

# Keeping Families Together and Safe

## *The Child Protection— Housing Connection*



<b>B</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>O</b>
Currently works with a family receiving Section 8 Rent	Knows the difference between safety and risk assessments	Can identify the first and last name of one family preservation worker	Likes to read tabloids while in line at the grocery store	Believes that all children have a right to housing
Loves to cook	Knows the child abuse and neglect hotline number	Speaks a Second Language	Knows what "CAPTA" stands for	Knows what the McKinney-Vento Act is
Has had another career outside of human/social services	Knows a family who's kids are in foster care but can't return because of family's housing problems	<b>FREE</b>	Works with victims of domestic violence	Has brown eyes
Knows the definition of child neglect	Knows what Fair Market Rent is	Has more than five siblings	Knows where families can go when the shelters are full	Plays a sport regularly
Can name one person that works at a public housing authority	Knows if the local child welfare agency helps with rent or utilities occasionally	Regularly reads a professional journal, such as the CWLA journal, <i>Child Welfare</i>	Loves to dance	Is a "mandated reporter"

Transparency B

# Teamwork Agreement

- Listen with an open mind
- Disagree respectfully
- Participate, share ideas
- Return on time
- Cell phones on vibrate
- Commit to learning
- Have fun

# Scope of the Problem

- 1.35 million children experience homelessness each year (1999)
- Hundreds of thousands of children live in substandard housing (2003)
- 3 million reports of alleged abuse, 872,000 substantiated (2006)
- 11.6 million children in poverty (2002)
- 40% of homeless people are families (2004)

# Common Themes

- Safety
- Preserving families
- Stability
- Building on strengths
- Self-reliance

# Connections

- Link between poverty and risk:  
47% of abused and neglected children from households < \$15K income (1996)
- 30% of foster children could be reunited if housing was available (1996)
- 27% of homeless people experienced foster care (1996)

# Effect of Homelessness

- Respiratory infections (4X)
- Intestinal infections (5X)
- Asthma (4X)
- Delayed development (4X)
- School suspensions (2X)

Committee on Temporary Shelter (2004).  
Available: <http://cotsonline.org/homeless-kids.html>

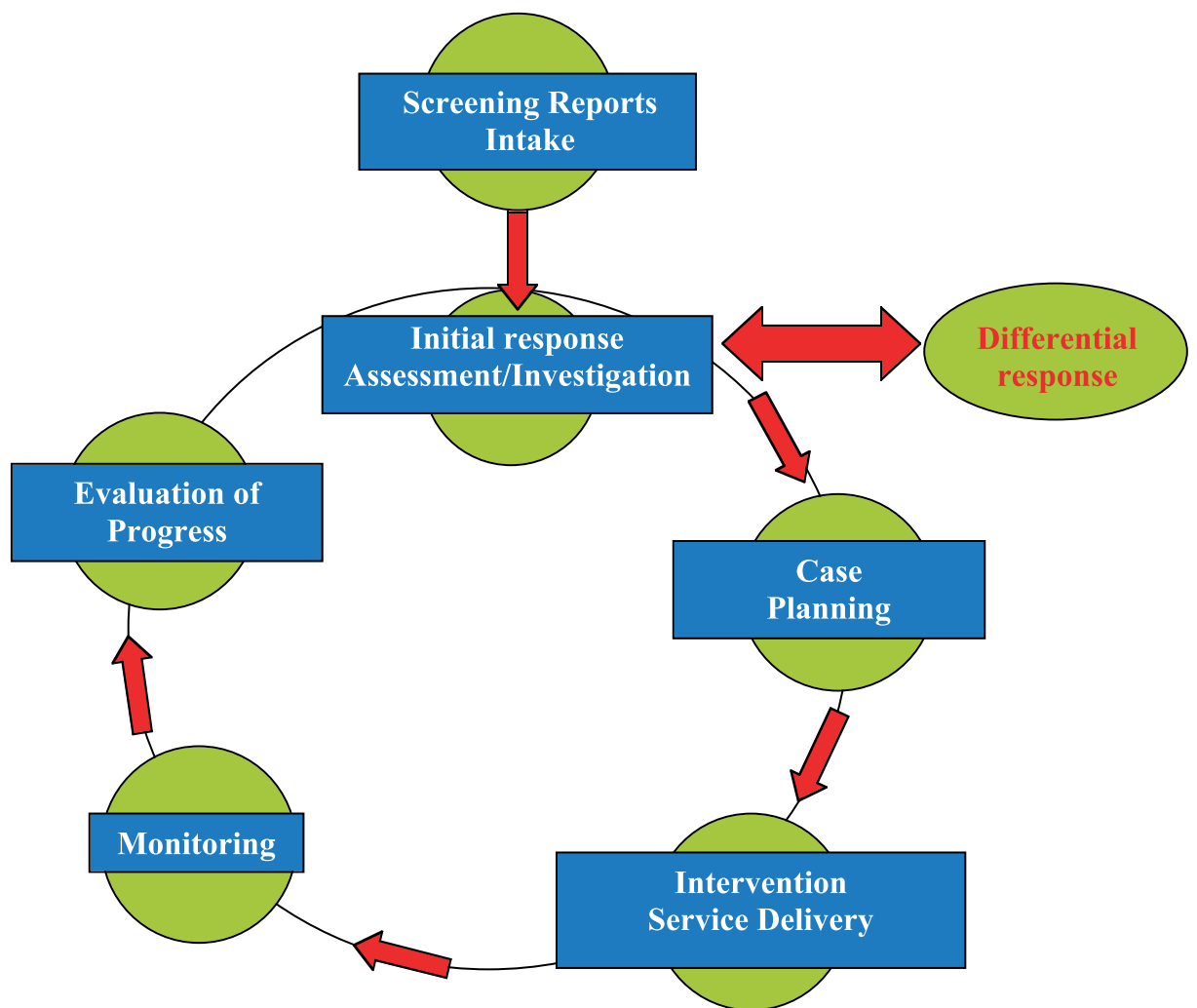
# Effect of Child Abuse and Neglect

More likely to:

- perform poorly in school
- commit crimes
- experience emotional and sexual problems
- abuse alcohol and other substances

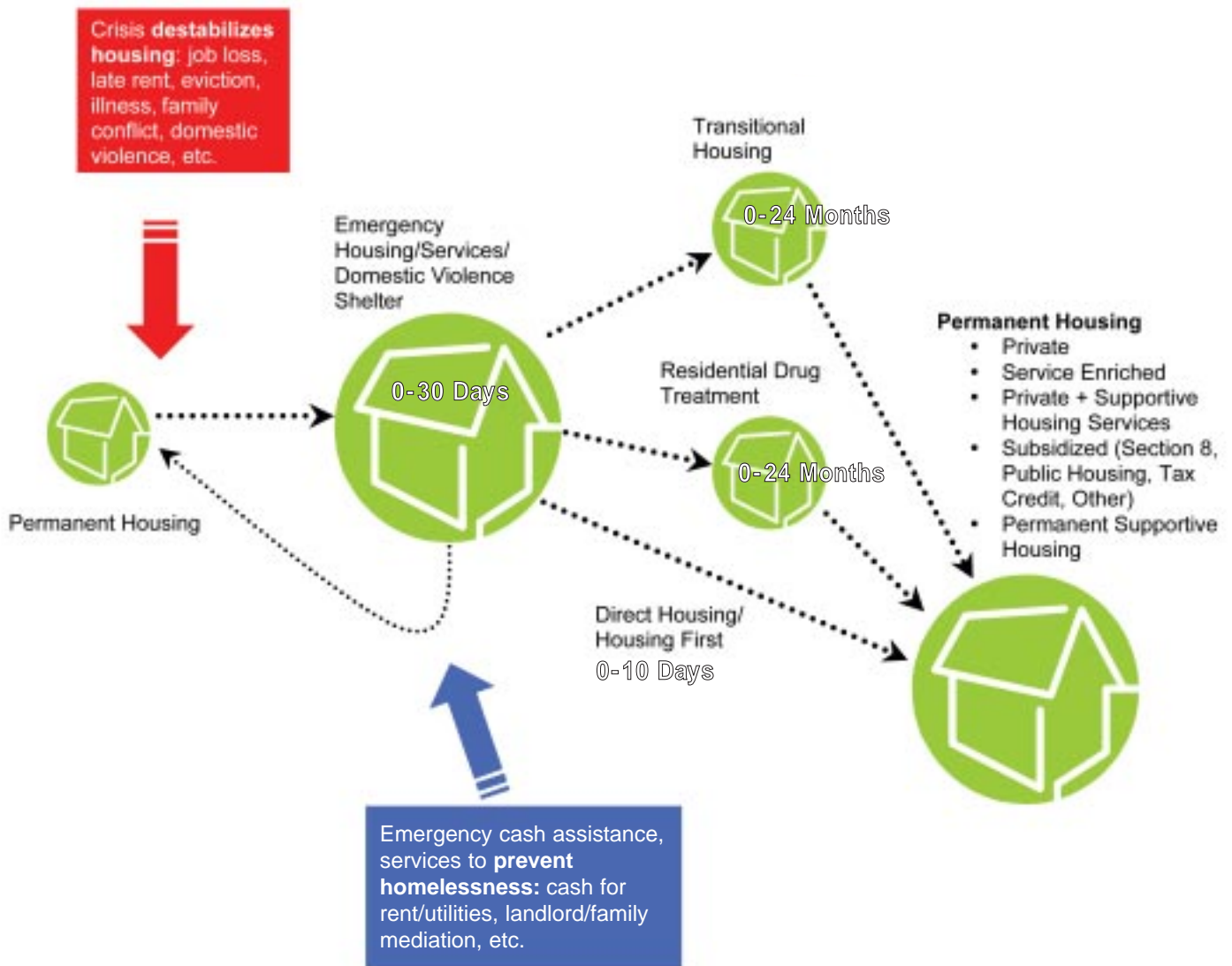
Widom, C.S. (2000) Understanding the consequences of child victimization. In R.M. Reece (Ed), *Treatment of Child Abuse: Common ground for mental health, medical and legal practitioners* (pp. 339–361.) Baltimore, MD: John Hopkins University Press.

# Child Protection System



# The Housing System

## Housing Flow Chart



# Components of Successful Collaboration

- Communication
- Cooperation
- Coordination
- Commitment

# Contact Information