

OVERVIEW
HUD Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP)
Prepared by
Homeless Services Network of Central Florida

**New Homeless Prevention/Rapid Re-housing (HRPR) Funding
Allocated to HSN**

Our Continuum of Care has been awarded \$870,422 in HPRP from the State Office on Homelessness, the third largest award in Florida. HSN is seeking feedback from the Continuum of Care regarding community perception of priority needs related to this award. HSN will be meeting with the four jurisdictions to review HPRP models, funding expended and clients served. Then HSN will collaboratively develop an application for funding which will be submitted on April 20, 2010 to the Department of Children and Families for review and approval. HSN's options include implementing an HPRP program directly or funding sub-recipient agencies to implement programs that meet community needs. Funding should be available to the Continuum of Care by July 1, 2010.

Eligible Activities

1. Financial Assistance

Eligible activities under HPRP include financial assistance, though payments may only be made to third parties and not directly to clients. Financial assistance can include:

- Rental assistance of up to 18 months, including shallow subsidies, declining subsidies, and subsidies deeper than Section 8 subsidies;
- Up to 6 months of back rent, which counts against the 18 month maximum;
- Security and utility deposits;
- Up to 18 months of utility payments, including up to 6 months of back utility payments;
- Moving cost assistance (not furnishings); and
- Motel and hotel vouchers for no more than 30 days, if no appropriate shelter is available and rental housing has been identified but is not ready to be moved into.

The HUD Notice does not limit the number of times that a household can receive financial assistance, but households cannot exceed the 18 month total cap on rental assistance and utilities. Also, the monthly amount of rental assistance cannot exceed HUD's rent reasonableness standards (FMR).

2. Services

Housing relocation and stabilization services are also considered eligible activities under HPRP, including:

- Housing search and placement services, such as tenant counseling, representative payee services with respect to housing costs, and mediation and outreach to landlords;
- Outreach and engagement;
- Case management services, including counseling;
- Service coordination;

- Monitoring and evaluating program participant performance;
- Developing housing and service plans;
- Legal services to help people stay in their housing (not assistance with mortgages); and
- Credit repair, including money management and resolving personal credit issues.

3. Data Collection

HPRP funds can also be used to pay for data collection and evaluation, including:

- Operating HMIS for purposes of HPRP;
- Analyzing data and patterns of use of HPRP;
- Purchase of HMIS software or licenses for HPRP subgrantees;
- Equipment;
- Developing new software; and
- HMIS implementation and start up activities, if the community currently has no HMIS.

4. Administrative Costs

2.5 percent of HPRP funds can be used to pay for administrative costs, which can include:

- Pre-award Administrative Costs;
- Accounting and audits; and
- Training for staff and case managers, if the training is directly related to learning about HPRP.

Ineligible Activities

Activities ineligible for funding under HPRP include:

- Financial assistance or services to pay for expenses that are available through other Recovery Act programs, including child care and employment training (though HUD strongly encourages coordination with these programs);
- Mortgage costs;
- Construction or rehabilitation;
- Credit card bills or other consumer debt;
- Car repair or transportation costs;
- Travel costs;
- Food;
- Medical or dental costs or medicines;
- Clothing and grooming;
- Home furnishings;
- Pet care;
- Entertainment;
- Work- or education-related materials;
- Cash assistance;
- Developing discharge planning programs in mainstream institutions; and
- Certifications, licenses, and general training classes.

Eligible Recipients

To receive assistance, a program participant must:

- Have income below 50% AMI;
- Have no appropriate subsequent housing options identified; and
- Lack the resources and support networks needed to obtain immediate housing or remain in existing housing.

Funding can be used to serve individuals or families and those that are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. HUD strongly encourages grantees and subgrantees to target prevention to those who would be homeless "but for this assistance." In the Notice, HUD includes the following criteria that it hopes communities will use to determine if someone is at risk.

- Eviction within 2 weeks from a private dwelling (including housing provided by family or friends);
- Discharge within 2 weeks from an institution in which the person has been a resident for more than 180 days (including prisons, mental health institutions, and hospitals);
- Residency in housing that has been condemned by housing officials and is no longer meant for human habitation;
- Sudden and significant loss of income;
- Sudden and significant increase in utility costs;
- Mental health and substance abuse issues;
- Physical disabilities and other chronic health issues, including HIV/AIDS;
- Severe housing cost burden (greater than 50 percent of income for housing costs);
- Homeless in last 12 months;
- Young head of household (under 25 with children or pregnant);
- Current or past involvement with child welfare, including foster care;
- Extremely low income (less than 30 percent of Area Median Income);
- High overcrowding (the number of persons exceeds health and/or safety standards for the housing unit size);
- Past institutional care (prison, treatment facility, hospital);
- Recent traumatic life event, such as death of a spouse or primary care provider, or recent health crisis that prevented the household from meeting its financial responsibilities;
- Credit problems that preclude obtaining of housing; or
- Significant amount of medical debt.

For more information, contact:

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