



MAY 2019



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Louisiana Human Trafficking
Survivor Housing Report



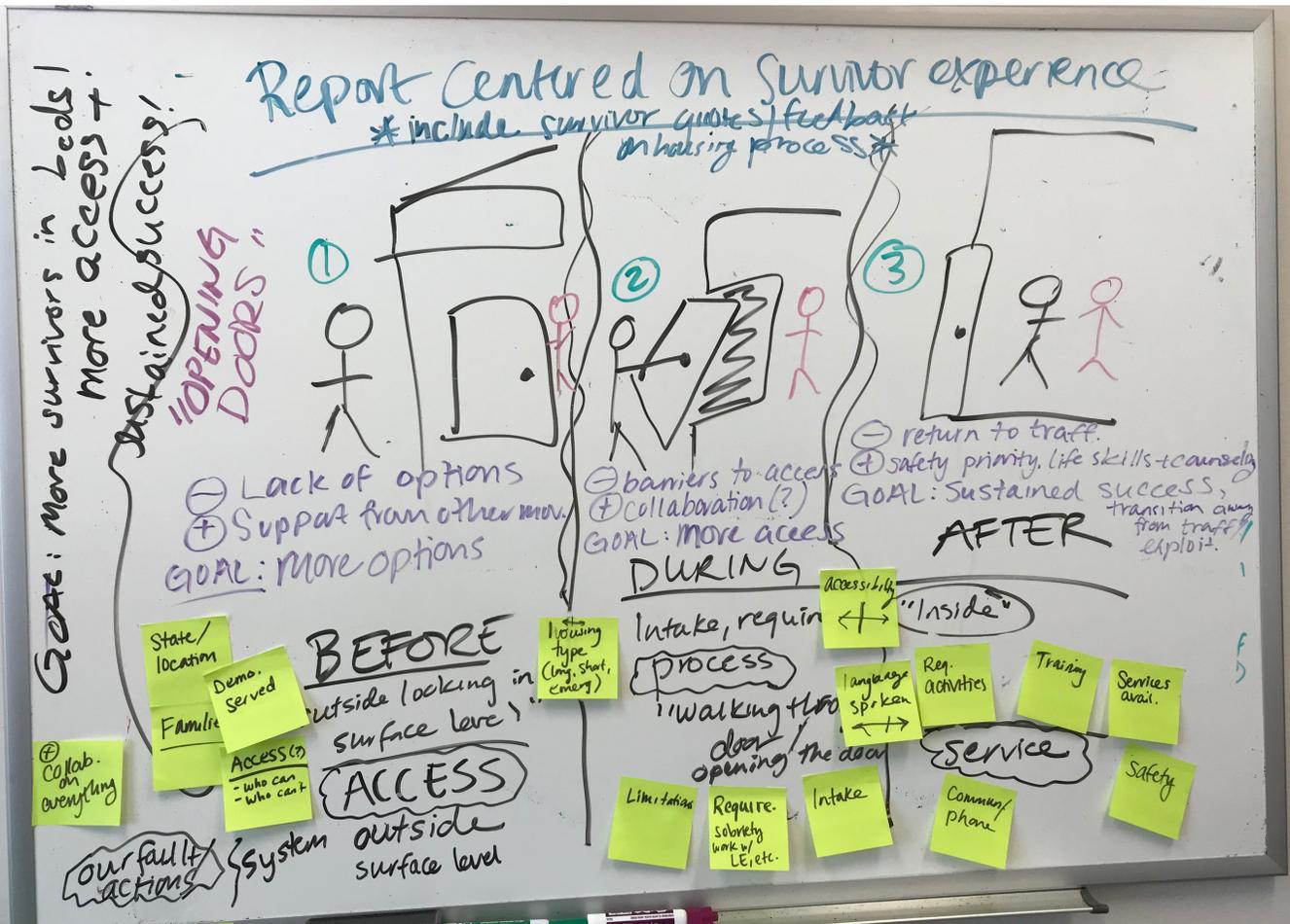
GREATER NEW ORLEANS
HUMANTRAFFICKING
TASK FORCE

DISCLAIMER

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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We are also grateful to the Freedom Network USA for assistance and support throughout this process. Most importantly, we owe thanks to the housing providers, housing advocates, and trafficking survivors who provided critical information on survivor housing in Louisiana.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROJECT OVERVIEW

This housing project had three primary goals: to collect baseline data on housing for trafficking survivors in Louisiana, to create a housing resource guide, and to produce a housing report. To keep the scope manageable, the project focuses on social service organizations and programs that provide housing to vulnerable populations (including but not limited to: human trafficking survivors, people experiencing homelessness, at-risk or system-involved youth, people living with addiction, domestic violence survivors, sexual assault/sexual violence survivors, and immigrants) in Louisiana.

The housing report was created by integrating survey data of three primary stakeholders in the housing process: housing providers, housing advocates, and trafficking survivors. The data illuminated three key phases trafficking survivors experience during the housing process: access, process, and service. The report organizes its findings using the three phases to identify barriers and challenges encountered by survivors during each respective point in the housing experience.

ACCESS PHASE: KEY TAKEAWAYS

Not enough general housing and specialized housing options.

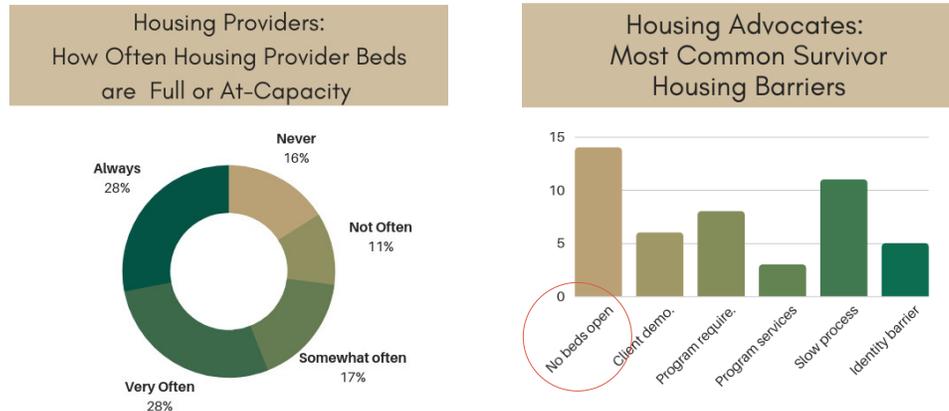


Housing advocates voiced a need for more general housing beds for survivors, as well as specialized housing options for all trafficking survivors. As of January 2019, specialized housing for trafficking survivors in Louisiana was only available to female sex trafficking survivors. Additionally, advocates identified that certain client demographics such as men, adults with children, and labor trafficking survivors have few general housing options.

82% of housing advocates believed that lack of beds was one of them most common barriers to survivors attempting to access housing. When we coded advocate responses about challenges in the housing process, "lack of housing or limits in beds available" was the most common long answer response.

PROCESS PHASE: KEY TAKEAWAYS

Contrasting opinions between housing providers and advocates on key housing process issues.



This report illuminates a contrast between the perspectives of housing providers and housing advocates in the process phase of housing. Important topics that highlighted the contrasting points of view include: perceptions of bed availability and shelter fullness, intake process speed, and intake rigidity. For example, housing providers have a wide range of responses about how often they are full, which contrasted with housing advocate perception that beds are constantly full or unavailable.

SERVICE PHASE: KEY TAKEAWAYS

Varied success housing trafficking survivors

Stabilization was identified as the top success in the service phase by both housing providers and advocates. Stabilization is a process of helping survivors feel more safe, addressing basic needs, and addressing the survivor's acute needs. The most common success housing providers identified were short and long term stability; and the most common success identified by housing advocates was general stabilization.

However, when we coded the responses of housing advocates we found that “no success” was the second most common phrase used to describe successes in the housing process. Housing advocates reported that a large portion of the survivors they serve do not make it into housing programs due to factors including identity, bed availability, and behavioral health. The most common challenge that housing providers identified in the service phase of housing is that survivors prematurely exit housing programs (such as running away, relapsing, or returning to their abuser).