

Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program PROJECT SUMMARY

Listed below are descriptions of the programs to be funded by HPRP. The descriptions are categorized by federal recipient entity (local or state) and program type (new, maintenance of effort or required). Attached is a Summary of HPRP Sources and Uses which includes the amount for each program, program type (homelessness prevention or rapid re-housing) and activity type (financial assistance or housing relocation/stabilization services).

Definitions

- Homelessness Prevention: Financial assistance and housing relocation and stabilization services designed to prevent or divert individuals and families at imminent risk of homelessness that without intervention would become homeless in less than 30 days.
- Rapid Re-Housing: financial assistance and housing relocation and stabilization services designed for currently homeless individuals and families where short- or medium-term rental assistance and services are provided to stabilize the housing situation.
- Financial assistance is limited to the following activities: short-term rental assistance, medium-term rental assistance, security deposits, utility deposits, utility payments, and moving cost assistance. Although motel and hotel vouchers are a permissible use, HPRP funds will not be used for this purpose locally.
- Housing Relocation/Stabilization Services: HPRP funds may be used for services that assist program participants with housing stability and placement. A program participant may receive housing relocation and stabilization services for up to 18 months; however, actual length of service will vary by program, target population, and individual needs.
- New: new program that is currently not available in our community
- Maintenance of Effort (MOE): existing program that has not had funding renewed by other source. (program may be new to partnership with CSB)
- Required (REQ): required activity per HUD HPRP regulations

State HPRP (Ohio Department of Development (ODOD)) – the State of Ohio allocated funds to CSB under a formula and the Homelessness Prevention Pilot program

FORMULA ALLOCATION

New – no new programs were identified for this allocation

Maintenance of Effort

Community Housing Network (CHN) Prevention

Individuals and families receiving Prevention Services under this grant will be housed in CHN housing or housing programs but will be in jeopardy of losing their housing because of financial hardships. Households to be served will lack financial resources and support networks needed to remain housed, and without assistance the individual or family would become homeless. Households will primarily be at risk of eviction for nonpayment of rent or utilities. CHN will target households that have had an unexpected decrease in income (e.g., job loss or reduction or decrease in benefits); a significant increase in expenses (e.g., medical or family expenses); or other financial hardship. This program was disqualified from continuation funding from the Ohio Housing Trust Fund when the category of funding was eliminated.

CHN Placement

CHN currently owns and operates more than 1,100 scattered site units of permanent supportive housing and master-leases, manages, and/or coordinates housing needs for another 270 tenants in non-CHN housing. Depending on need, homeless households may be placed in programs with 24/7 on-site staffing; in housing with a resident manager who lives on-site; or in housing with no on-site staff, but regular visitation by case managers and CHN Housing Services staff. All of CHN's housing is affordable (i.e., subsidized with Section 8, Shelter Plus Care, HUD 811 or 202 programs, or other rental assistance programs); most of CHN's subsidies are administered through the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA). HPRP funds will be used to assist homeless, disabled individuals and families move into CHN's permanent supportive housing programs as quickly as possible. Depending on applicants' needs, funds will be used for Financial Assistance (including security and utility deposits, short-term rental assistance (up to 3 months) until CMHA subsidy is in effect, utility and CMHA debt payments and moving cost assistance) and Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services (including housing services case management, outreach and engagement, housing placement and credit repair. This program was disqualified from continuation funding from the Ohio Housing Trust Fund when the category of funding was eliminated.

CSB HPRP Transition – see description below under Local HPRP. This allocation is for financial assistance activities for households served by the CSB Transition program.

Required

Housing Inspections – see description below under Local HPRP. These inspections would be only for the units for households served by the MOE programs listed under this funding allocation.

Columbus ServicePoint (CSP) Implementation – see description below under Local HPRP. These costs would be only for CSP implementation for the MOE programs listed under this funding allocation.

Administration – see description below Local HPRP. These costs would be only for administrative activities related to the MOE programs listed under this funding allocation. The State of Ohio is passing on only half the HPRP administrative allowance (2.5%).

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION PILOT ALLOCATION

Maintenance of Effort

CSB Stable Families – see description below under Local HPRP. These funds are additional funds for the continuation of the program.

Required – CSP implementation and administration are not eligible costs per ODOD regulations. CSB will cover these costs through other local funding.

Local HPRP (City & County)

New Programs

ADAMH Prevention

This program will support the stabilized residential consumers' move to more independent housing. In turn, hospitalized individuals will utilize the newly created openings in this level of care. Community Housing Network's Housing Facilitator will make the initial contact with the clients. In doing so, the Housing Facilitator will conduct outreach activities for those who will be exiting Twin Valley Behavioral Health or other ADAMH residential facilities in the near future. The clients and their case managers will complete all necessary paperwork and return it to the Housing Facilitator who will then place the clients in the housing unit. Case managers from ADAMH provider agencies will provide on-going supports including benefits access; vocational referrals; mental health and alcohol/other drug services; wraparound services; assistance in incorporating peer support and other service referrals. This program would assist Franklin County in serving up to 175 individuals over a three year period with an average of three to six months and provide financial assistance for security deposits; rent; past due bills for utilities, telephone, rent payments; credit repair; obtaining proper forms of identification; start-up furnishings; etc. Participants will transition to CMHA provided housing vouchers at the conclusion of HPRP assistance.

Centralized Point of Access

Lutheran Social Services/Faith Mission has been funded to develop a centralized point of access for adults in need of shelter in order to reduce the number of single adults that are admitted to the adult system through diversion to more appropriate community resources, improve the single adults' experience accessing shelter and reduce the average length of shelter stay. This two-year pilot program is being implemented in early 2010.

Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) for Single Adults

This project will include the identification of appropriate homeless individuals in the shelters or on the streets and the development of housing assistance and client pathways to services for successful housing outcomes. These individuals will be those with immediate needs and most likely to quickly obtain and sustain stable housing. Services offered will be consistent with HUD eligible uses guidelines and may include short – or medium-term rental assistance. Potential service providers will be agencies that currently provide those types of services. The HPRP Steering Committee has deferred implementation of the two-year pilot until after the Centralized Point of Access is implemented.

Coordinate Emergency Aid

As part of the Rebuilding Lives Updated Strategy, Franklin County Department of Job & Family Services and United Way of Central Ohio agreed to convene stakeholders and begin to develop a plan that would coordinate emergency assistance available through various community-based assistance programs. The long-term objective is to help the community be better able to: prevent

duplication of services for individuals/families; maximize available dollars to have the greatest impact; create lasting transformative change in the administration of emergency aid; leverage existing networks; and, support implementation of other Rebuilding Lives strategies. This project will be divided into three components – discovery, pilot development/implementation and coordinated emergency aid expansion – designed to develop an understanding of how emergency assistance programs operate in the community and to examine how it can be coordinated. The funding allocation for this project is for one FTE for two years. The costs associated with this project are an estimate as the Collaborative Planning Team for Coordinate Emergency Aid to Prevent Homelessness is in progress.

Housing Locator

Initial planning and research of best practices for this effort are underway between the City, County and CSB. This allocation is listed as a placeholder.

Maintenance of Effort Programs

Community Shelter Board HPRP Transition

CSB's Transition program provides individuals and families exiting emergency shelters or who are experiencing street homelessness with short-term housing placement assistance that successfully places the household into decent, affordable housing. Through the program, clients receive assistance with rent, security deposits, utility payments, etc. The target population of the program is single men, single women and families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in Columbus and Franklin County all of whom are at or below 50% of Area Median Income (AMI). CSB coordinates with all local shelters and homeless outreach providers to ensure community wide coordination and access to the program. The program provides short-term housing placement assistance that successfully places the household into decent, affordable housing. Case managers located in emergency shelter and with outreach agencies provide assistance accessing Direct Client Assistance funds for rapid re-housing (rent, security deposit, or utility costs). This program was disqualified from continuation funding from the Ohio Housing Trust Fund when the category of funding was eliminated (see above). Additionally, the City of Columbus requested that HPRP be used as an alternative source for this program effective January 1, 2010 and continuing for two years.

Community Mediation Services

This program could provide housing stabilization conflict management assessment, coaching/mediation, and information and referral services to low-income individuals and families in Franklin County who are at or below 35% of the area median income and are at imminent risk of becoming homeless but for this program. The intent of the program is to increase the number of low income individuals/families currently at imminent risk of becoming homeless who are able to obtain and/or maintain stable housing. The individuals that will be served by this project will be those who are found to be involved in one of the following two high risk housing related conflict situations - 1) Have received notice of an eviction action being filed against them from the Franklin County Court, 2) Have received a written notice to vacate their current housing from their landlord – AND - who have no subsequent housing options currently identified AND lack the current financial resources and the support networks needed to obtain immediate housing or remain in existing housing. Client referrals will be solicited from community agencies such as the Columbus Legal Aid Society, the Columbus Bar Lawyer Referral Service as well as the broad array of other private and public human service providers. This program was disqualified from continuation funding from the Ohio Housing Trust Fund when the category of funding was eliminated. Funding

for this program has been deferred pending clarification of HPRP eligibility and costs associated with other higher priority programs.

CSB Stable Families

The Stable Families program’s goal is to identify families with children who are in danger of losing their housing and provide them with case management services, community referrals and cash assistance to stabilize their housing and, for families with school age children to ensure that their children remain stable in school. Communities in Schools implements the program in partnership with Gladden Community House and Central Community House. Through the program, clients receive assistance with rent, security deposits, utility payments, etc. The target population of the program is families who are at risk of becoming homeless in Columbus and Franklin County all of whom are at or below 200% of the poverty level. The State of Ohio awarded \$200,000 to the project in order to continue the Ohio Homelessness Prevention Project for an additional year. This program may also receive continuation funding from HPRP in 2011 pending the results of the evaluation and availability of HPRP funding.

Required Programs

CSB Program Management

CSB will be responsible for administering all HPRP financial assistance programs (collectively described as DCA – Direct Client Assistance). The chart below describes the current DCA 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). HPRP Financial Assistance requirements are extensive and comprehensive. The extent of the HPRP programs to be implemented locally is not yet fully known. CSB actual costs may be greater or lesser once implementation begins.

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

HP = Homelessness Prevention, RRH = Rapid Re-Housing

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.

Housing Inspections

Qualified housing inspectors must perform housing inspections to ensure housing units meet the minimum habitability standards and lead based paint standards, per HUD requirements. CSB will hire a housing inspector for a temporary, three-year period. It is anticipated the inspector will conduct approximately 800 inspections each year for all HPRP programs. In order to ensure inspections will be performed if CSB’s housing inspector is unavailable, CSB contracted with a local housing inspector, selected through a competitive request for proposals.

Columbus ServicePoint (CSP) Implementation

CSP is the Columbus and Franklin County homeless management information system, 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. The CSP project is supported by CSB through a Data and Evaluation Department staffed by a full time CSP Administrator, Data & Evaluation Manager, Operations Administrator and Operations Director. The current system is used to track the following information related to the clients served: Intake and Exit, Assessment and Goal Setting, Service Planning, Tracking Supportive Services and Outcomes and Information and Referral. Besides administering CSP, all agencies entering data in the system receive extensive technical assistance from CSB. HPRP funding will be provided to implementing agencies as well as be used to cover CSB staff and Bowman costs associated with HPRP.

Administration

Per HPRP regulations, grantees are responsible for ensuring that HPRP amounts are administered in accordance with the requirements of this Notice and other applicable laws. Each grantee is responsible for ensuring that its sub grantees carry out the HPRP eligible activities in compliance with all applicable requirements. CSB will be the sub grantee for the City, County, and State of Ohio. Administrative costs may be used for: pre-award administrative costs; accounting for the use of grant funds; preparing reports for submission to HUD; obtaining program audits; similar costs related to administering the grant after the award; and grantee or sub grantee staff salaries associated with these administrative costs. Administrative costs also include training for staff who will administer the program or case managers who will serve program participants, as long as this training is directly related to learning about HPRP. Administrative costs *do not* include the costs of issuing financial assistance, providing housing relocation and stabilization services, or carrying out eligible data collection and evaluation activities, as specified above, such as grantee or sub grantee staff salaries, costs of conducting housing inspections, and other operating costs. These costs are included under one of the three other eligible activity categories, as described above.