



MASSACHUSETTS HOUSING AND SHELTER ALLIANCE

INITIATING SOLUTIONS TO END HOMELESSNESS

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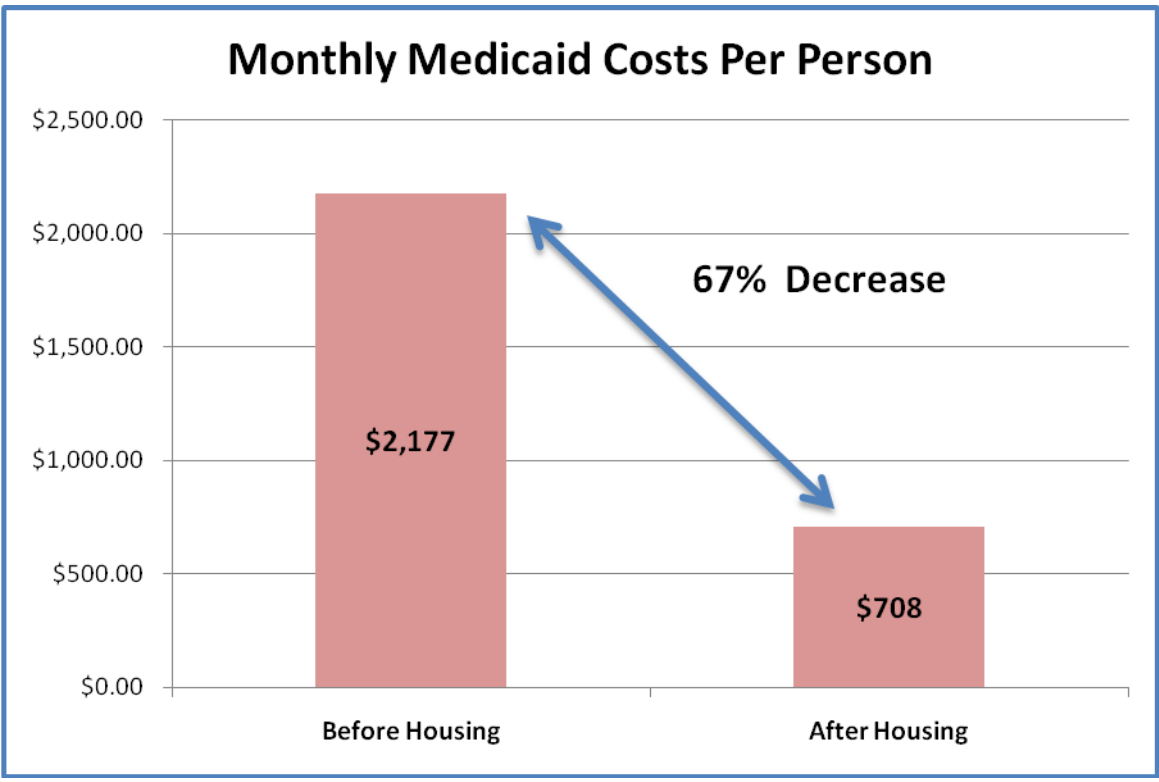
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***HOUSING CHRONICALLY HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS PROVES MEDICAID SAVINGS
New Analysis Shows Dramatic Savings from Statewide Housing First program***

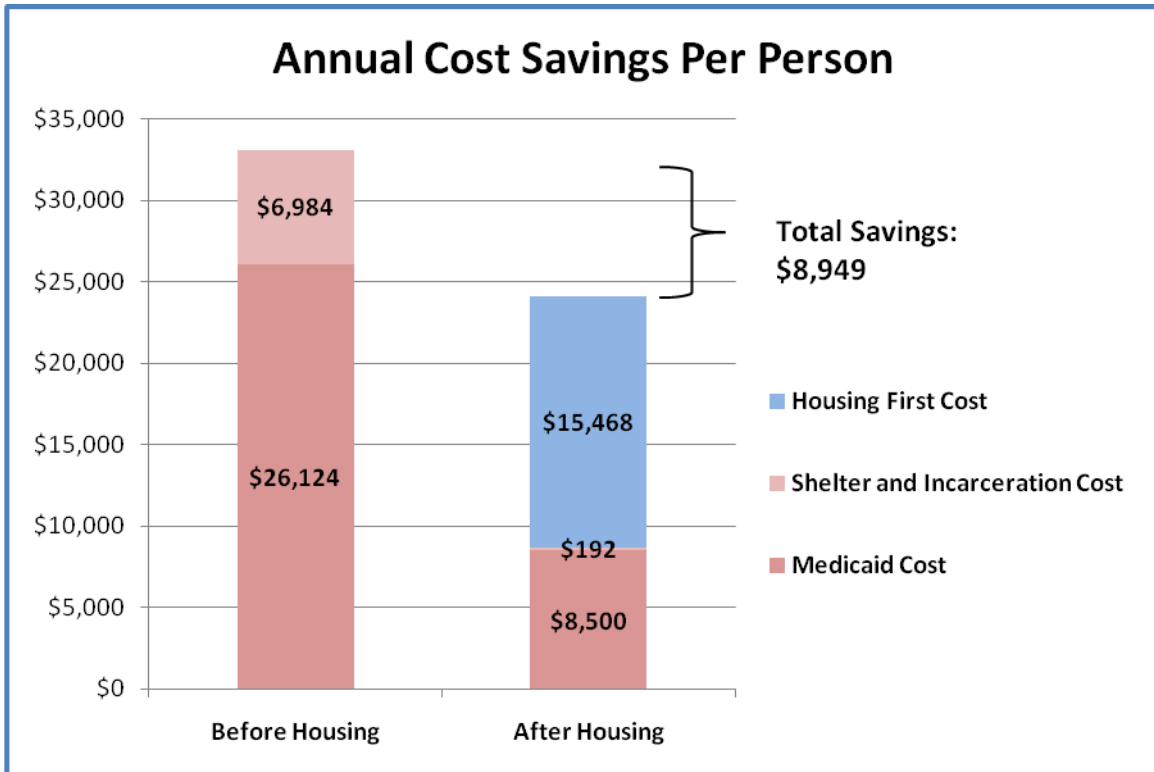
BOSTON - The Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance (MHSAs) has been projecting a dramatic savings to the state through ***Home & Healthy for Good***, the only statewide Housing First program for chronically homeless individuals in the nation.

The Massachusetts Office of Medicaid confirmed this projection. The Office of Medicaid conducted an analysis of billing claims data that proves chronically homeless individuals are extremely costly, and shows a **67 percent reduction in Medicaid costs** after participants moved into Housing First programs across the state. A Housing First approach is one that takes homeless men and women off the streets and out of shelters and places them into homes with intensive supportive services.



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Annual Medicaid costs per person plummeted from **\$26,124 before housing** to **\$8,500 after housing**. The costs of shelter and incarceration also decreased from **\$6,984 before housing** to **\$192 after housing**. Given an annual program cost of \$15,468 per person for housing and case management services, this statewide Housing First program results in a dramatic **savings to the state of \$8,949 per person**.



Since 2006, **Home & Healthy for Good** has placed more than 350 formerly chronically homeless individuals in housing across Massachusetts. Eighty-four percent of participants have successfully retained their tenancies.

MHSA encourages the Massachusetts Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness to carefully consider this important data and develop a plan to ensure similar results throughout the various regional networks of the Commonwealth working to end homelessness.

“Housing First strategies, as recommended by the Commission to End Homelessness, are the solution. The reduction of chronic homelessness on our streets and in shelters, resulting in cost savings throughout systems of care, should be the only acceptable result of any housing program,” said MHSA President & Executive Director Joe Finn. “Housing is humane, efficient and cost effective. It works.”

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About Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance

The Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance, a non-profit, 501 (c) (3) public policy advocacy organization, was established in 1988 by Greater Boston homeless providers and citizens seeking to create a coordinated strategy to end homelessness. MHSA represents 88 community-based agencies operating more than 250 programs statewide that serve approximately 98 percent of all homeless individuals in Massachusetts. 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.

For more information visit www.mhsa.net.

