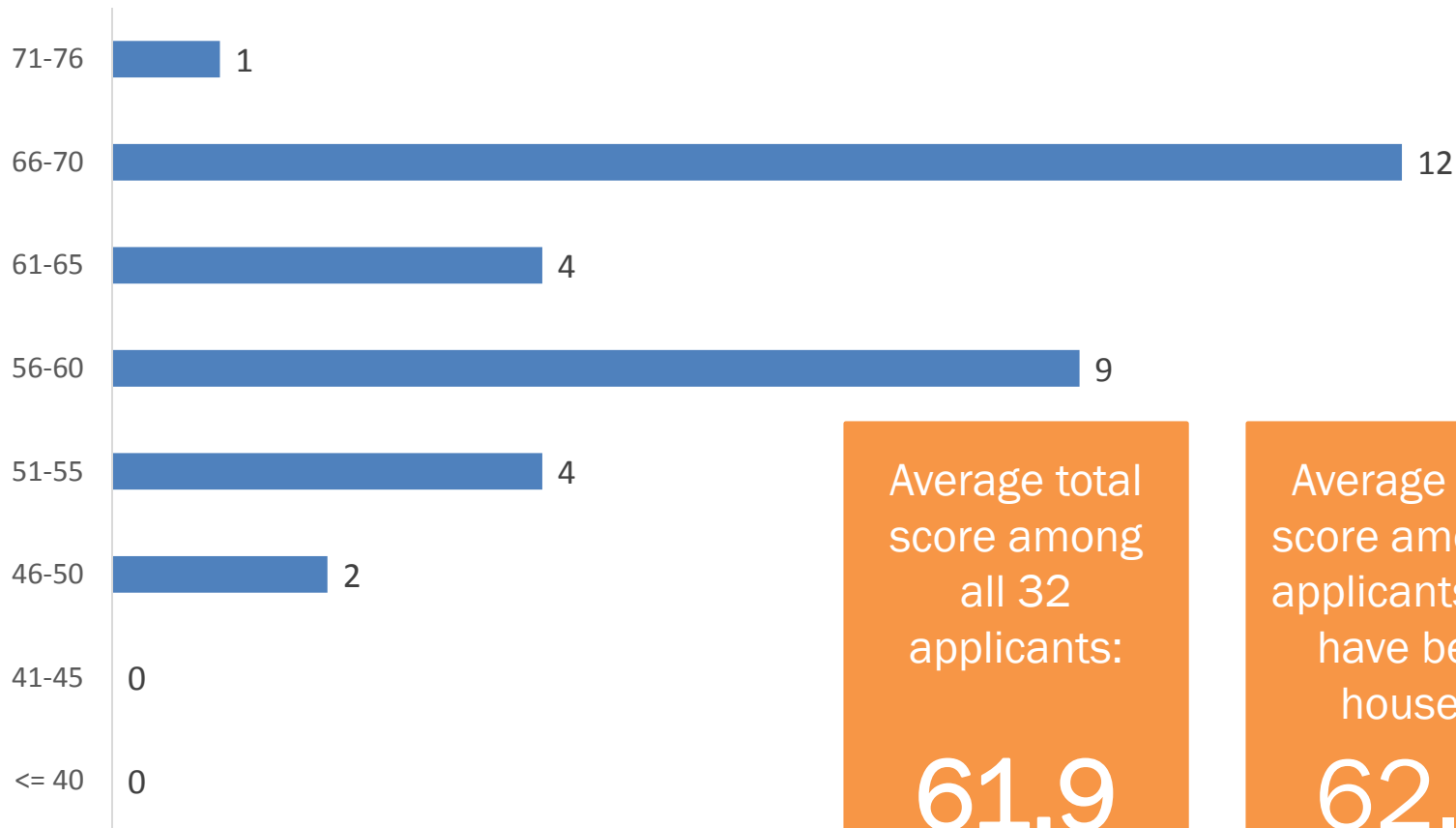
*Unknown for 9 applicants and 2 still in trafficking situation

A Look at the Early Data



A Look at the Early Data

Total Application Score (Out of 76)



Qualitative Analysis

SUCSESSES & IMPACT

- 60 housing choice vouchers for survivors of human trafficking that didn't exist before
- Connections to housing and more housing options have acted as a vehicle for rapport building and deeper relationships between survivors and service providers
- Increased motivation to access other services, including substance use treatment, in order to qualify for the program
- Anecdotal increase in hope, health and well-being for people on a path to permanent housing
- Improvement in the ability to reunite with children due to stable housing
- Strengthening of relationships with family and support systems because of stable housing
- Ability to focus on job search due to stable housing

Qualitative Analysis

“She’s back to a thriving state of mind.”

Qualitative Analysis

CHALLENGES

- Safety concerns around locations where vouchers seem to be more readily accepted
- Differences in experiences for US citizens and foreign national survivors, including length of time to be housed
- Challenges in process not unique to trafficking survivors
 - systemic barriers exist for all housing choice vouchers, including challenges with landlords in accepting vouchers across the city
- Would benefit from additional allocated resources dedicated to the supportive services component of this pilot (including staff time to assist in finding housing, security deposits, move in costs, etc)

Lessons Learned & Recommendations

- Importance of relationships, clearly outlined roles, and buy-in
- Support from federal partners
- Setting the pace and timeline for design and implementation phases
- Communication planning
- Consider HCV program and partnership with PHA as ONE OF MANY options



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