

Ending Family Homelessness in Brno: Results of a Pilot and Next Steps

2018
FEANTSA
POLICY
CONFERENCE
FUTURE CHALLENGES
FOR THE HOMELESS
SECTOR IN EUROPE

Family homelessness in Brno

- Regional capital of Moravia, population 400 000
- 28 000 municipal flats, 1300 vacancies (2018), 600 vacancies/y
- **421 homeless families in Brno** (RW Brno 2016)
 - 191 in hostels, 64 in shelters, others in overcrowded households, without basic facilities, couchsurfing or doubled-up,
 - Inflow of ca 50 new homeless families each year
- 2/3 single-headed, 2/3 Roma, mothers avg 35 yo, 6 yrs homeless on average. 2,8 children/family, 20% children disabled or ill, 9% children in institutional care. 60% on parental leave, 20% working, 45% cannot control debt.

Policy: End family homelessness?

- Previously no targeted policy to prevent and end homelessness. Just „long run for generations“: education of children → employment → housing
- Since 2015 local government initiative to tackle temporary hostels and homelessness with EBP
- Inspiration from European Campaign to End Homelessness, Opening Doors program by USICH, San Francisco „Heading Home Campaign“ to end family homelessness
- 2015: Planning for ending homelessness
- 2016: Strategic plan
- 2016-2018: Pilots
- 2018: Action Plan for Ending Family Homelessness

Brno strategy for social inclusion

“In 2025 homelessness in Brno will be rare, brief and non-recurring”

1. 200 households housed by new pilots (HF for Families, HF for adults, affordable housing program, shared housing) until 2018, then pilots assessed.
2. 150 affordable flats assigned through new rules - lower threshold to municipal housing stock until 2017
3. Test innovative tools for private housing stock (SRA, guarantees, social housing in development projects). 87 households housed until 2018.

Housing First for Families in Brno

- First pilot of HF in the Czech Republic
- Intervention: Municipal flat + ICM + housing allowance (direct payment)
- Randomized Controlled Trial with 50 treatment and 100 control families
- **Expected primary outcomes:** a) housing retention (min 80%) x prevalence of homelessness; b) security of tenure; c) mental health state of primary carers/mothers; and d) the use of emergency health services by family members
- **Expected secondary outcomes:** quality of housing, health and quality of life of families, social integration of parents, financial stability of families, reunification of families and prevention of institutionalization of children and school attendance of children

Timeline

2015: Planning with international experts on homelessness

10/2015 – 06/2016: HF training by HVO Querido Discus

04/2016: Family homelessness registry week

05/2016: Lottery

09/2016-06/2017: Families moved in and stabilized in housing

06/2018: Housing retention rate after one year assessed

Randomized Controlled Trial:

01/2018: Baseline survey

06/2018: 6-months impacts

09/2018: 12-months impacts

Results and primary outcomes

- Expected housing retention rate of 80% met already in 03/2018
- Final **housing retention rate after one year: 96%** (48 out of 50)

Indicator	Scale	Treatment Average	Control Average	Average Treatment Effects	P-value (T-test)
Security of tenancy	Yes/No	0,98	0,37	+ 0,61	<0,0001
Psychosocial stress cat	High stress level (K6 > 13 = SMI)	0,19	0,51	- 0,32	0,0003
Emergency visits	Total visits/ family/ 6months	1,02	1,95	x	0,183(Mann-Whitney)
Used ambulance	Total ambulance uses/ family/ 6M	0,18	0,68	- 0,5	0,066
Hospital stays	Total hospital stays/ family/ 6M	0,18	0,56	- 0,38	0,007

Secondary outcomes (immediate)

Outcome	Indicator	P-value
Stability of housing	Number of moves in 6 months	--
Quality of housing	Occurrence of problems connected to poor housing	--
	Subjective assessment of housing quality	++
Improvement in health and quality of life of families	Subjective health assessment of parents	++
	Subjective health assessment of children	++
	Occurrence of asthma and injuries of children	0 (asthma) -- (injuries)
	Life satisfaction of mothers	++
Improvement in social integration of parents	Level of anomia	--
	Participation in community gatherings	+

Secondary outcomes (immediate)

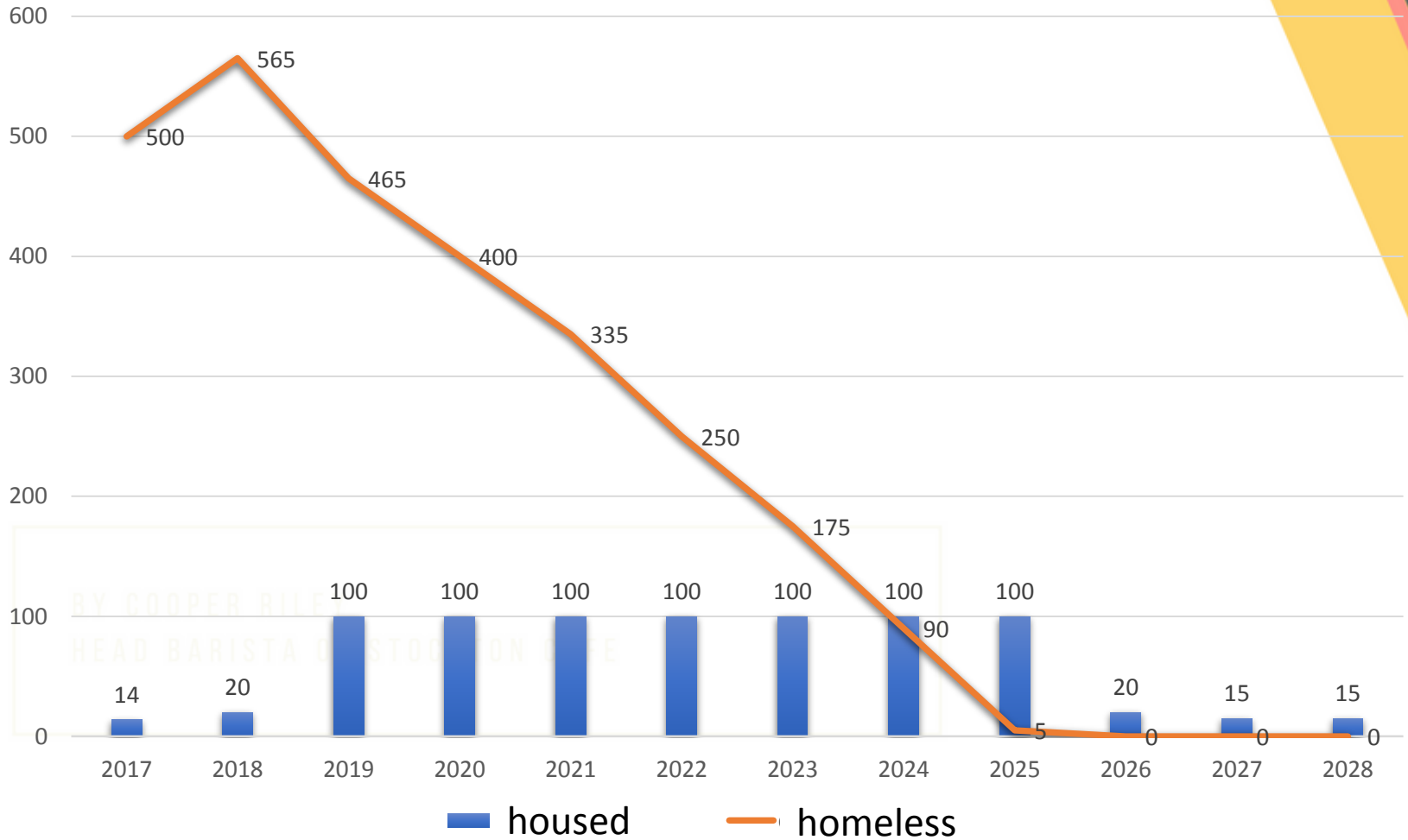
Outcome	Indicator	P-value
Improvement in financial stability of families	Amount of money the family lacks to cover basic goods and services	0
	Number of days in month the family disposes cash	0
Reunification of families and prevention of institutionalization of children	Number of children that came back from foster care or institutional care	0
	Number of children institutionalized	0
Improved school attendance of children	Absenteeism of school children	N/A

What is next? Ending Family Homelessness in Brno

Action Plan to end Family Homelessness in Brno 2018-2025 (for city council approval in June 2018)

- Integrated System for Ending Family Homelessness in the city
- Robust diversion and prevention
- Ensure available housing stock
- Ensure available case management and support services
- Management (eradication) of temporary hostels – ending poverty bussiness
- Up-to date date and evaluation of system performance
- PR and communication

Ending Family Homelessness in Brno 2018 - 2025



What is next? Expanding HF in the Czech Republic

- Knowledge Platform for Ending Homelessness on Municipal Level
 - 4 cities + 2 NGOS → 12 cities and 6 NGOs
 - Toolkit for Ending Homeless
 - HF programs, coordinated entry, registry weeks, ...
- ESF call for rehousing 500 households in HF model 2019-2022
 - Under preparation, issued 12/2018, Pilot for next programming period
 - Ca 8 000 EUR / household / 2yrs = rehousing and stabilization
 - 60% personal costs : 40% others
 - Preliminary interest by 18 NGOs and 14 municipalities (950 households total)
 - Development of training and coordination scheme, learning community



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