

Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) Status Update 6.11.09

[STATUS OF FUNDS]

The City, County and State amended their respective Consolidated Plans to include all anticipated uses of the new HPRP (Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program) stimulus funds. The plans propose that the HPRP funds be awarded to CSB to administer via Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative approval. The City and County will pass on the full 5% administrative structure fee; the State will pass on half of the administrative structure fee. 25% of local funds have been reserved for current City-funded programs as the City's financial situation continues to deteriorate. The State used a formula allocation to distribute its stimulus funds to the community. CSB will receive \$1 million in State HPRP on behalf of the Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative. The State also expects some funds will be used for existing prevention programs currently funded by the Ohio Housing Trust Fund.

The proposed amendments were published for public review and comment in early May, 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 approval will occur by July 2.

The State held training about accessing its HPRP funds on June 1, and CSB staff attended. CSB staff and County staff will attend HUD HPRP training in Chicago June 4 and 5. CSB staff will present at a HUD HPRP training session about successful rapid re-housing programs, in DC on July 8.

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
Total	\$4,428,969

[COMMUNITY PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTATION]

Several collaborative planning teams have formed within the community to plan implementation of various programs. These teams include key stakeholders and those who have experienced homelessness.

Coordinate Emergency Aid to Prevent Homelessness – United Way of Central Ohio is developing a plan with the Franklin County Department of Job & Family Services for a coordinated system for emergency assistance, so that priority is given to families and individuals with the greatest need.

- ⟨ A meeting was held with Community IMPACT and FIRSTLINK, and a meeting will soon be held with FCDJFS.
- ⟨ UWCO is considering opportunities around funding for staffing for coordination of emergency aid, until a contract with HUD is set.

- < FEMA received \$413,000 and will coordinate efforts for rent, mortgage and utility assistance through Lutheran Social Services (LSS). Funds must be expended by the ends of 2009.

Adult System Improvement – Agencies serving single adults are planning improvements for the adult shelter system, including reduced shelter admissions, increased outcomes and reduced daily shelter demand. This will include a newly designed community system of diversion, access, and rapid re-housing for adults.

- < A kick-off meeting with internal stakeholders was held April 20.
- < Planning team members will visit each of the adult system agencies in June to understand commonalities in the client flow for each shelter, as well as any assessment tools utilized.
- < The full planning team including external stakeholders will meet again in mid-July to develop a common assessment tool. Shelters will be asked to utilize it for 30 days to obtain data for improvement.
- < The improved system design will most likely be available in December 2009.

Family System Improvement – Agencies providing family shelter will work to increase outcomes and reduce daily shelter demand by families. Their planning will consider how to implement a newly HUD-funded effort, called Job2Housing, which will focus on better linking adults to community based employment training programs and housing. No HPRP dollars are targeted for these efforts.

- < A kick-off meeting was held April 23. A second meeting was held June 4.
- < Four priorities have emerged:
 1. Improve the assessment and service planning process
 2. Rapid re-housing for families served by CHOICES
 3. Improve services connections (internal and external)
 4. Increased housing options and improved access process

Homelessness Prevention for Persons with Mental Illness – ADAMH is leading efforts to plan a bridge to housing for state hospital patients who do not have housing available upon discharge.

- < ADAMH submitted a written proposal for these efforts, and intends to contract with Community Housing Network as housing facilitator.
- < HPRP funds will provide a bridge rent subsidy to vouchers.
- < CMHA intends to provide permanent Section 8 vouchers to eligible participants.

Other services – These include a Housing Locator, as well as administrative costs related to housing inspections, data and evaluation and grants management.

- < CSB is conducting best practices research about a Housing Locator tool, as well as housing inspections.

Current programs – Some HPRP funds will be used during 2010 and 2011 to sustain current activities, including direct client assistance.

- < CSB is working to identify programs that should be included.

[OVERSIGHT]

A Steering Committee has been meeting regularly to oversee all HPRP activities. Membership includes the City, County, United Way, ADAMH and CSB.

CSB is developing 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. CSB will implement all data collection and tracking requirements and will enter into contracts with provider agencies for program delivery. All HPRP financial assistance will be administered by CSB. CSB's board of trustees and the Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative will approve some proposals in August. Other proposals will be considered once the strategies are more fully developed.

[BACKGROUND]

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. These services need to be operational by early fall 2009.

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.

Resources for 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/>

