

# Proposal for Referrals into PSH Units at Renaissance Commons

Presentation to the N/NE Preference Oversight Committee

May 13, 2021



JOINT OFFICE OF HOMELESS SERVICES



Urban League  
of Portland



# Agenda

- What is Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)?
- What is Coordinated Access (CA)?
- Culturally Specific PSH at Renaissance Commons
- Proposal for PSH referrals to come from CA
- Questions and Discussion

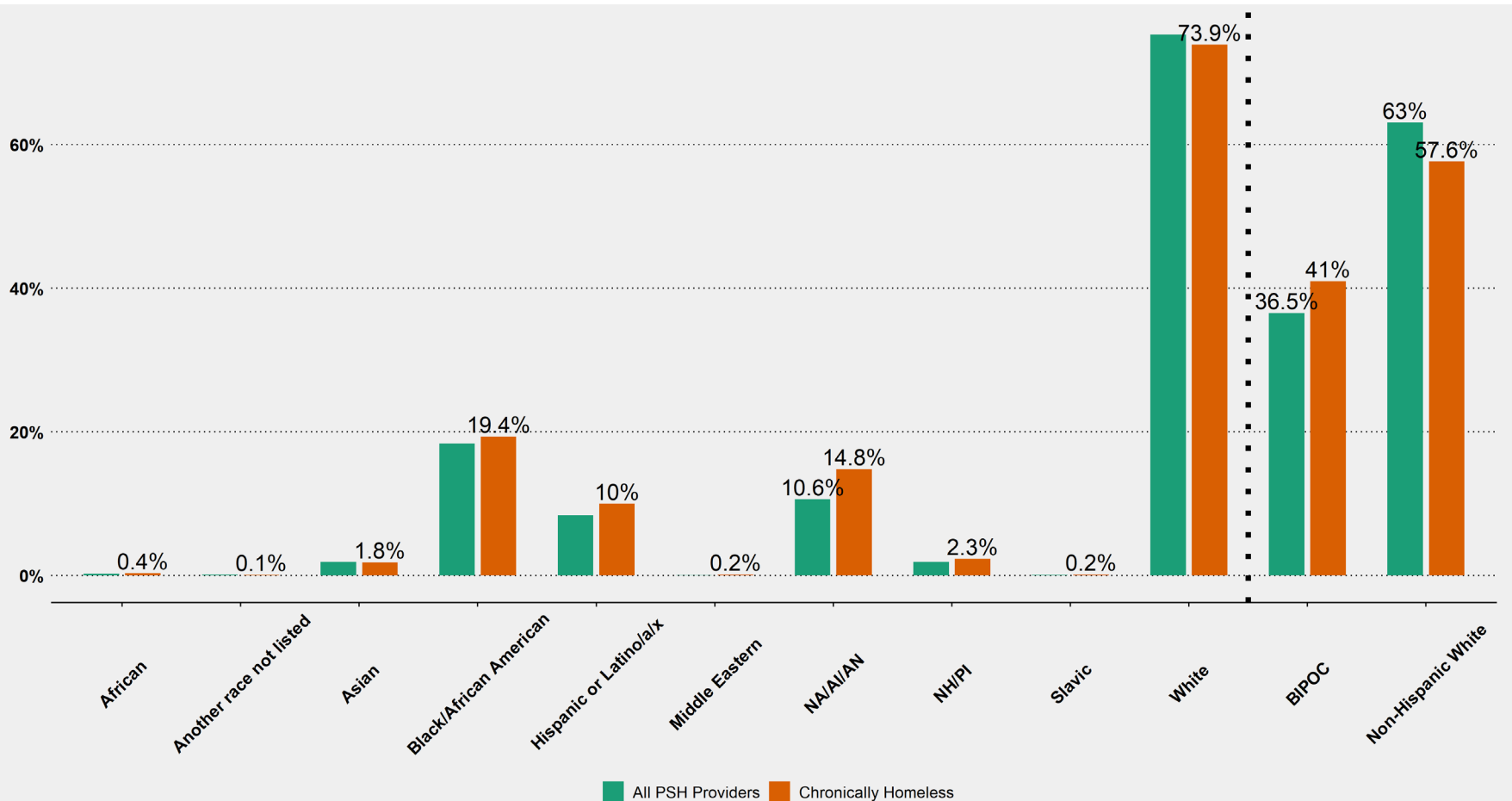
# What is Permanent Supportive Housing?

**Affordable housing** is the solution to homelessness. A subset of people also need ongoing and integrated support services to be successful in that housing.

**Permanent Supportive Housing** combines deeply affordable housing with individualized services to support people who face the most complex challenges to live independently. This often includes people with disabling conditions who've experienced long or recurring episodes of homelessness.



# Race & Ethnicity of Adult Households Served in PSH Compared to Adult Households Experiencing Chronic Homelessness in Fiscal Year 19-20



*Please note: Inclusive race categories to the left of the dotted line add up to more than 100%.*

# Culturally Specific PSH for the African American Community

The Urban League of Portland began offering culturally specific PSH through Project Haven in 2016. Urban League's PSH services are intentionally designed to meet the needs of Black and African American community members with disabling conditions who are experiencing long periods of homelessness.





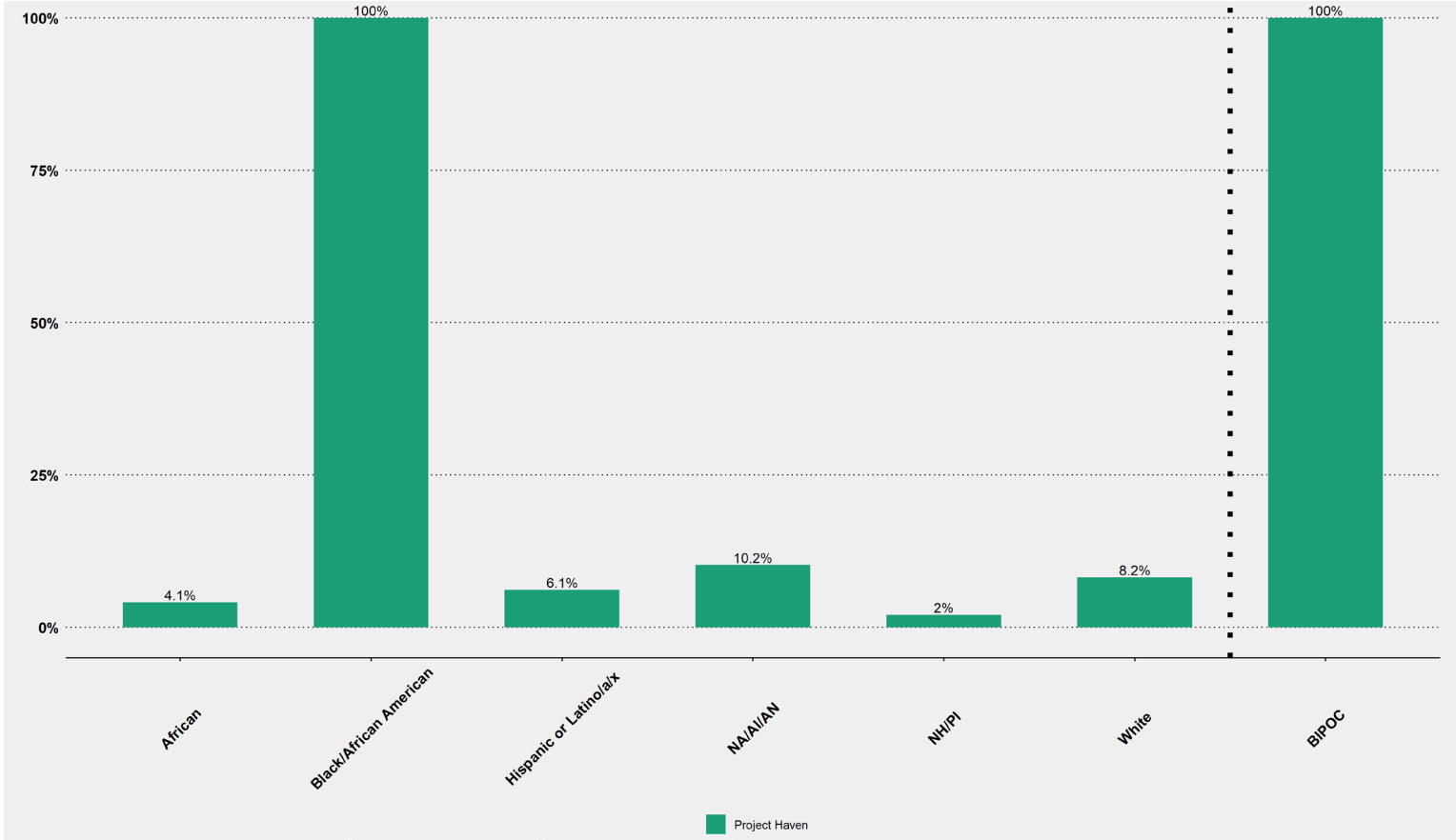
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*When I look out my window, I'm thankful... When I look at my freezer full of food, I'm thankful... when I look at my bed, I'm thankful. It's a blessing to have Permanent Housing with the Urban League ... to work with someone who understands.*

- Warren



# Race & Ethnicity of Households Served in Project Haven PSH in Fiscal Year 19-20



*Please note: Inclusive race categories to the left of the dotted line add up to more than 100%.*

# What is Coordinated Access?

A process designed to coordinate housing resources for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.



Rather than go to every organization that might have a resource, the person seeking services can complete a **standardized assessment** at one organization and be placed on a **centralized list** for a range of resources across multiple organizations.



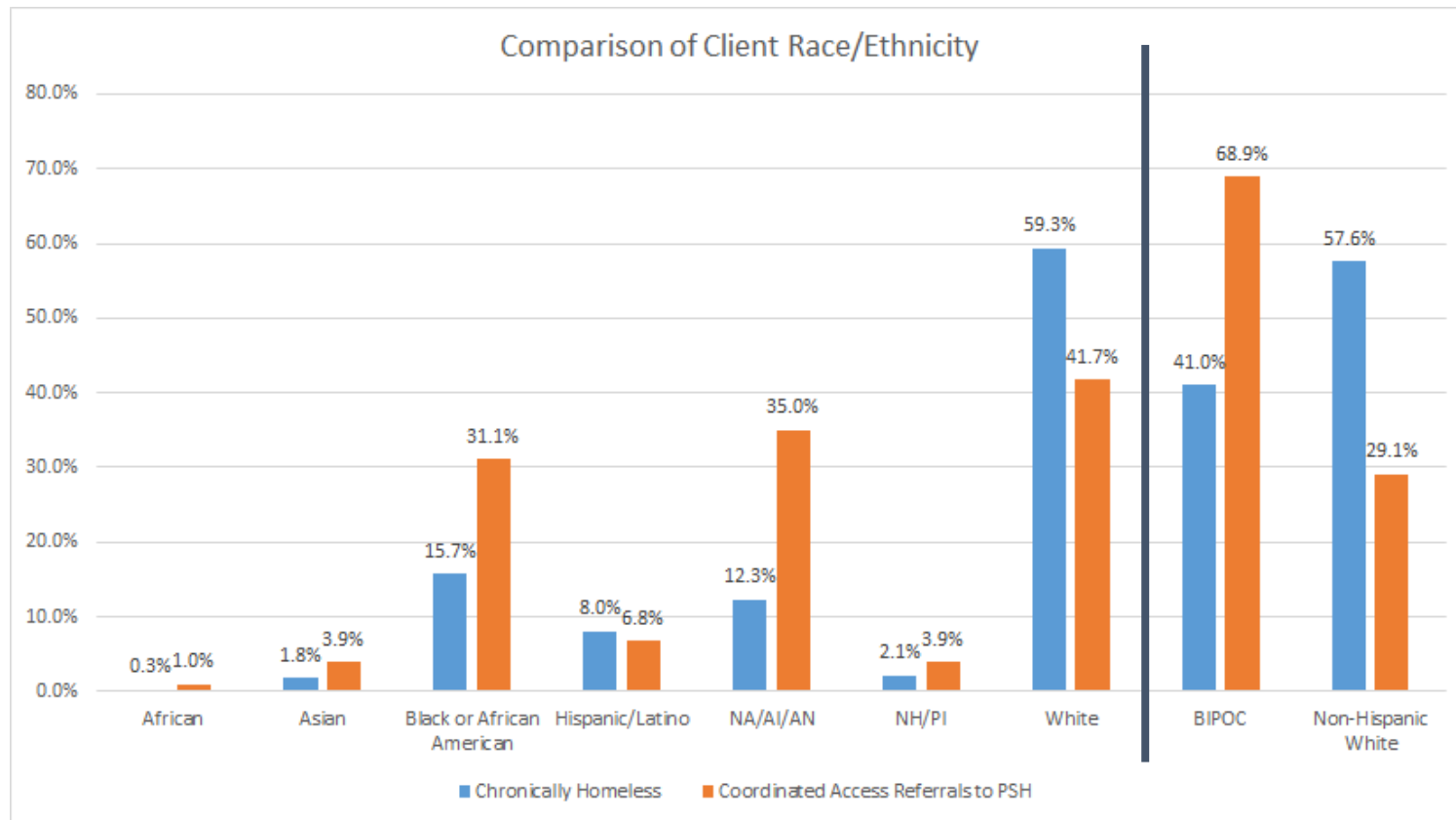
# Intent of Coordinated Access

- Create a more equitable system that is easier to access and navigate
- Reduce duplication of efforts to serve clients better
- Direct limited resources to the people who need them the most
- Match households to housing resources that best meet their needs and preferences

# Advancing Racial Equity through Coordinated Access

- How unhoused people get prioritized
- Racial equity in assessment and prioritization
- CHAT & Family Navigators
- Case conferencing
- Culturally specific project referrals
- Urban League Coordinated Access referral examples

## Race & Ethnicity of Adult Households Referred to Coordinated Access PSH Compared to Adult Households Experiencing Chronic Homelessness in Fiscal Year 19-20



# Culturally Specific PSH at Renaissance Commons

Thirty (30) units of Permanent Supportive Housing with culturally specific PSH services provided by the Urban League.



# Proposal for Renaissance Commons PSH Referrals from CA

JOHS, Urban League and REACH propose that the 30 units of PSH at Renaissance Commons are released from the N/NE Preference Policy and receive referrals from Coordinated Access. JOHS will work with Urban League and other community partners to identify eligible households who will most benefit from culturally specific PSH.

## Benefits of this Approach

- Ability to refer households who need and want culturally specific PSH
- Relationship with households we refer and ability to support them through the lease-up and appeal process
- Ability for Urban League to maintain relationship with households from point of assessment through housing placement and retention
- Households more likely to engage in PSH services because of intentional referral process

# Questions and Discussion