

Housing Navigation Project

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Housing Navigation Project

Project Overview

- DCA funded, 18-month long grant that SHA was awarded in January designed to bridge a gap that will bring greater access to affordable housing to those most economically challenged in New Jersey.
- Aims to strengthen services that connect people with available housing and the capacity for program coordination throughout the state.

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Project Overview

The project encompasses a three-part approach:

- **Phase 1:** Production of a Housing Navigation Best Practices Report, Library and Toolkit based on both nationwide and local research. This will include an examination of barriers to service delivery through the eyes of people with lived experience.
- **Phase 2:** The development of a multi-sector stakeholder collaborative, including organizations that currently provide for vulnerable individuals, to examine successful strategies extracted from the research as the basis for a shared approach to sustainable change. The Housing Navigator Collaborative will help establish pooled resources, coordinated services and sustainable partnerships that can be applied to improve housing access.
- **Phase 3:** With the Collaborative, develop and implement recommendations in the areas of funding, procedure and policy improvements to guide planning leading to increased availability of affordable housing.

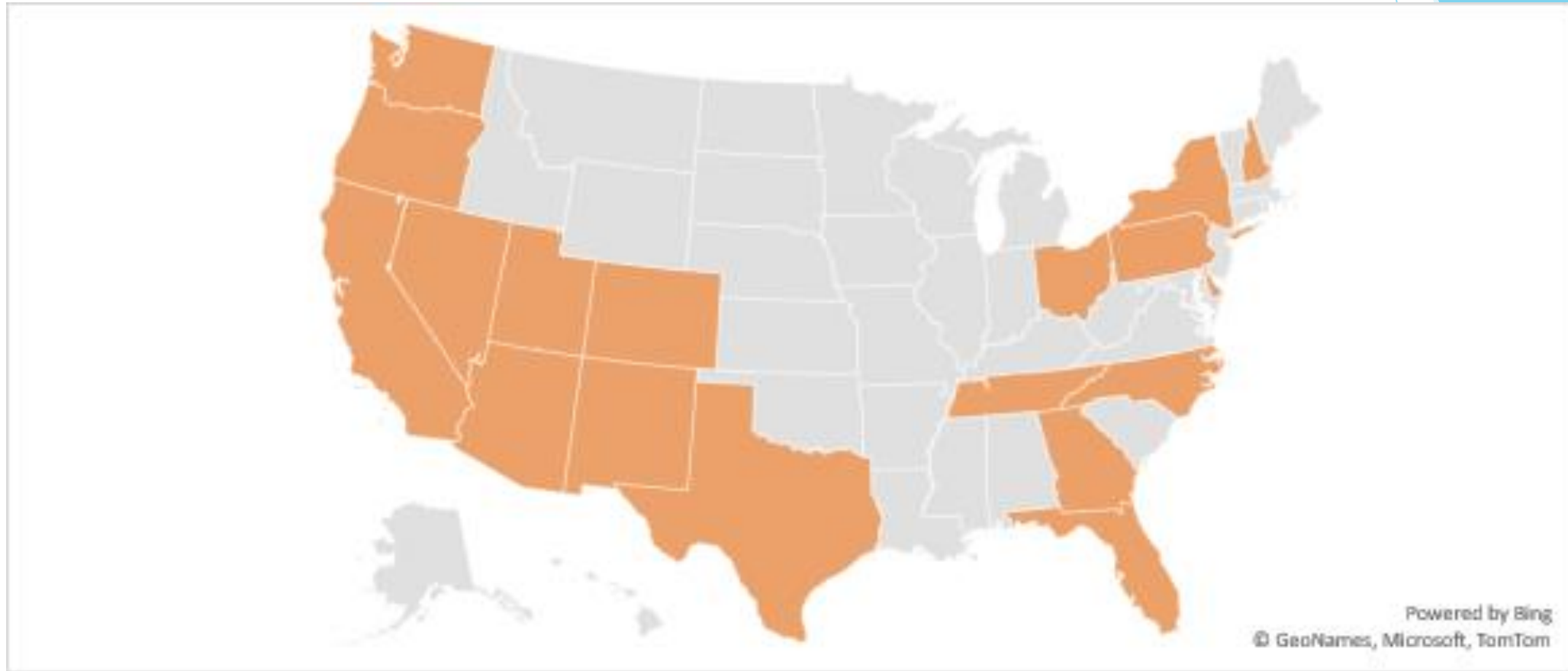
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Phase 1: Research and Review Best Practices and Survey Current NJ Landscape

National-level research:

- Shelley Samuels of SRS Strategic Associates and our SHA team developed a questionnaire about housing navigation service delivery. This was used to guide interviews and as a stand-alone tool.
- National review took place by SRS from March thru June: 18 full validated survey results were received in addition to 19 interviews conducted, for a total of 37 participating providers from 18 different states
- National report is being finalized currently and will be released before the end of the month. Includes tools and best practice documents shared by participating service providers.

NJHNP Participating States



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State-Level Research

Focus Groups:

- The SHA team conducted focus groups this spring with individuals who have experienced homelessness to better understand their perspective on housing navigation programs in NJ
- We had an overwhelming response and ended up holding 3 separate meetings, and met with 41 people from 13 different counties.

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State-Level Research

- In May, the SHA team sent surveys out to over 100 organizations that provide housing navigation services statewide. We received 27 back.
- Organizations served clients from a range of populations and counties.
- A state-level report that includes research on NJ housing navigation programs and best practices as well as an overview of challenges faced by providers will be released later this month

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Phase 2: Development of a Multi-Sector Stakeholder Collaborative

- We are currently in the beginning phases of putting together this collaborative
- If you are an organization that provides housing navigation services, we may be reaching out to you with more information on this in the next week or two.