

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions about the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP)

2.12.10

What is the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program?

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), HUD is allocating \$1.5 billion to local and state governments for homelessness prevention. These funds are to be utilized for short- or medium-term rental assistance, housing search assistance, mediation or outreach to property owners, utility payments, case management, and rapid re-housing, among other homelessness preventative programs.

How much funding will Columbus/Franklin County receive?

Over the next three years (2010, 2011, 2012), Columbus is to receive \$2,642,649. Franklin County will receive \$746,920. Funds are one-time and must be expended within three years. The City and County are partnering with CSB in making the funds available for prevention programs. CSB will receive a formula allocation of the State of Ohio funds for our community, in the amount of \$1,039,400. In addition, Stable Families, which is part of the Ohio Homelessness Prevention Pilot demonstration, will receive \$200,000.

Funding Available

Our community's direct awards (3 years)	
Columbus allocation	\$2,642,649
Franklin County allocation	\$746,920
State of Ohio formula allocation	\$1,039,400
Ohio Homelessness Prevention Pilot	\$200,000
Total	\$4,628,969

How will the funds be used locally?

Funds must be used in accordance with HUD regulations. The City, County and State amended their respective Consolidated Plans to include all anticipated uses of HPRP funds. Their amendments were published for public review and comment before being submitted to HUD in mid-May. The City and County amendments have since been approved by the Columbus City Council and the Franklin County Commissioners. HUD approved the plans July 9.

http://finance.columbus.gov/content.aspx?id=17144&menu_id=574;

<http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/commissioners/edp/HPRP.cfm>; and

<http://development.ohio.gov/cdd/ohcp/HPRP.htm>

How is jurisdiction defined for us?

Our jurisdiction includes the city of Columbus and Franklin County. These dollars will flow from the city/county to CSB to contracted agencies and to make payments on behalf of individuals served by agencies.

How are plans being made for these new dollars?

The City and County have partnered with CSB to form collaborative planning teams to craft plans for HPRP programs that meet HUD guidelines. Mayor Coleman issued a charge letter on April 2 to the Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative, to assist the City and County in developing these plans.

The City, County and State of Ohio have amended their respective Consolidated Plans to include all anticipated uses of HPRP funds. The [City's amendment](#), the [County's amendment](#) and the [State of Ohio's amendment](#) were published for public review and comment, before being submitted to HUD. The City and County amendments have since been approved by the Columbus City Council and the Franklin County Commissioners, respectively. HUD approved the plans on July 9.

Local priorities of these plans are:

- < Prevent as many people as possible from entering shelter
- < Assure bed capacity in shelter is adequate, without spending excess money on overflow. This can be achieved by:
 - Reducing the length of stay in shelter
 - Increasing people's successful housing outcomes when they exit shelter
- < Maintain the momentum of the community's Rebuilding Lives plan to end homelessness and maintain critical services.

What decisions have been made?

- < A local Steering Committee including membership by City, County, United Way of Central Ohio, ADAMH and CSB officials is providing oversight of all HPRP activities.
- < CSB developed plans to support program management; comply with HUD requirements, including data collection and tracking; administer grants; and implement a peer-to-peer project with Cleveland.
- < Collaborative Planning Teams are meeting to develop plans, budgets and implementation projects. These teams include key stakeholders and those who have experienced homelessness. There are 4 Collaborative Planning Teams:
 1. Coordinate Emergency Aid to Prevent Homelessness
 2. Adult System Improvement
 3. Family System Improvement
 4. Homelessness Prevention for Mental health Populations
- < The State of Ohio application was submitted July 14, 2009 and included the following projects:
 - o Community Housing Network (CHN) Prevention
 - o CHN Placement
 - o CSB HPRP Transition
 - o CSB Stable Families
 - o Housing Inspections, Columbus ServicePoint Implementation, and Administration
 - o *See Project Summary for more information about each activity*
- < The Steering Committee and the Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative Committee of the Whole met in early August 2009 to review applications from providers to access to the local HPRP funds.
- < The Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative approved the following projects for local HPRP funds in late August 2009:

- ADAMH Prevention
 - CSB HPRP Transition
 - Program Management, Housing Inspections, Columbus ServicePoint Implementation, and Administration
 - *See Project Summary for more information about each activity*
- ⟨ CSB's board of trustees and the Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative approved allocations of initial City and County funds in late August 2009.
- ⟨ CSB will implement all data collection and tracking requirements and will enter into contracts with provider agencies for program delivery as the programs are established.
- ⟨ In December 2009, the Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative and the CSB board of trustees approved an allocation of funding to pilot the Centralized Point of Access by Lutheran Social Services/Faith Mission beginning in early 2010. *See Project Summary for more information about this activity.*

How will we sustain the programs we use these dollars for after the 3 years have ended?

- ⟨ The Collaborative Planning Teams will need to address this in their plans.
- ⟨ Although we expect an increase in demand for services during those three years, we will hopefully, at the same time, be building a better system. We also hope to see the economy improve by the end of those three years and the demand for our services decline.

What outcomes does the community want to see as a result of this funding and how will they be tracked?

- ⟨ Through the State application for HPRP funds for Community Housing Network, Community Shelter Board and Huckleberry House, 938 households will be served. Through HPRP funds for the Stable Families program, 184 households will be served.
- ⟨ The number of households to be served through the local HPRP awards are estimated to be 1,945.
- ⟨ Columbus ServicePoint (CSP), the Columbus and Franklin County homeless management information system, was developed by Bowman Systems. Currently, the system meets HUD requirements for data collection and client privacy and security. The system is used to collect, monitor, and evaluate homeless and housing services in Columbus and Franklin County. Currently, 13 users in 16 agencies are using CSP to collect data for 50 homeless and housing related programs that cover more than 2,900 units throughout Franklin County. The CSP project is supported by CSB through a Data and Evaluation Department staffed by a full time CSP Administrator, Data & Evaluation Manager, Operations Assistant and Operations Director.

How will the community identify the people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness who will be served?

Those served by HPRP funds will be homeless (residing in emergency shelter or living on streets) or at imminent risk of homelessness (but for this assistance would be homeless). Also, those served will have income at or below 50% area median income.

How do I know if I am eligible for HPRP assistance?

Program phone numbers and general eligibility guidelines can be found at www.csb.org under 'Stimulus', in the document called *HPRP Program Contacts*.

Who will administer short- or medium-term rental assistance and other financial assistance?

- CSB will be responsible for administering all HPRP financial assistance programs. The chart below describes the current DCA (direct client assistance) programs that will be receiving “maintenance of effort” support as well as “new” projects expected to be supported by HPRP (State of Ohio Formula, Ohio HPP, County formula, and City formula).

HP = Homelessness Prevention
RRH = Rapid Re-Housing

Existing CSB DCA Programs	New DCA Programs
1. Transition (RRH)	1. ADAMH Prevention 2. CHN Prevention & Placement 3. Adult RRH

- CSB staff will process DCA applications and write checks to the appropriate vendors to prevent homelessness or rapidly re-house homeless persons. This includes review of applications, managing expenditures and monitoring program performance indicators and outcomes to assure compliance with fiscal and funder requirements, financial processing, and tracking to meet funder data specifications and community needs. CSB staff will also provide training to and be a resource for the partner agency staff working with clients to be served via HPRP funds. Additionally, CSB staff will coordinate HPRP required housing inspections with the financial assistance process.

How can service providers access the stimulus funds?

- Some HPRP funds will be used to continue current successful prevention and rapid re-housing programs operated by Community Housing Network, Community Shelter Board and Communities in Schools. These programs have been affected by loss of revenue from the Ohio Housing Trust Fund.
- The Steering Committee and the Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative Committee of the Whole met in early August 2009 to review applications from other providers to access the local HPRP funds. CSB’s board of trustees and the Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative approved proposals to allocate initial City and County funds in late August 2009.

How will information be tracked in HMIS?

- Client level data will be tracked in our community’s HMIS (Homeless Management Information System), known as *Columbus ServicePoint*. HUD issued updated HMIS standards that apply to HPRP. They can be found at <http://www.hudhre.info/HPRP/>.

Will CSB need less public and private funding because of this new stimulus money?

- The stimulus funds can only be used for short- or medium-term rental assistance, housing search assistance, mediation or outreach to property owners, utility payments, case management, and rapid re-housing, and other homelessness preventative programs. Continued public and private support for maintenance of the current safety net of homeless services is critical during these economic times.
- The stimulus funds are available for a limited amount of time.
- 52% of the stimulus funds are being used for maintenance of effort to sustain current activities, for existing programs that have not had funding renewed by another source.

- ⟨ These dollars, although welcome and helpful in our vision of ending homelessness in our community, will not change the complexity of the work we do.

Will the current safety net of homeless services be neglected during increased emphasis and focus on stimulus-funded prevention activities?

- ⟨ Some HPRP funds will be used during 2010 and 2011 to sustain current activities, including direct client assistance.
- ⟨ CSB intends to use this opportunity to not only prevent shelter admissions, but also to assure that shelter capacity is adequate without excess overflow spending. Strategic improvement of the adult and family shelter systems could reduce length of stay in shelter and increase successful housing outcomes at exit from shelter.

Will the stimulus funds be used for administrative expenses?

- ⟨ Data collection, evaluation and grants management are HUD-mandated activities that will be covered in part by HPRP funds.

Will the community be involved in the planning for use of stimulus funds?

- ⟨ Several collaborative planning teams have formed within the community to plan implementation of various prevention programs. The City, County and State have amended their respective Consolidated Plans to include all anticipated uses of funds. Their amendments were published for public review and comment before being submitted to HUD.
- ⟨ The City held a public meeting on May 6, 2009, conducted by the Health, Housing and Human Services Committee of the City Council. The City accepted public comment on their proposed amendment through May 11, 2009.
- ⟨ The County held a public Commission briefing on May 7, 2009.
- ⟨ The State accepted written public comment through May 12, 2009.
- ⟨ The Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative Committee of the Whole met August 6, 2009 to review proposals for local HPRP funds.
- ⟨ CSB's board of trustees and the Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative met in late August 2009 and again in December 2009 to approve proposals for City and County funds.

Where can I find more information?

http://finance.columbus.gov/content.aspx?id=17144&menu_id=574

<http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/commissioners/edp/HPRP.cfm>

<http://development.ohio.gov/cdd/ohcp/HPRP.htm>

<http://www.hudhre.info/>

<http://www.recovery.ohio.gov/>

<http://www.endhomelessness.org/section/tools/prevention/>

