Designing an End to Homelessness with Stella Modeling

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

Jesse Jorstad (he/him/his), Abt Associates
Alissa Parrish (she/her/hers), ICF

Jesse Jorstad, Abt Associates

he/him

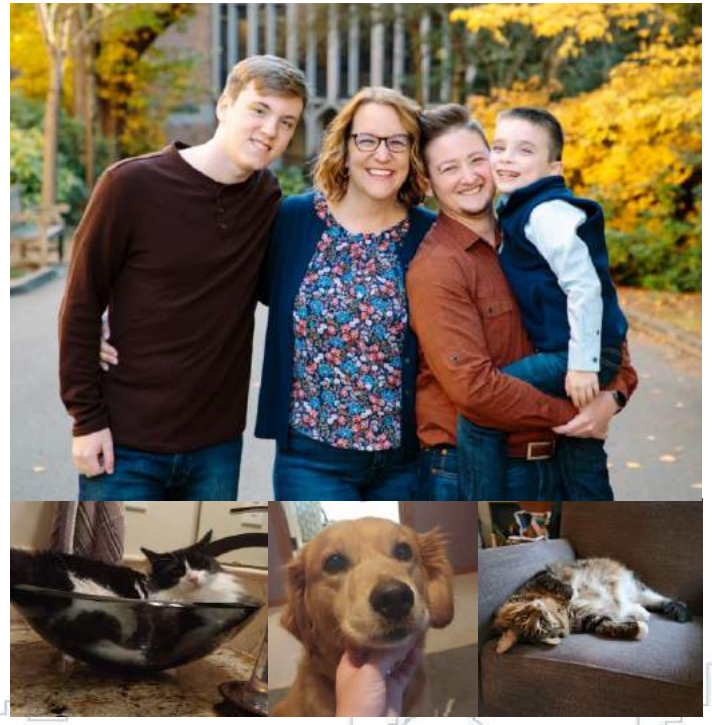
Prior to TA, I worked in homeless housing administration for 12 years:

- *5 in PSH rental admin in non-profit*
- *7 total with the County*
  - *2 in CoC Contract/Planning*
  - *5 in HMIS/Data analytics*

I have been with Abt Associates for 1.5 years.

I live in Lake Stevens, WA with my spouse, two kids, two cats and a dog.

I enjoy painting and volunteering to support LGBTQIA+ youth and young adults in my community.



Alissa Parrish, ICF

she/her

Prior to TA, I worked in direct services and HMIS for several years:

- *5 as the shelter manager for an emergency shelter*
- *5 as the HMIS Director for several implementations*
  - *Alaska statewide*
  - *Boise, Idaho*
  - *North Dakota statewide*

I have been with ICF in some way, shape, or form since 2018 but full-time since 2020.

I live in Des Moines, IA with my 3 children and no non-humans live with us but I do love dogs.

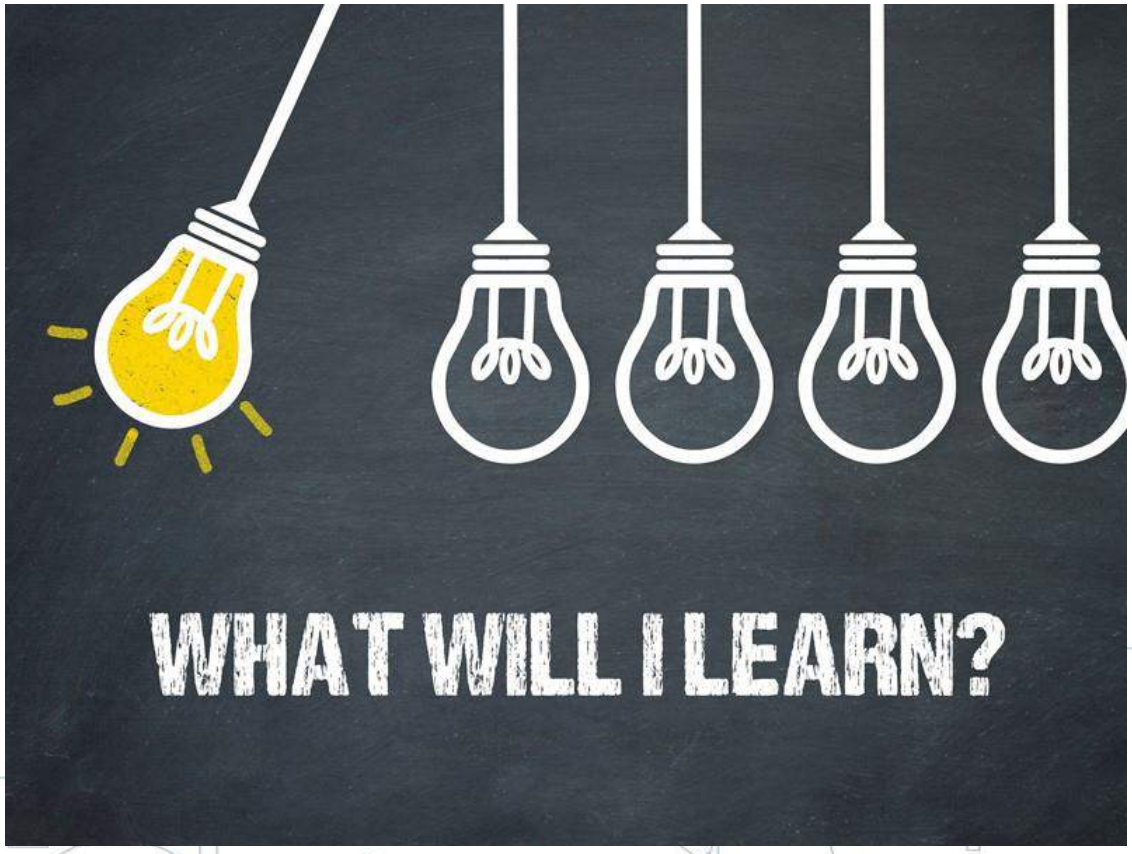
I enjoy running. A lot. And staying fully caffeinated to keep up with my energetic children.

Learning Objectives

1. Participants will learn what system modeling is and its benefits

2. Participants will learn how to embed equity practices into a system modeling process

3. Participants will be introduced to Stella M and how inputs and levers impact the results



Let's do an example…

System Modeling Exercise

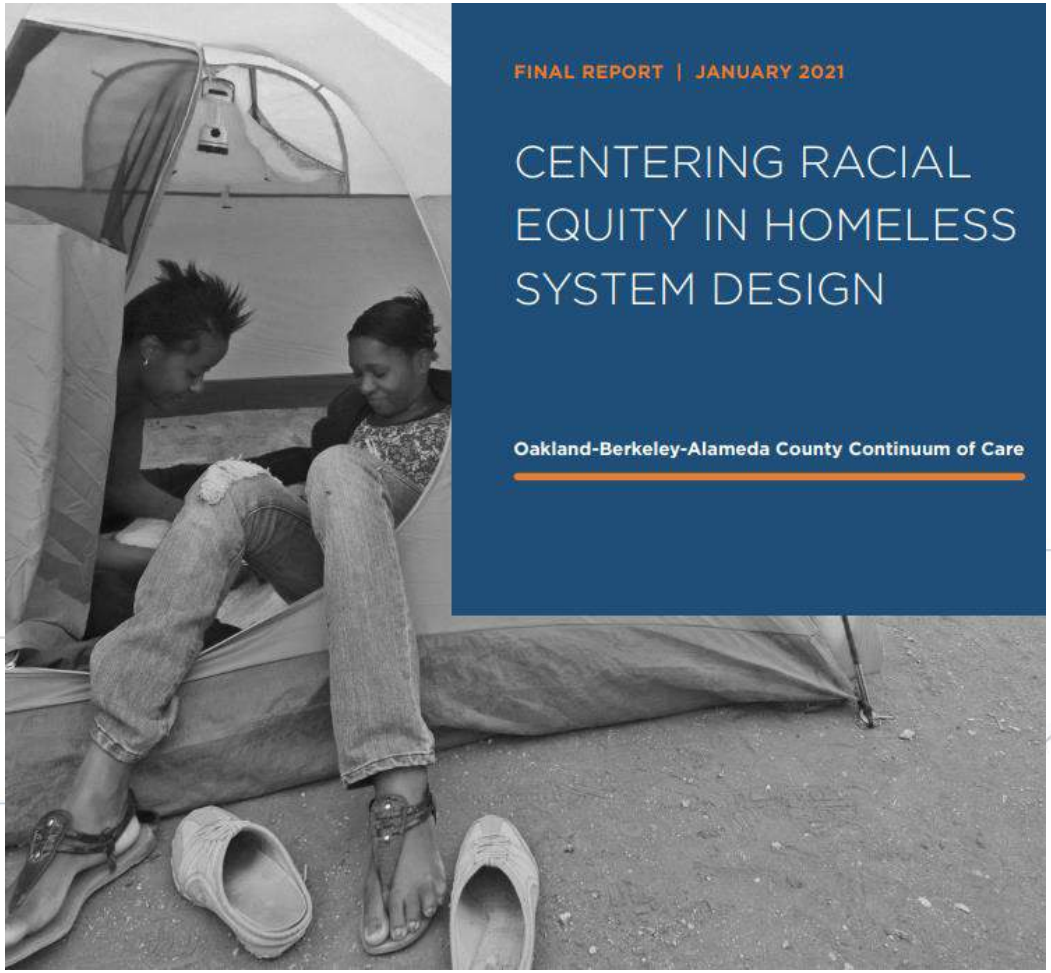
US DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT

Jolly Rancher Order

Color	Flavor	Estimated Need	Unit Cost	Total
Red	Cherry		.25	
	Watermelon		.50	
	Mountain Berry		1	
Purple	Grape		.25	
Yellow	Lemon		.25	
	Pineapple		.75	
Total Candy:			Total Cost:	

System Modeling Purpose



System modeling is a process to create an ideal vision of the inventory and performance needed by a system to provide the assistance needed to exit every household experiencing homelessness to permanent housing.

Once the ideal vision has been developed, it can be used to:

- Advocate for increased resources
- Prioritize investments and programmatic changes

https://everyonehome.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021-Centering-Racial-Equity-in-Homeless-System-Design-Full-Report-FINAL.pdf

A Quick Note

System Mapping

- Focuses on **what is currently occurring** within the homeless response system
- Identifies **gaps** in supports based on households currently accessing the system
- Illustrates disparities and inequities **based on the current system**

&

System Modeling

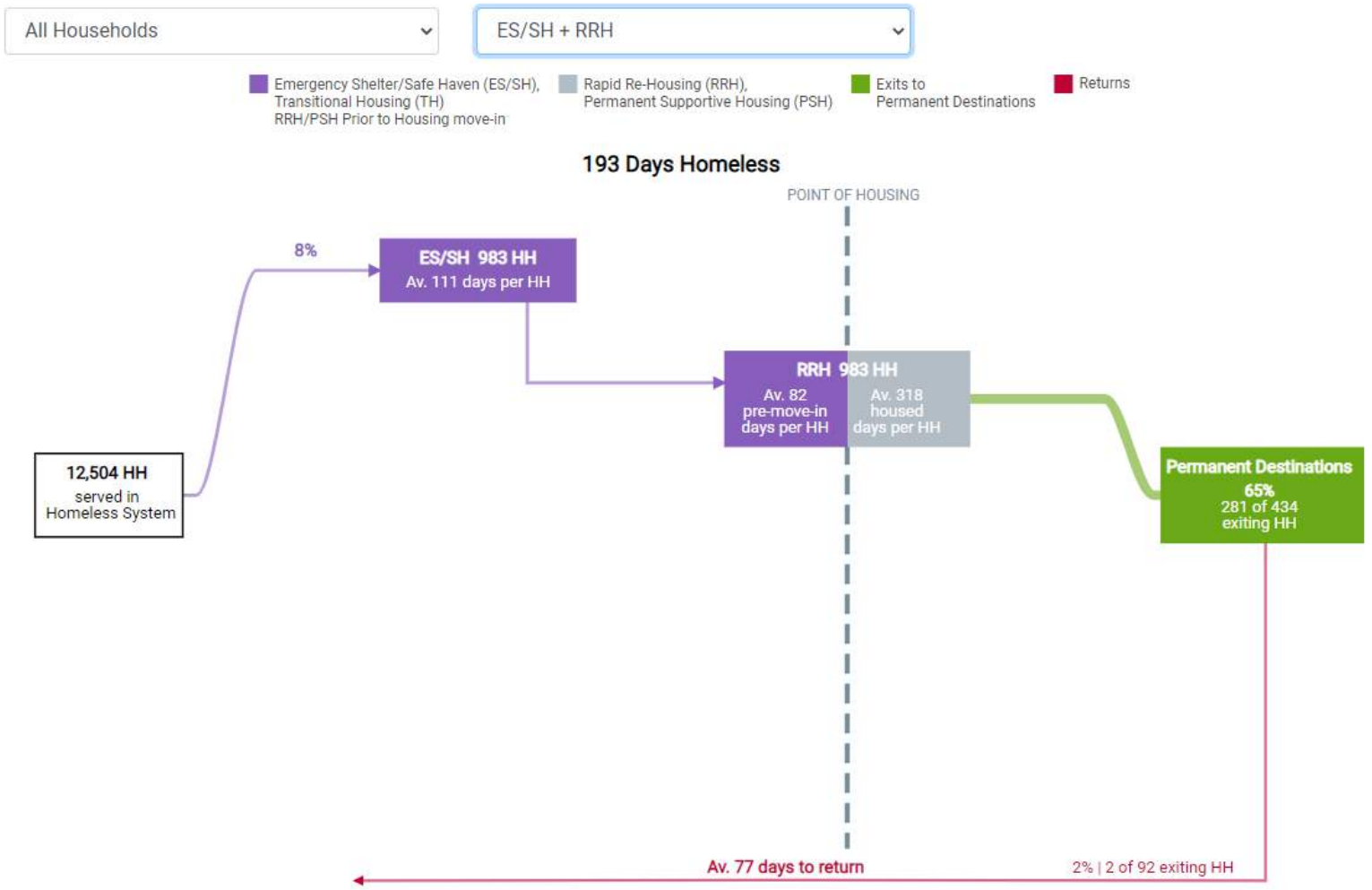
- Focuses on **what will occur** within the homeless response system, based on what is currently occurring
- Identifies **how to address gaps and needs**, based on data and assumptions
- Illustrates how the lack of strategic allocation of resources **could exacerbate already-existing disparities and inequities**

What does System Modeling mean when we are looking at the homeless housing system?

For the homeless system:

- What does the Jolly Rancher represent?
- What do the flavors represent?
- What are the added complexities?

Pathways


All Households
ES/SH + RRH
Emergency Shelter/Safe Haven (ES/SH), Transitional Housing (TH) RRH/PSH Prior to Housing move-in
Rapid Re-Housing (RRH), Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
Exits to Permanent Destinations
Returns
193 Days Homeless
POINT OF HOUSING
8%
ES/SH 983 HH
Av. 111 days per HH
12,504 HH
served in Homeless System
RRH 983 HH
Av. 82 pre-move-in days per HH
Av. 318 housed days per HH
Permanent Destinations
65%
281 of 434 exiting HH
Av. 77 days to return
2% | 2 of 92 exiting HH

Ingredients

Households

Performance

Model for the
ideal system

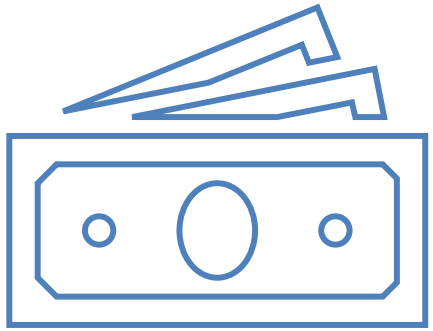
Cost

Current Inventory

Pathways
(Not optional)

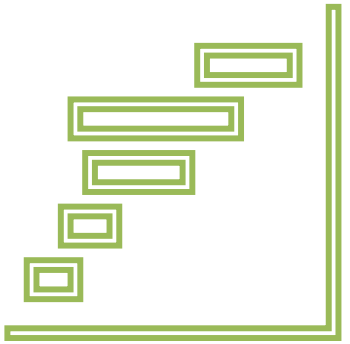
Results

Units



Cost Projections

Performance Benchmarks

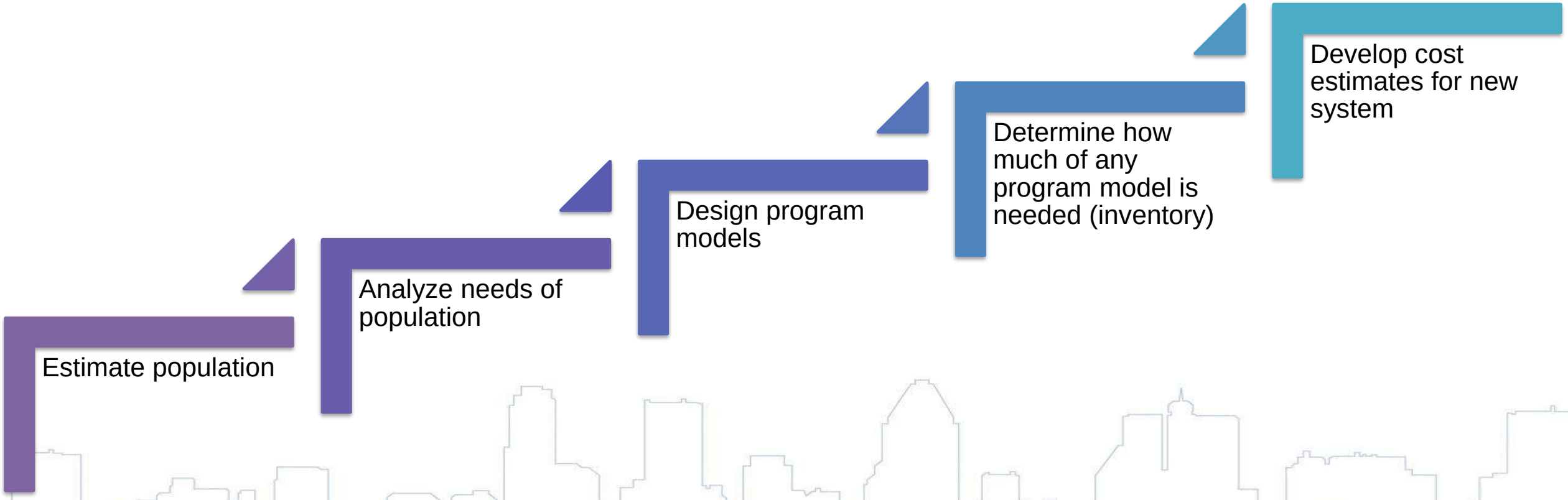


Transition Plan

Where Do We Start?

- Assemble your team!
- Ensure connection back to the CoC
- Diverse perspectives and backgrounds
- Secure sufficient support for the process
- Understand your “why”
- Talk about what data you have and what data you need

Process Overview



Optimal System Assumptions

Rapid Exit

- For each subpopulation, develop pathways people would use to rapidly exit homelessness to permanent housing

Subpopulation by Pathway

- For each pathway, estimate the portion of the subpopulation that will need that pathway to exit

Length of Stay

- For each program in a given pathway, estimate the average length of stay

Inventory

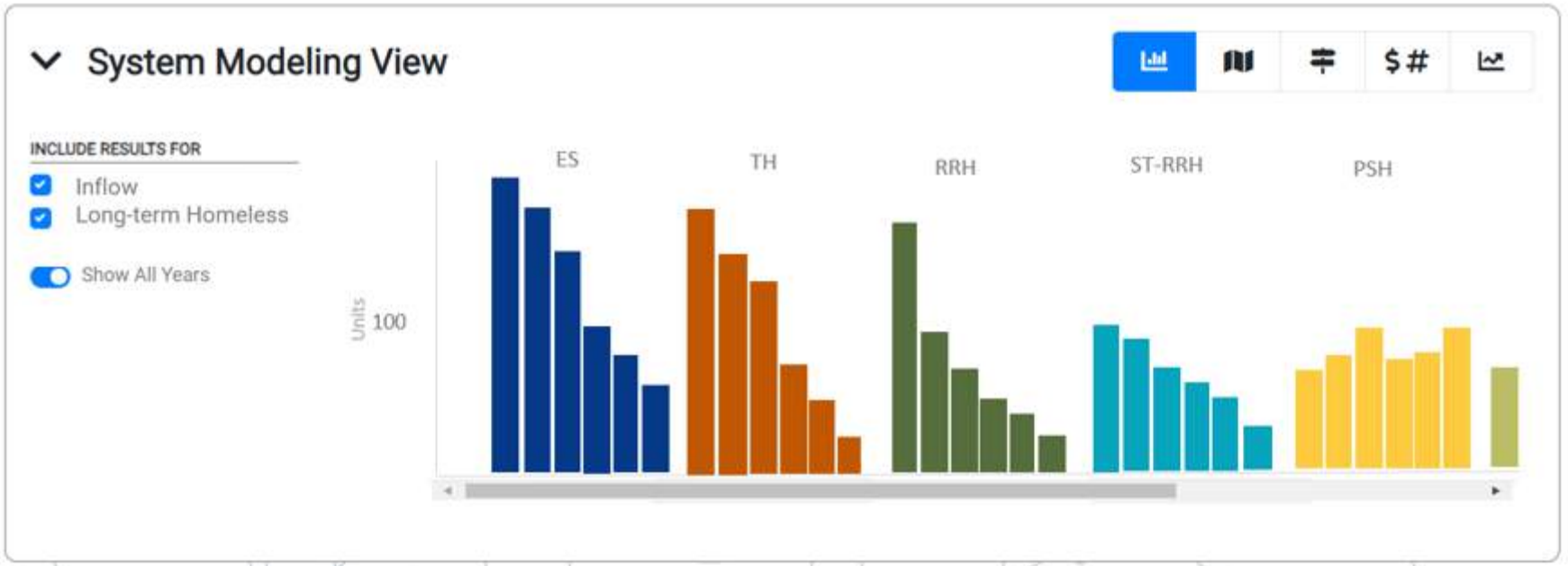
- Using annual count data and assumptions about pathways and length of stay, determine the number of units, beds, or subsidies needed at a point in time

Example: 10 individuals enter shelter each month

Pathway with % of Households	Length of Stay in Emergency Shelter	Beds Needed
ES Only – 20%	14 days	1 bed
ES + TH – 10%	30 days	1 bed
ES + RRH – 50%	30 days	5 beds
ES + PSH – 20%	60 days	4 beds
Total Beds		11 beds

Live Stella M Demo

2022 TOTAL	6,394 Total Served	1,190 Total Unmet Need	42.9 Projected Average Days Homeless	77.3% Expected Exits to Permanent Housing	11.6% Expected Returns	$8.53M Projected Annual Costs



Questions?

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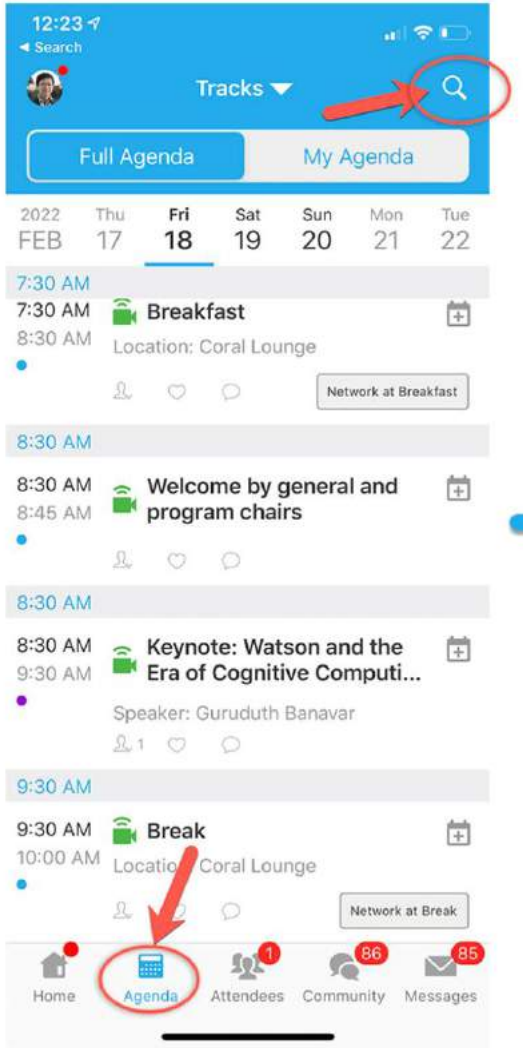

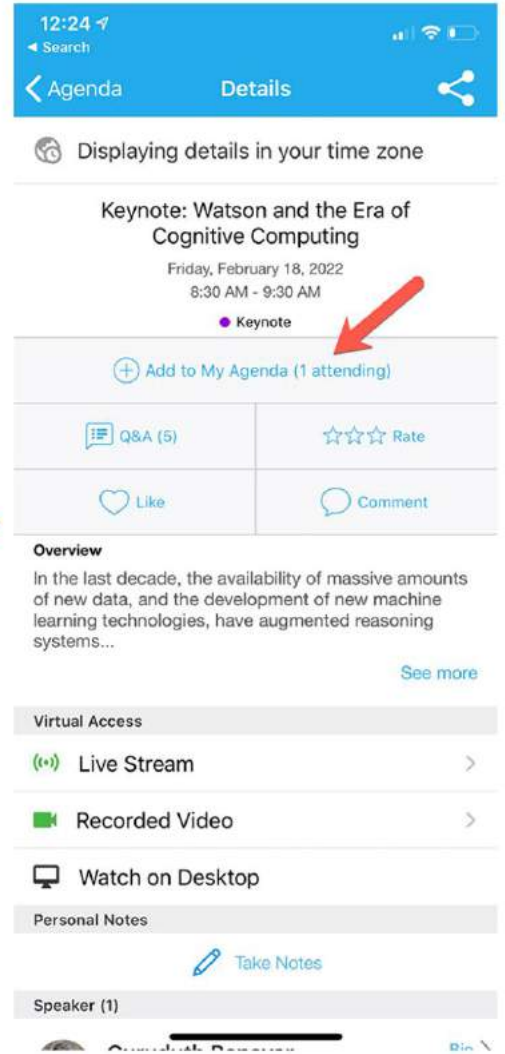

Thank You!

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