



**Interim Assessment Report 1 to Community Shelter Board:**

**Evaluation of Central Ohio's Stable Families Program**

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## **I. Executive Summary**

The Community Shelter Board (CSB) and its partners, Communities In Schools (CIS), Gladden Community House and Central Community House, are implementing the Stable Families Pilot Program (Stable Families) in Franklin County over the next three years. The primary mission of Stable Families is to help families who are at imminent risk of becoming homeless to remain in their homes or to find stable housing and not enter the family emergency shelter system. Stable Families is designed to be a relatively short, but intensive program, providing families with case management, supportive services and cash assistance to maintain housing and promote school stability for children in enrolled families.

In order to be eligible for enrollment into Stable Families, a household must contain at least one child under age 18, have a family income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty level, and be at imminent risk of homelessness. The program is currently operating in two targeted service areas, selected for their high rates of poverty and school mobility. Families outside of these two areas referred by the YWCA Family Center are considered for enrollment. Finally, priority may be given to families that have a history of high residential moves (and associated student mobility) and families that have a history of involvement with Franklin County Children Services.

This report presents results from the first period of Stable Families' implementation, January 1, 2008 – June 30, 2008. This report utilizes data from two primary sources to present a comprehensive evaluation of the Stable Families Program:

- Community Research Partner's Interim Report 1 for the Ohio Department of Development's Homelessness Prevention Pilot;
- Communities in Schools' Stable Families worksheet, which details program data for each family referred, assessed and enrolled.

Readers should note that Stable Families did not begin operating until April 7, 2008. While the evaluation period reported on runs from January 1 to June 30, 2008, the data presented here primarily represent baseline data for the first families enrolled in the program, from early April to the end of June, 2008.

The full report breaks down results in six sections, each headed by a particular evaluation question. In order to present a concise summary of the baseline findings to date, the Executive Summary focuses on three critical questions:

- A. Who did Stable Families serve during the first period of program operation?
- B. Why did these families need the assistance of Stable Families?
- C. What impact did Stable Families have on the families enrolled?

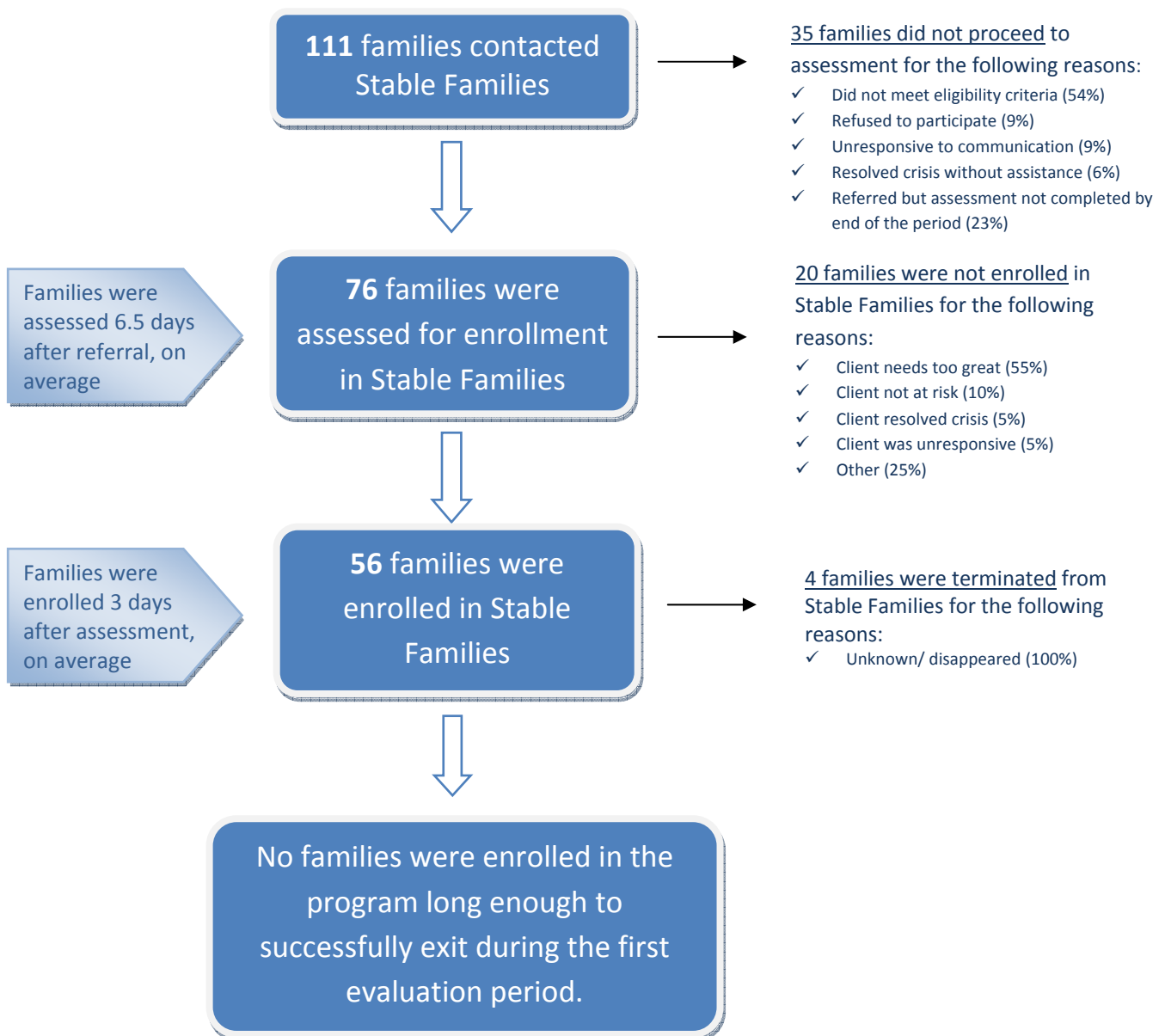
### **A. Who did Stable Families serve during the first period of program operation?**

In its first period of operation (January 1 – June 30, 2008) Stable Families received referrals for and screened 111 families, assessed 76 and enrolled 56. The majority of families enrolled in Stable Families

were single parent households, ranging in size from 2 to 8. More than half of all enrolled participants were African American and 44% were involved with child protective services in their youth. Forty percent of enrolled households contained at least one working adult, and among households with earned income, the average amount was \$1350. Stable Families participants are spending large proportions of their income on housing – 35% spend between 66 and 80% of their monthly income on housing, and 29% spend more than 80% of their income on housing. The majority (55%) of families were currently renting their living quarters without subsidy assistance. Some 13% of families rented with a subsidy and the remainder were living in more temporary quarters, either in a hotel or motel or with friends and family.

See Figure EX-1 for details on the outputs associated with the program during Period 1 (January 1 – June 30, 2008). The figure appears later in the report, but is reproduced here for emphasis.

**Figure EX-1: Program outputs during Period 1 (January 1 – June 30, 2008)**



**B. Why did these families need the assistance of Stable Families?**

Several tools were used to screen and assess families for enrollment in the program, and to provide targeted services designed to address each family's strengths and weaknesses in the most efficient way possible. Perhaps the most striking findings from these assessments are the extent to which they reinforce the same basic fact: families want stable housing and are struggling to maintain it and provide for their basic needs. Specifically:

- Families' top housing concerns revolve around getting and maintaining safe, affordable housing
- Income barriers are a critical issue for families in the program. The majority of families spend at least two thirds of their income on housing. Most lack a high school diploma or GED and many families lack access to reliable transportation and child care, painting a bleak portrait of their ability to get and retain a full time job.
- Tenant screening barriers are also significant for families in this program, with the majority of families reporting at least one eviction and at least one (sometimes more) unpaid utility bill.
- A self sufficiency assessment confirms these findings: families were rated closest to the "vulnerable" level on economic factors, including food, employment, shelter and income, along with access to child care.

In general, it appears that families are primarily seeking assistance to help them overcome economic obstacles to maintaining stable housing. Stable Families is designed to reach out to just these families, suggesting the program has (so far) assisted the identified audience for the effort.

**C. What impact did Stable Families have on the families enrolled?**

It is too early to issue an estimate of the impact of Stable Families on the families enrolled in the program, and on the shelter system as a whole. Data collected thus far do suggest that Stable Families is appropriately enrolling and targeting families the program can most effectively help. The majority of families enrolled in the program were assessed as having "moderate" or "serious" barriers to housing, as opposed to minimal, long term or severe barriers. This is appropriate – families with no barriers or major barriers are not the focus of this intense, but relatively short, homelessness prevention program.

Additionally, assistance provided by the program appears to be aimed at the primary obstacles to stable housing discussed above, notably:

- Assistance with rent and utilities were the most common forms of direct client assistance
- Assistance with transportation, housing placement / searching and employment were the most common other types of assistance provided by Stable Families and community sources. Community sources also commonly provided childcare assistance.

## II. Background and Overview

Franklin County's Family Emergency Shelter System's primary focus is to help families who have lost their homes make their way back to stable housing. Emergency shelter, however, is not the only option for families experiencing a housing crisis. As an organization leading efforts to prevent and eliminate homelessness in Central Ohio, the Community Shelter Board (CSB) sees great value in helping families who are at imminent risk of homelessness *gain access* to community resources and services so their residential situation may stabilize.

To this end, CSB and its partners, Communities In Schools (CIS), Gladden Community House and Central Community House, are implementing the Stable Families Pilot Program (Stable Families) in Franklin County over the next three years. The primary mission of Stable Families is to help families who are at imminent risk of becoming homeless to remain in their homes or to find stable housing and not enter the family emergency shelter system. This project is funded by The Ohio Department of Development, the United Way of Central Ohio (UWCO) and the Franklin County Board of Commissioners.

As part of this pilot program, CSB has contracted with The Strategy Team, Ltd. to provide a comprehensive evaluation of Stable Families. This report presents the evaluation data regarding the program for the period from January 1, 2008 to June 30, 2008.

The final evaluation plan, presented under separate cover, provides the overall context for the full evaluation, as well as all evaluation questions. Interim Assessment Report 1 focused on the following key questions:

- How has Stable Families been implemented by CSB and its partners?
- Who has Stable Families served in Central Ohio?
- What services and interventions were provided to families in the program?
- How successful was Stable Families at preventing family homelessness in Central Ohio?
- How successful was Stable Families at reducing unplanned school mobility due to imminent homelessness?
- What effect has Stable Families had on other variables related to school mobility such as school achievement, school attendance, and behavioral issues
- What effect has Stable Families had on program participant's perceptions of their ability to resolve their housing concerns?

The remainder of the report presents evaluation results for these key questions.

### III. How has Stable Families been implemented by CSB and its partners?

The Stable Families Program is implemented by CIS, through a contract with the Community Shelter Board. During the period from January 1 to June 30, 2008, CIS employed 6.25 Full Time Equivalent staff to administer the Stable Families program. This includes one part time data entry person (.25 units), one project manager and five case managers. Two case managers are stationed at each of the two CIS partner sites (Gladden Community House and Central Community House) and the fifth employee works as a floating case manager. Case managers work directly with families to link them to community resources and provide other assistance to help manage their housing crisis and avoid becoming homeless.

CIS reports partnering with a number of other agencies, including the Public Housing Authority, Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services, local legal aid, alcohol drug and mental health services, school districts, emergency shelters, children's services, property managers and landlords, city or neighborhood community centers/resource centers, immigrant services, local organizations that provide emergency needs such as food and clothing, medical/health services, and education, life skills, or employment services. Many of these partners serve as both referral sources for families who need more help than the program can provide and as resources for families enrolled in Stable Families who need assistance in specific areas.

#### Primary sources of referrals to Stable Families

From January 1 to June 30, 2008, a total of 111 families<sup>1</sup> containing 461 individuals<sup>2</sup> were referred to Stable Families. What were the primary sources of those referrals? As Table 1 suggests, 40% of all referrals came from one of three sources: community based social service centers (14%), child protective services (14%), and family and friends (12%).

"Other" was listed for 32% of all referral sources. The most significant other sources of referrals were Ohio Youth Advocate Program (a private foster care and youth advocacy agency), Compass (a homelessness prevention program affiliated with the Broad Street Presbyterian Church), and Project Connect (a Columbus City Schools program designed to alleviate the impact of homelessness on academic achievement among CCS students).

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<sup>1</sup> Throughout, the term "family" is used to refer to a household.

<sup>2</sup> This figure is based on an average household size of 4.15.

**Table 1: Sources of referrals to Stable Families**

Referral Source	Referred (n = 111)		Enrolled (n = 56)	
<i>Community based social service center</i>	15	14%	8	14%
<i>Child Protective Services</i>	15	14%	7	13%
<i>Family or friends</i>	13	12%	7	13%
<i>Job and Family Services (TANF Dept)</i>	5	5%	5	9%
<i>Non PHA owner or manager</i>	7	6%	5	9%
<i>Homeless Assistance Provider (YWCA)</i>	12	11%	4	7%
<i>School</i>	4	4%	3	5%
<i>Church</i>	3	3%	3	5%
<i>Self (client) referred</i>	2	2%	1	2%
<i>Other</i>	35	32%	13	23%

Note that although the actual percentages differed slightly, the top three sources of referrals for enrolled families were the same as for referred families. Specifically, 14% of enrolled families were referred by a community based social service center, 13% were referred by Child Protective Services and 13% were referred by family or friends.

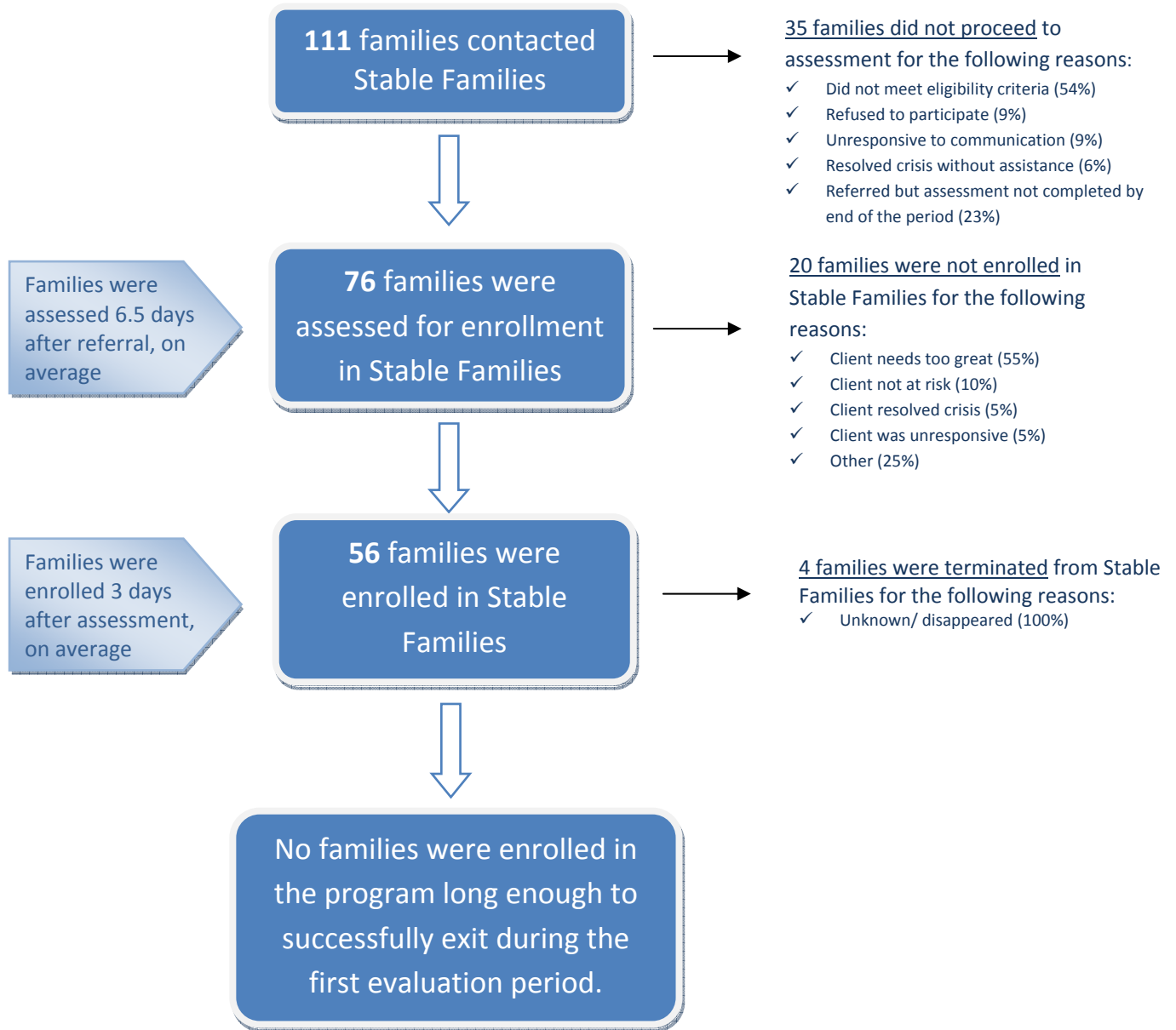
*Families referred to, served by and exiting from Stable Families: Period 1 (January 1 – June 30, 2008)*

Once families were referred to the program, a number of outcomes were possible – they may be assessed, enrolled and complete the program, they may enroll or not complete, or they may never even be assessed. To be sure families continually progress through the program, the goal was for families to complete the intensive case management phase of Stable Families within an average of 90 days.

For the period considered here, how many families exited the program and at which points? Figure 1 provides these answers.



**Figure 1: Families referred to and served by Stable Families during Period 1 (January 1 – June 30, 2008)**



Stable Families was officially rolled out on April 7, 2008. From that time to June 30, 2008, 76 families (containing 312 individuals) were assessed for enrollment in the program, and of those 76 families, 56 (or 74%) were enrolled in the program. No families completed the program before the end of the first evaluation period, though four families (or 7% of enrolled families) were terminated from the program. Housing outcomes for three of the four families were unknown, as CIS staff were unable to contact them; one family who left the program was going to live with family or friends.

#### **IV. Who has Stable Families Served in Central Ohio?**

As part of the assessment and enrollment process, CIS staff collected a wealth of information about the families served by the program. This information included basic demographic characteristics of the household and the individuals within it, along with information designed to help target families who are most likely to benefit from the services Stable Families provides. CIS also used several assessment tools to determine which families to enroll and how to best serve them:

- Barriers to Housing Stability assessment tool probes on a family's rental, credit and criminal history; chemical and mental health; domestic issues; and income, employment, and education.
- Self Sufficiency Matrix assessment tool documents the client's ability to provide for themselves in three critical domains: economic, socio-emotional and parenting. This tool was provided to the pilot grantees, by the Ohio Department of Development.
- CIS' Stable Families assessment tool documents additional information of interest to this specific pilot including families top housing concerns, and their ratings of the progress they've made toward resolving them.

These three tools can be found in Appendix A.

**A. Demographic characteristics of individuals and families**

Who were the families who were referred to and assessed by Stable Families? See Tables 2a and 2b for a demographic profile of assessed and enrolled families.

**Table 2a: Demographic characteristics of families assessed and enrolled**

Family Type	Assessed (n = 76)		Enrolled (n = 56)	
<i>Single parent with children</i>	60	79%	42	75%
<i>Couple with children</i>	16	21%	14	25%
<b>Household size</b>				
<i>Two persons</i>	13	17%	10	18%
<i>Three persons</i>	21	28%	14	25%
<i>Four persons</i>	12	16%	10	18%
<i>Five persons</i>	12	16%	6	11%
<i>Six or more persons</i>	18	24%	16	29%
<b>Current Living Situation</b>				
<i>Rented, no subsidy</i>	40	53%	31	55%
<i>Rented with subsidy</i>	11	14%	7	13%
<i>Family or friends</i>	22	29%	16	29%
<i>Hotel or motel</i>	3	4%	2	4%
<b>Housing burden / eviction history</b>				
<i>Households with no previous evictions</i>	35	46%	25	45%
<i>Evicted at least once in the past 12 months</i>	21	28%	15	27%
<i>Average lifetime evictions (for those with &gt;0)</i>	1.8		1.9	
<i>Average % income used for housing</i>	70%		70%	
<b>Average monthly income amounts</b>				
<i>Earned Income</i>	\$1,408		\$1,350	
<i>Unemployment income</i>	\$689		\$689	
<i>Supplemental Security Income (SSI)</i>	\$685		\$777	
<i>SSDI benefits</i>	\$748		\$591	
<i>TANF</i>	\$443		\$398	
<i>Child Support</i>	\$375		\$345	
<i>Other sources</i>	\$85		\$85	
<i># of HHs with no financial resources</i>	1		1	

Notes:

- *Rented with subsidy combines project and non-project based rental subsidies.*
- *Average % of income used for housing includes only those individuals who with % greater than 0.*
- *For enrolled respondents, average amounts of income include only those individuals with incomes greater than 0.*
- *Average lifetime eviction includes only those individuals who were evicted at least once.*

**Table 2b: Demographic characteristics of individuals within families**

	Assessed (n = 312)		Enrolled (n = 234)	
<b>Race of individuals within households</b>				
<i>American Indian or Alaskan Native</i>	0	0%	0	0%
<i>Asian</i>	0	0%	0	0%
<i>Black or African American</i>	171	55%	119	51%
<i>Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander</i>	0	0%	0	0%
<i>White</i>	141	45%	115	49%
<b>Ethnicity of individuals within households</b>				
	n = 307		n = 229	
<i>Hispanic</i>	10	3%	10	4%
<i>Non-Hispanic</i>	297	97%	219	96%
<b>Other Characteristics</b>				
	n = 76		n = 56	
<i>Head of household is a veteran?</i>	1	1%	1	2%
<i>Head of household involved with CPS during youth?</i>	36	47%	25	45%
<i>Head of household has criminal history?</i>	10	13%	7	13%
<i>Disabling condition in household?</i>	8	11%	8	14%
<i>At least one employed person in household?</i>	27	36%	22	39%

The majority of families enrolled in Stable Families were single parent households. Family sizes ranged from 2 to 8, with an average of just over 4 persons, which is somewhat larger than the average family size in Franklin County (3.1)<sup>3</sup>. More than half of all enrolled participants were African American (51%), and the vast majority (96%) were non-Hispanic. Only one household was headed by a veteran, and 44% of enrolled heads of household had been involved with child protective services in their youth. Relatively few heads of household had a criminal history (13% of assessed individuals and 14% of enrolled). No statistically significant demographic differences between enrolled and assessed individuals were observed.

<sup>3</sup>Data from the 2007 American Community Survey, conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau.

**B. Reasons for the current housing crisis**

During the assessment process, CIS collected information regarding potential participants’ current housing crisis as well as critical barriers to securing and maintaining a stable housing situation. What were the main reasons for the current housing crisis faced by assessed households? See Table 3 below for more information.

**Table 3: Primary and secondary reasons for current housing crisis (assessed households)**

	Primary reason (n = 76)		Secondary reason (n = 76)	
<i>Loss of income</i>	21	28%	19	25%
<i>Eviction notice</i>	18	24%	16	21%
<i>Loss of job</i>	11	14%	5	7%
<i>Medical crisis</i>	8	11%	1	1%
<i>Family violence</i>	4	5%	1	1%
<i>Substandard housing</i>	4	5%	2	3%
<i>Divorce / Separation</i>	3	4%	5	7%
<i>Pregnancy</i>	2	3%	1	1%
<i>Alcohol / drugs</i>	1	1%	2	3%
<i>Mental disability</i>	1	1%	4	5%
<i>Relationship problems</i>	1	1%	7	9%
<i>Household expansion</i>	1	1%	6	8%
<i>Eviction</i>	1	1%	0	0%
<i>Physical health problem</i>	0	0%	6	8%
<i>Legal issues</i>	0	0%	1	1%

Not surprisingly, the two biggest reasons (both primary and secondary) for facing a housing crisis are loss of income and an eviction notice, reported as a primary reason by 28% and 24% of assessed respondents, respectively. Loss of job is reported by another 14% as the primary reason for the crisis, along with a medical event or crisis, reported by 11% of assessed households. Mental disability, relationship problems, household expansion and physical health problems were rarely reported as primary reasons, but did surface as secondary reasons for a number of families.

**C. Housing concerns of families**

In addition to the data elements required by ODOD and CSB, CIS also collects some information that is particularly relevant here; specifically, all enrolled families listed their top three housing concerns in order of importance. These concerns were analyzed by TST and coded into the categories in Table 4.

**Table 4: Housing concerns of families**

	Reported as number one concern (n = 55)		Reported as one of top three concerns (n = 55)	
<i>Paying rent, affording housing, avoiding eviction</i>	30	55%	46	84%
<i>Safety of neighborhood</i>	11	20%	28	51%
<i>Utility bills</i>	2	4%	20	36%
<i>Enough space for entire family</i>	3	5%	14	25%
<i>Cleanliness / maintenance issues</i>	1	2%	13	24%
<i>Financial / job</i>	2	4%	9	16%
<i>Finding a place to live</i>	6	11%	8	15%
<i>Location (near school, bus, etc)</i>	0	0%	7	13%
<i>Other</i>	0	0%	12	22%

Concerns related to maintaining one’s current shelter represented the most frequent concern of most families (reported as the number one concern by 55%). In addition, 11% of enrolled families said finding a place to live was their number one housing concern. When the top three concerns were considered, 84% of all families said paying rent and avoiding eviction was a concern, and 15% needed to find a place to live. Safety of the neighborhood rose into the top three concerns for 51% of enrolled families, and 36% of families were concerned about their ability to pay utility bills.

**D. Barriers to stable housing**

The Barriers to Housing Stability Assessment is designed to allow for a more tailored and targeted intervention, designed to fit the unique needs of each family. Additionally, CIS used this tool to identify those families who may have needs that are greater than Stable Families could accommodate. The tool assesses families in three domains: tenant screening barriers, personal barriers and income barriers.

*Tenant screening barriers to stable housing*

Tenant screening barriers are those that prohibit families from being able to pass the screening process required by potential landlords, including previous rental history, criminal history and credit history.

Table 5 describes the number and type of families facing each specific type of tenant screening barrier.

**Table 5: Tenant screening barriers to stable housing for assessed and enrolled families**

	Assessed (n = 76)		Enrolled (n = 56)	
<b># of evictions or unlawful detainers</b>				
0	35	46%	25	45%
1	24	32%	17	30%
2-3	14	18%	12	21%
4-9	3	4%	2	4%
<b># of eviction notices</b>				
0	33	43%	23	41%
1	26	34%	19	34%
2-3	14	18%	12	21%
4-5	1	1%	0	0%
More than 5	2	3%	2	4%
<b># of unpaid utility bills</b>				
0	28	37%	21	38%
1	16	21%	14	25%
2-3	30	39%	20	36%
4-5	2	3%	1	2%
<b>Other screening barriers present</b>				
<i>Poor reference from landlords</i>	34	45%	23	41%
<i>Lack of rental history</i>	3	4%	1	2%
<i>Lack of credit history</i>	31	41%	23	41%
<i>One or more misdemeanors</i>	32	42%	22	39%
<i>Critical felony</i>	4	5%	2	4%
<i>Other felony</i>	5	7%	5	9%

Over half of all families (54%) assessed for entry into Stable Families had at least one eviction or unlawful detainer as an adult and had at least one eviction notice (57%). Additionally, 63% of assessed families currently had at least one unpaid utility bill and 39% had 2 or 3 unpaid utility bills. Poor references from current landlords, lack of credit history and one or more misdemeanors also represent potential barriers faced by a large proportion of households enrolled in Stable Families (reported by 45%, 41% and 42% of all assessed families, respectively). Lack of rental history and felony criminal histories were relatively rare among families assessed for entry, and seem to be less crucial barriers to housing stability. Note that the data patterns in enrolled families were very similar – no statistically significant differences between assessed and enrolled families were observed.

*Personal barriers to stable housing*

The second category of housing barriers, personal barriers, references those characteristics of individual family members that may prevent families from attaining stable housing situations. These barriers include chemical dependency, mental health and domestic violence issues. Table 6 displays the number of families who faced each specific type of personal barrier.

**Table 6: Personal barriers to stable housing for assessed and enrolled families**

	Assessed (n = 76)		Enrolled (n = 56)	
<i>Mental health has resulted in housing loss</i>	5	7%	2	4%
<i>Mental health currently affects housing</i>	16	21%	8	14%
<i>Domestic violence has resulted in housing loss</i>	6	8%	3	5%
<i>Domestic violence currently affects housing</i>	1	1%	1	2%
<i>Chemical use has resulted in housing loss</i>	3	4%	2	4%
<i>Chemical use currently affects housing</i>	0	0%	0	0%

Mental health was the most significant personal barrier for those assessed and enrolled in the program – mental health issues have resulted in housing loss in the past for 7% of assessed families and 4% of enrolled families and 21% of assessed families and currently affected housing for 21% of assessed families and 14% of enrolled families. Domestic violence seemed to be a personal barrier for fewer families and chemical use was reported as a barrier by almost none of them.

*Income barriers to stable housing*

Income barriers include the cost of current housing, lack of income and difficulties in finding and maintaining stable employment. Table 7 details the number and proportion of assessed and enrolled families who faced each of these barriers.



**Table 7: Income barriers to stable housing for assessed and enrolled families<sup>4</sup>**

Currently housed: Percent of income spent on housing	Assessed (n =43)		Enrolled (n = 34)	
35% or less	5	12%	4	12%
36-50%	3	7%	2	6%
51-65%	7	16%	6	18%
66-80%	15	35%	12	35%
More than 80%	13	30%	10	29%
Not currently housed: Amount available to spend on housing	n = 18		n = 14	
\$101-200	1	6%	0	0%
\$201-300	4	22%	2	14%
\$301-400	3	17%	3	21%
\$401-500	5	28%	4	29%
\$501-600	4	22%	4	29%
\$601-700	1	6%	1	7%
Other indicators of income barriers	n = 76		n = 56	
<i>Needs financial assistance for housing</i>	76	100%	56	100%
<i>Lacks permanent housing subsidy</i>	70	92%	53	95%
<i>Lacks steady, full-time employment</i>	54	71%	36	64%
<i>Lacks HS diploma or GED</i>	30	39%	22	39%
<i>Lack of reliable transportation</i>	32	42%	21	38%
<i>Lacks affordable / reliable childcare</i>	29	38%	20	36%
<i>Limited English proficiency</i>	0	0%	0	0%

As reported by those assessed and enrolled into the program, 100% of families need financial assistance for housing, and over half of all respondents who are currently housed are spending more than 2/3 of their income on housing. Overall, this suggests the population of individuals referred and served is appropriate. Most families (71% of assessed and 64% of enrolled) lack steady, full-time employment, and face real barriers to getting and keeping a full time job, including:

- lack of HS diploma or GED for 39% of enrolled families and 40% of assessed families;
- lack of reliable transportations for 38% of enrolled families and 42% of assessed families; and
- lack of affordable or reliable child care for 36% of enrolled families and 38% of assessed families.

Summary levels of tenant screening, personal and income barriers

What is the overall level of barriers faced by assessed and enrolled families, taking into account the specific barriers just reviewed? The tool combined the specific indicators just described into a summary level of barrier to stable housing for each domain: tenant screening, personal, and income. This summary level of barrier for each domain was judged on a four point scale ranging from no effect to

<sup>4</sup>Percent of income spent on housing and amount available to spend on housing include non-zero responses only.

major effect. Table 8 provides the assessment of the level of each type of barrier faced by Stable Families households.

**Table 8: Summary level of barriers to stable housing for assessed and enrolled families, by domain**

Assessed households (n = 76)	Tenant screening barriers		Personal barriers		Income barriers	
<i>No effect</i>	2	3%	52	68%	0	0%
<i>Minimal effect</i>	52	68%	9	12%	10	13%
<i>Moderate effect</i>	20	26%	13	17%	42	55%
<i>Major effect</i>	2	3%	2	3%	24	32%
Enrolled household (n = 56)	Tenant screening barriers		Personal barriers		Income barriers	
<i>No effect</i>	2	4%	41	73%	0	0%
<i>Minimal effect</i>	37	66%	8	14%	8	14%
<i>Moderate effect</i>	15	27%	6	11%	32	57%
<i>Major effect</i>	2	4%	1	2%	16	29%

Clearly, income barriers were the largest problem for families assessed and enrolled in Stable Families, with nearly a third of both groups (32% of assessed families and 29% of enrolled families) reporting income as a major effect on housing stability. Tenant screening barriers were also significant – over one quarter (26%) of assessed families and 27% of enrolled families reported tenant screening issues as a moderate effect on housing stability. Personal screening barriers seem to be less common – this barrier had *no* effect on 68% of assessed families and 73% of enrolled families.

#### Overall levels of barriers to stable housing

Taken together, these three types of barriers can paint a portrait of the overall level of difficulty families face when attempting to maintain stable housing. The final step of the assessment occurs when the tool considers all three domains to provide an overall assessment of the level of barriers faced by each family on the following scale:

- Level 1: Zero to minimal barriers – able to obtain/maintain housing with no or minimal support.
- Level 2: Moderate barriers – able to obtain/maintain housing with moderate one-time or brief transitional supports.
- Level 3: Serious barriers – able to obtain/maintain housing with significant, intensive transitional supports.
- Level 4: Long-term barriers – able to obtain/maintain housing with significant, intensive transitional or ongoing supports.
- Level 5: Severe barriers – able to obtain/maintain housing with significant, intensive and ongoing supports.

Table 9 describes the overall level of barriers faced by assessed and enrolled families.

**Table 9: Overall level of barriers to stable housing**

	Assessed		Enrolled	
<i>Zero to minimal</i>	6	8%	5	9%
<i>Moderate</i>	52	68%	38	68%
<i>Serious</i>	17	22%	13	23%
<i>Long term</i>	1	1%	0	0%
<i>Severe</i>	0	0%	0	0%

The majority (68%) of both assessed and enrolled families were classified as Level 2, indicating they faced moderate barriers to their ability to obtain housing. This is appropriate given the program’s focus on carefully selecting families that can resolve their housing crisis with relatively brief, though intense, intervention.

The final tool used to evaluate the ability of enrolled families to meet basic needs is a self sufficiency matrix assessment, completed at enrollment into the program, and at 6 months after enrollment. This matrix assesses each family’s self sufficiency across 17 different domains. Responses are recorded on the following five point scale:

- |           |            |      |                   |           |
|-----------|------------|------|-------------------|-----------|
| 1         | 2          | 3    | 4                 | 5         |
| In crisis | Vulnerable | Safe | Building Capacity | Empowered |

Table 10 displays the mean and median scores among enrolled families across all domains, grouped into three main categories (economic, social-emotional and parenting).

**Table 10: Self Sufficiency Matrix summary statistics for enrolled families**

	Mean	Median
<b>Economic (n = 55)</b>	<b>Overall mean = 2.67</b>	
<i>Food</i>	2.09	2
<i>Employment</i>	2.14	2
<i>Shelter</i>	2.27	2
<i>Income</i>	2.29	2
<i>Mobility</i>	2.81	2
<i>Family Relations</i>	3.23	3
<i>Health Care</i>	3.90	4
<b>Social-emotional (n = 55)</b>	<b>Overall mean = 3.09</b>	
<i>Adult education</i>	2.94	3
<i>Community Involvement</i>	3.27	4
<i>Life skills</i>	3.47	3
<i>Mental health</i>	4.21	5
<i>Safety</i>	4.27	4
<i>Legal</i>	4.29	5
<i>Substance abuse</i>	4.89	5
<b>Parenting (n = 55)</b>	<b>Overall mean = 3.59</b>	
<i>Child care</i>	2.03	2
<i>Child’s education</i>	4.34	5
<i>Parenting skills</i>	4.41	5

The average rating for enrolled families fell near the “vulnerable” (2) rating most frequently in economic domains, specifically food (2.09), employment (2.14), shelter (2.27) and income (2.29). This suggests the average family enrolled in the program was struggling to provide for its very basic needs. Another vulnerable domain for families was child care (2.03), which is crucial to being able to get and keep a full time job, and may be an underlying cause for the economic difficulties faced by these families.

## V. What services and interventions were provided to families enrolled in the program?

Stable Families works to both directly assist families in resolving their immediate housing crisis and to link families to other community resources. This section of the report focuses on the types and amounts of services and intervention provided to enrolled families.

### Direct client assistance

Table 11 breaks down the direct client assistance provided by Stable Families between January 1 and June 30, 2008.

**Table 11: Types and amounts of Direct Client Assistance**

Assistance from Stable Families	n	% of enrolled families (n = 56)	% of all DCA
<i>Rent</i>	14	25%	64%
<i>Utilities</i>	4	7%	18%
<b>Assistance from other sources</b>			
<i>PRC – Housing</i>	3	5%	14%
<i>PRC – Non Housing</i>	0	0%	0%
<i>Other local funding – Housing</i>	1	2%	5%
<i>Other local funding – Non housing</i>	0	0%	0%
<i>Welfare Cash Assistance</i>	0	0%	0%

Assistance with rent was the most common form of direct client assistance provided; used by 25% of enrolled households, and accounting for 64% of all assistance provided by the pilot. Assistance from other sources was provided predominantly in the form of Prevent, Retention & Contingency assistance with housing, accounting for 14% of all direct client assistance provided. Note that the relatively low percentages of families receiving some services (such as assistance with rent) is likely due to the fact that some families enrolled too late in the first period to receive services by June 30.

Additional services are provided to clients by Stable Families. CIS documents the type of service provided for all interactions greater than 15 minutes in length. A breakdown of services provided is displayed in Table 12.

**Table 12: Other assistance provided to enrolled families**

	# of families who received	Average times received	% of families who received assistance (n = 47)	% of enrolled families (n = 56)
<i>Case / care management</i>	47	3.5	100%	84%
<i>Transportation</i>	15	1.3	32%	27%
<i>Housing Placement</i>	5	1.4	11%	9%
<i>Employment</i>	4	1	9%	7%
<i>Personal enrichment</i>	4	1.8	9%	7%
<i>Food</i>	3	1	6%	5%
<i>Temporary housing and other financial aid</i>	2	1	4%	4%
<i>Material goods</i>	1	1	2%	2%
<i>Consumer assistance and protection</i>	1	1	2%	2%
<i>Other</i>	7	1	15%	13%

Of course, case / care management was the most frequently reported service, provided to all families who received assistance and to 84% of all families enrolled in the pilot. Assistance with transportation was another common service (provided to 27% of all enrolled families), along with housing placement and employment, provided to 9% and 7% of all enrolled families, respectively. Again, the relatively low numbers of families receiving some services is likely due to the fact that some families enrolled late in the first period.

Finally, beyond the services provided by Stable Families CIS also worked to help families gain access to services from other community organizations. Table 13 displays the types of community assistance clients obtained from sources other than Stable Families

**Table 13: Types of community assistance provided to enrolled families**

	# of families	Average times received	% of families who received community assistance (n = 27)	% of enrolled families (n = 56)
<i>Employment</i>	11	1.5	41%	20%
<i>Housing search</i>	7	1.4	26%	13%
<i>Childcare</i>	7	1	26%	13%
<i>Mental health care / counseling</i>	5	1.2	19%	9%
<i>Material goods</i>	4	2	15%	7%
<i>Case / care management</i>	4	1	15%	7%
<i>Health care</i>	3	1	11%	5%
<i>Food</i>	2	3	7%	4%
<i>Education</i>	2	1	7%	4%
<i>Consumer assistance and protection</i>	1	1	4%	2%
<i>Criminal justice / legal services</i>	1	1	4%	2%
<i>Other</i>	10	1.2	37%	18%

The most common community services provided to enrolled families related to employment (20% of enrolled families), and childcare and housing searches (13% each). Table 14 indicates the sources of this community assistance.

**Table 14: Sources of community services**

	# of services provided	Average times per family	% of all community assistance provided
<i>Self</i>	26	1.5	37%
<i>TANF</i>	16	1.6	23%
<i>Community based social service center</i>	13	1.9	18%
<i>Church</i>	5	5	7%
<i>School</i>	1	1	1%
<i>Legal services</i>	1	1	1%
<i>Other</i>	9	1.5	13%

Self was the single largest source, making up 27% of all community assistance provided. This source indicates that a CIS worker recommended a resource to the family, but the family themselves followed up on it (e.g. a worker suggests a job to a family member who then applies for the job on their own). The next most common community services were TANF and community based social service centers (providing 23% and 18% of community services, respectively).

## VI. How successful was Stable Families at preventing family homelessness in Central Ohio?

The overarching goal of Stable Families is to prevent family homelessness. When the program has been in operation for a considerable amount of time, data collected during program administration can allow for several estimates of the impact the program likely had on family homelessness in Central Ohio. For this first interim report, we will lay out the logic for making such estimates.

All estimates follow the same underlying logic: identifying those families who likely would have become homeless and entered the homeless family shelter system, if they were not assisted by Stable Families instead. Two numbers are required to estimate this impact: 1) the total projected demand for homeless shelter for families and 2) the number of families who did not enter this demand stream due to the program, including the number of families diverted from the YWCA Family Center. In order to first estimate overall demand for shelter, two primary data sources are relevant and will likely be the basis for demand estimate calculations:

- CSB's System and Program Indicator Report for FY 2008, which provides historical longitudinal data regarding the number of families served by the shelter system in Central Ohio.
- The Third Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, published in July 2008.

There are a number of ways to define a successful outcome for families enrolled in Stable Families. We will create estimates ranging from more conservative (only families who have completed the program and transitioned to / remained in stable housing) to more liberal (any family who was enrolled in the program was prevented from entering the system). Additionally, entry scores on the self sufficiency matrix (SSM) can also be used to attempt to predict which families would have become homeless, without the intervention of Stable Families. See Table 15 for our current thinking regarding likely estimates that will be used to evaluate effectiveness in future reports.



**Table 15: Strategies for estimating successful outcomes for Stable Families**

Criteria
<i>Families who completed and transitioned to or remained in Stable housing</i>
<i>Families who completed the program</i>
<i>Families who entered the program homeless or threatened with eviction (SSM Shelter = 1)</i>
<i>Families who entered the program with no income (SSM income = 1)</i>
<i>Families who entered the program with no income or inadequate income (SSM income = 1 or 2)</i>
<i>Families who entered the program homeless or threatened with eviction or in transitional / unsafe housing (SSM shelter = 1 or 2)</i>
<i>Families who were diverted to the program from the YWCA Family Center</i>
<i>Families who entered the program, less those who were terminated from the program</i>
<i>All families who entered the program</i>

More conservative

↑

More Liberal

**VII. How successful was Stable Families at reducing unplanned school mobility due to imminent homelessness?**

One of the primary goals of Stable Families is to reduce unplanned school mobility among children in families who participate in the program. To track school mobility, TST worked with Columbus City Schools (CCS) to gather data regarding current and historical enrollment trends for all school age children in families enrolled in the program. Because Stable Families began operating on April 7th, 2008, the data presented here serve as a baseline measure of school mobility profile of children in families served by the program – data provided in Interim Assessment Report 2 will help us track the impact of Stable Families on school mobility.

A list of all children in families served by the program through June 30, 2008 (n = 112) was provided to CCS for the purposes of obtaining data regarding school mobility, attendance and achievement. This list was matched to CCS internal databases, and the following data fields related to school mobility were returned:

- Date of first entry into the CCS district
- Number of years since first entry
- Number of years attended within the district (which represents the number of years since first entry , less any years spent outside the district)
- Total number of moves (not including moves that occurred because a child moved from elementary to middle or middle to high school, within the CCS district).

Data were available for approximately 89 children from 41 enrolled families. The remaining children were excluded from this analysis for the following reasons:

- 9 students had no match in CIS records, mostly due to private school attendance.
- 4 students were so recently enrolled that no data were available.
- 10 students had historical mobility data available but were not currently enrolled in a CCS school.

Table 16 provides the number of students who had 0, 1 and 2 or more moves since entering CCS and two different school mobility rates. The first rate is calculated by dividing the total number of moves by the number of years since first entry into CCS. The second rate is calculated by dividing the total number of moves by the number of years since first entry into CCS, less any years they left the district.

**Table 16: School mobility in children in enrolled families**

	n = 89 students	
<i>No moves since first entry into CCS</i>	59	66%
<i>1 move since first entry</i>	22	25%
<i>2 or more moves since first entry</i>	8	9%
<i>Average moves per year since first entry</i>	0.11	
<i>Average moves per year during all time in district</i>	0.24	

Though 67% of children in Stable Families have not moved since first entry into the CCS district, 25% have experienced at least one move and 9% have experienced 2 or more moves. The average number of moves since first entry into district is .11 and the average number of moves since first entry into the district jumps to .24 when time spent outside the district is factored out. For comparison sake, a child who moved once during the course of their entire school career would have a mobility rate of approximately .08 for their entire school career and mobility rate of .24 would translate to 3 moves over 13 school years. Given that many of the children enrolled in Stable Families are young (65% included in this analysis are Grade 6 or less) an average mobility rate of .24 seems fairly high. Future reports will provide more data to track these trends.

### VIII. What effect has Stable Families had on other variables related to school mobility, such as school attendance, achievement, and behavioral issues?

Residential stability should improve school attendance, which is linked to a host of educational variables. Working with CCS, TST obtained both current and historical data to look at the impact of Stable Families on these crucial educational variables that are related to school mobility. Specifically, CCS provided:

- Attendance rate in 2007-2008
- Number of unexcused absences in 2007 - 2008
- 2007 and 2008 OAT reading and math scores
- 2008 OGT reading and math scores

CCS was able to provide attendance data for all 89 children included in the previous analysis. Attendance rates varied between 52 and 100%, with an average of 94.9%. The number of unexcused absences per student varied greatly, ranging from 0 to 38 days, with an average of 5.8 days. The data presented here should be considered baseline. Comparisons to attendance rates after the program intervention will be instructive.

**Table 17: Attendance rates and unexcused absences (2007 – 2008)**

Attendance rate (2007 – 2008 school year)	n = 89 students	
<i>Below 85%</i>	6	7%
<i>85-95%</i>	22	25%
<i>Greater than 95%</i>	61	69%
<i>Average rate</i>	94.9	
Unexcused absences (2007 – 2008 school year)		
<i>0</i>	12	13%
<i>1</i>	11	12%
<i>2-4</i>	33	37%
<i>5-10</i>	14	16%
<i>11 or more</i>	19	21%
<i>Average number of unexcused absences</i>	5.8	

Students who consistently attend school should perform better as they are exposed to additional instructional time and attention from their teachers. They should feel more comfortable in the classroom environment and improved relationships with peers and instructional staff may lead to fewer problems managing their classroom behavior. If Stable Families improves school attendance by preventing unplanned moves, does this facilitate better academic achievement and fewer incidences of behavioral intervention?

School achievement tests are only given on specified days and at certain grade levels so not all 89 children included in the school mobility analysis had available achievement data. Table 18 provides the

number of children and the average score for the data provided by CCS. Again, the data presented here serve as a baseline measure or school behavioral profile of children in families served by the program – data provided in Interim Assessment Report 2 will help us track the impact of Stable Families on school behavior.

**Table 18: Achievement test scores for children in enrolled families**

	Students with data available	Mean
<i>2007 OAT reading</i>	31	398.7
<i>2007 OAT math</i>	31	404.1
<i>2008 OAT reading</i>	44	399.5
<i>2008 OAT math</i>	44	399.0
<i>2008 OGT reading</i>	8	414.9
<i>2008 OGT math</i>	8	416.4

Note that although there is some variability between tests and grade levels, scores of 400 or better generally indicate proficiency, while scores of 440 or better indicate accelerated achievement in a given domain. This suggests students enrolled in the Stable Families program are very close to or in the proficient range in both reading and math. The data provided here should be considered baseline data, useful primarily as a comparison to future Assessment Reports for Stable Families.

Finally, data were provided on the number of behavioral incidents for 73 of the 89 children identified earlier. Note that this data includes any form of behavioral incident recorded, ranging from mild to severe.

**Table 19: Behavioral incidents (2007-2008)**

Behavioral incidents	Range	Average
<i>Average number of incidents per year</i>	0-120	12.21
<i>Average number of incidents per day</i>	0-.71	.08
<i>Number of students with no behavioral incidents</i>	22 (30%)	

The number of behavioral incidents in this group of children ranged from 0 – 120 with an average of 12.21. The average number of behavioral incidents per day was calculated by dividing the total number of incidents for the year by the number of attendance days for each student. Note that 22 students had no behavioral incidents; these children are included as 0s in the averages calculated above.

If Stable Families does promote more school stability and better relationships with educational partners, the expectation is that the number of behavioral incident will decline over time for children enrolled in the program. Interim Assessment Report 2 will present the first opportunity to test for this impact.

## IX. What effect has Stable Families had on program participants' perceptions of their ability to resolve their housing concerns?

As part of an assessment tool developed for internal use, CIS asks respondents to rate their progress toward resolving their housing concerns. This rating is made on a 10-point scale, labeled from 1 (little or no progress) to 10 (great progress). Families provide the rating at program entry and exit, to determine whether enrolled families feel they have made progress during the course of the program. Table 20 displays the results of this question at entry for all families enrolled in the program during this period. Because no families have completed the program, only entry data are available at this point.

**Table 20: Perceptions of ability to resolve housing concerns**

	n	% (n = 55)
<i>Little progress (rating 1 – 3)</i>	24	44%
<i>Some progress (rating 4 – 7)</i>	26	47%
<i>Great progress (rating 8 – 10)</i>	5	9%
<i>Average rating</i>	4.17	

Interestingly, the majority of families feel they have made some progress toward resolving their housing concerns, with 47% of all families rating themselves a 4, 5, 6 or 7 on this scale, and an average scale response of 4.17. A follow up question asked respondents what kept them from rating themselves lower. A brief review of these responses indicates that some families feel simply contacting Stable Families was a step in the right direction. The next interim report will help determine whether this self-reported progress has continued.

## **Appendix A: Assessment Tools for Stable Families**

## Barriers to Housing Stability Assessment

Client Name: _____	Assessment Date: ____ / ____ / ____ ____ Entry      ____ 6 months      ____ 12 months ____ Exit
--------------------	---

### FOR HOUSEHOLD HEADS

#### 1. TENANT SCREENING BARRIERS *(prior to entering program or since last assessment)*

##### TENANT SCREENING BARRIERS *(Check one)*

- Barriers *(complete below)*     
  No Barriers *(skip to next section)*     
  Barriers not assessed *(skip to next section)*

##### 1A. RENTAL HISTORY/ISSUES

###### Number of evictions or unlawful detainers *(Check one)*

- |                                       |                                      |   |   |   |                          |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>              | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                | <input type="checkbox"/>                | <input type="checkbox"/>                          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0 evictions/<br>unlawful<br>detainers | 1 eviction/<br>unlawful<br>detainers | 2-3 evictions/<br>unlawful<br>detainers | 4-9 evictions/<br>unlawful<br>detainers | 10 or more<br>evictions/<br>unlawful<br>detainers | Not assessed             |

###### Number of eviction notices for unpaid rent or other lease non-compliance *(Check one)*

- |                          |                          |                          |                          |                               |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0 eviction<br>notices    | 1 eviction notice        | 2-3 eviction<br>notices  | 4-5 eviction notices     | 5 or more eviction<br>notices | Not assessed             |

###### Poor reference from current/prior landlords *(Check one)*

- Yes       No       Not assessed

###### Lack of rental history *(Check one)*

- Yes       No       Not assessed

##### 1B. CREDIT HISTORY/ISSUES

###### Unpaid utility bills *(Check one)*

- |                            |                          |                             |                          |                                   |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| No unpaid utility<br>bills | 1 unpaid utility bill    | 2-3 unpaid utility<br>bills | 4-5 unpaid utility bills | 5 or more unpaid<br>utility bills | Not assessed             |

###### Lack of credit history

- Yes       No       Not assessed

##### 1C. CRIMINAL HISTORY

###### One or more misdemeanors

- Yes       No       Not assessed

###### Critical felony (sex crime, arson, drugs, violence)

- Yes       No       Not assessed

###### Other felony

- Yes       No       Not assessed

#### ASSESSMENT 1: ABILITY TO OBTAIN/MAINTAIN HOUSING IN THE COMMUNITY

##### Impact of tenant screening barriers on housing *(Check one)*

- No Effect     
  Minimal Effect     
  Moderate Effect     
  Major Effect     
  Not assessed

**2. PERSONAL BARRIERS (prior to entering program or since last assessment)**

**PERSONAL BARRIERS (Check one)**

- Barriers (complete below)       No Barriers (skip to next section)       Barriers not assessed (skip to next section)

**2A. CHEMICAL HEALTH**

**Chemical use has resulted in housing loss**

- Yes       No       Not assessed

**Chemical use currently affects ability to obtain/maintain housing**

- Yes       No       Not assessed

**2B. MENTAL HEALTH**

**Mental health has resulted in housing loss**

- Yes       No       Not assessed

**Mental health currently affects ability to obtain/maintain housing**

- Yes       No       Not assessed

**2C. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/ABUSE**

**Domestic violence/abuse resulted in housing loss**

- Yes       No       Not assessed

**Domestic violence/abuse currently affects ability to obtain/maintain housing**

- Yes       No       Not assessed

**ASSESSMENT 2: ABILITY TO OBTAIN/MAINTAIN HOUSING IN YOUR COMMUNITY**

**Impact of client's personal barriers on housing (Check one)**

- No Effect       Minimal Effect       Moderate Effect       Major Effect       Not assessed



**3. INCOME BARRIERS (prior to entering program or since last assessment)**

**INCOME BARRIERS (Check one)**

- Barriers (complete below)       No Barriers (skip to next section)       Barriers not assessed (skip to next section)

**3A. INCOME**

**Needs/needed temporary financial assistance to obtain/maintain housing**

- Yes       No       Not assessed

**If housed: percent of income spent on housing (rent and utilities) (Check one)**

- 35% or less       36% to 50%       51% to 65%       66% to 80%       More than 80%       Not Assessed

**If not housed: amount able to spend on housing-\$ (Check one)**

- 0       1-100       101-151       151-200       201-250       251-300       301-350  
 351-400       401-500       501-600       601-700       701-800       801 or more       Not Assessed

**3B. OTHER INCOME - RELATED**

**Lacks ongoing, permanent housing subsidy (e.g. Section 8)**

- Yes       No       Not assessed

**Lacks steady, full time employment**

- Yes       No       Not assessed

**Lacks high school diploma or GED**

- Yes       No       Not assessed

**Job barrier: limited English proficiency**

- Yes       No       Not assessed

**Job barrier: lack of reliable transportation**

- Yes       No       Not assessed

**Job barrier: lack of reliable/affordable child care**

- Yes       No       Not assessed

**ASSESSMENT 3: ABILITY TO OBTAIN/MAINTAIN HOUSING IN YOUR COMMUNITY**

**Impact of client's income barriers on housing (Check one)**

- No Effect       Minimal Effect       Moderate Effect       Major Effect       Not assessed

**OVERALL BARRIER ASSESSMENT**

**OVERALL BARRIER-level (Optional)**

- Level 1: Zero to minimal barriers-able to obtain/maintain housing with no or minimal supports  
 Level 2: Moderate barriers-able to obtain/maintain housing with moderate one-time or brief transitional supports  
 Level 3: Serious barriers-able to obtain/maintain housing with significant, intensive transitional supports  
 Level 4: Long-term barriers-able to obtain/maintain housing with significant, intensive transitional or ongoing supports  
 Level 5: Severe barriers-able to obtain/maintain housing with significant, intensive and ongoing supports

**SERVICES RECEIVED BY FAMILY (only complete at 6 month, 12 month and exit assessment):**

<i>Services provided by FHC Long-Term program for this family: (Check all that apply)</i>	<i>Community based resources/services used by this family: (Check all that apply)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing search and/or placement assistance	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental health and/or substance abuse treatment
<input type="checkbox"/> Case management (assessment, goal setting, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Physical health
<input type="checkbox"/> Budgeting assistance/instruction	<input type="checkbox"/> Basic needs (food, clothing, furniture, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/> Housekeeping assistance/instruction	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency financial needs (e.g. rent, utilities, other)
<input type="checkbox"/> Mediation with landlord to address lease compliance concern	<input type="checkbox"/> Daycare
<input type="checkbox"/> Help with developing other life skills (e.g. time management, stress management)	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Access to FHC direct client assistance for emergency financial need (e.g. rent, utilities, other)	<input type="checkbox"/> Legal assistance
<input type="checkbox"/> Help with transportation (bus tickets, ride to appointment, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Landlord mediation assistance to obtain or maintain housing
<input type="checkbox"/> Help with finding/keeping employment	<input type="checkbox"/> Employment
<input type="checkbox"/> Help with educational goal attainment, goal setting	<input type="checkbox"/> Education/training/GED
<input type="checkbox"/> Assistance accessing one or more of the following community resources/services (through information, referral and/or advocacy):	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):
<input type="checkbox"/> Mental health and/or substance abuse treatment	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):
<input type="checkbox"/> Physical health	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):
<input type="checkbox"/> Basic needs (food, clothing, furniture, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):
<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency financial needs (e.g. rent, utilities, other)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Daycare	
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Legal assistance	
<input type="checkbox"/> Landlord mediation assistance to obtain or maintain housing	
<input type="checkbox"/> Employment	
<input type="checkbox"/> Education/training/GED	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):	<b>FHC CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):	<b>Case management assistance since last assessment:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Other FHC Services (specify):	Number of home/office visits with family: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other FHC Services (specify):	Average duration of visit (in minutes): _____



1. Matrix Summary

Intake Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Staff Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Client Information

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Suffix \_\_\_\_\_

Client ID (optional Agency ID) \_\_\_\_\_ SS# \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

3. Self-Sufficiency Matrix (for the Ohio Family Homelessness Prevention Pilot Project)

Instructions:

- Complete this form for all clients at: 1) entry, 2) exit, 3) at 3 months post exit, 4) at 6 months post exit
• Select one and only one level in each of the 17 areas below by marking the box next to the appropriate level
• Level categories: 1 = In Crisis, 2 = Vulnerable, 3 = Safe, 4 = Building Capacity, 5 = Empowered

Assessment Type (Point in Time - select one): [ ] Entry [ ] Exit [ ] 3 Month [ ] 6 Month

1. Income

- [ ] 1. No Income
[ ] 2. Inadequate income and/or spontaneous or inappropriate spending
[ ] 3. Can meet basic needs with subsidy; appropriate spending
[ ] 4. Can meet basic needs and manage debt without assistance
[ ] 5. Income is sufficient, well managed; has discretionary income and is able to save

2. Employment

- [ ] 1. No Job
[ ] 2. Temporary, part-time or seasonal; inadequate pay; no benefits
[ ] 3. Employed full-time; inadequate pay; few or no benefits
[ ] 4. Employed full-time with adequate pay and benefits
[ ] 5. Maintains permanent employment with adequate income and benefits



### **3. Shelter**

- 1. Homeless or threatened with eviction
- 2. In transitional, temporary or substandard housing; and/or current rent/mortgage payment is unaffordable
- 3. In stable housing that is safe but only marginally adequate
- 4. Household is safe, adequate, subsidized housing
- 5. Household is safe, adequate, unsubsidized housing

### **4. Food**

- 1. No food or means to prepare it. Relies to a significant degree on other sources of free or low-cost
- 2. Household is on food stamps
- 3. Can meet basic food needs but requires occasional assistance
- 4. Can meet basic food needs without assistance
- 5. Can choose to purchase any food household desires

### **5. Childcare**

- 0. N/A
- 1. Needs childcare, but none is available/accessible and/or child is not eligible
- 2. Childcare is unreliable or unaffordable; inadequate supervision is a problem for childcare that is available
- 3. Affordable subsidized childcare is available but limited
- 4. Reliable, affordable childcare is available; no need for subsidies
- 5. Able to select quality childcare of choice

### **6. Children's Education**

- 0. N/A
- 1. One or more eligible children not enrolled in school
- 2. One or more eligible children enrolled in school but not attending classes
- 3. Enrolled in school, but one or more children only occasionally attending classes
- 4. Enrolled in school and attending classes most of the time
- 5. All eligible children enrolled and attending on a regular basis

### **7. Adult Education**

- 1. Literacy problems and/or no high school diploma/GED are serious barriers to employment
- 2. Enrolled in literacy and/or GED program and/or has sufficient command of English so language is not a barrier to employment
- 3. Has high school diploma/GED
- 4. Needs additional education/training to improve employment situation and/or to resolve literacy problems to where they are able to function effectively in society
- 5. Has completed education/training needed to become employable. No literacy problems



**8. Legal**

- 1. Current outstanding tickets or warrants
- 2. Current charges/trial pending; noncompliance with probation/parole
- 3. Fully compliant with probation/parole terms
- 4. Has successfully completed probation/parole within past 12 months; no new charges filed
- 5. No felony criminal history and/or no active criminal justice involvement in more than 12 months

**9. Health Care**

- 1. No medical coverage with immediate need
- 2. No medical coverage and great difficulty accessing medical care when needed. Some household members may be in poor health
- 3. Some members (Healthy Start, Health Families or children on State Children's Health Insurance Program)
- 4. All members can get medical care when needed but may strain budget
- 5. All members are covered by affordable, adequate health insurance

**10. Life Skills**

- 1. Unable to meet basic needs such as hygiene, food, activities of daily living
- 2. Can meet a few but not all needs of daily living without assistance
- 3. Can meet most but not all daily living needs without assistance
- 4. Able to meet all basic needs of daily living without assistance
- 5. Able to provide beyond basic needs of daily living for self and family

**11. Mental Health**

- 1. Danger to self or others; recurring suicidal ideation; experiencing severe difficulty in day-to-day life due to psychological problems
- 2. Recurrent mental health symptoms that may affect behavior but not a danger to self/others; persistent problems with functioning due to mental health symptoms
- 3. Mild symptoms may be present but are transient; only moderate difficulty in functioning due to mental health problems
- 4. Minimal symptoms that are expectable responses to life stressors; only slight impairment in functioning
- 5. Symptoms are absent or rare; good or superior functioning in wide range of activities; no more than every day problems/concerns

**12. Substance Abuse**

- 1. Meets criteria for severe abuse; resulting problems so severe that institutional living or hospitalization may be necessary
- 2. Meets criteria for dependence; preoccupation with use and/or obtaining drugs/alcohol; withdrawal or withdrawal avoidance behaviors evident; use results in avoidance or neglect of essential life activities
- 3. Use within last 6 months; evidence of persistent or recurrent social, occupational, emotional or physical problems related to use (such as disruptive behavior or housing problems); problems that have persisted for at least one month
- 4. Client has used during last 6 months but no evidence of persistent or recurrent social, occupational, emotional, or physical problems related to use; no evidence of recurrent dangerous use
- 5. No drug use/alcohol abuse in last 6 months



**13. Family Relations**

- 1. Lack of necessary support from family or friends; abuse (DV, child) is present or there is child neglect
- 2. Family/friends may be supportive but lack ability or resources to help; family members do not relate well with one another; potential for abuse or neglect
- 3. Some support from family/friends; family members acknowledge and seek to change negative behaviors; are learning to communicate and support
- 4. Strong support from family or friends; household members support each other's efforts
- 5. Has healthy/expanding support network; household is stable and communication is consistently open

**14. Transportation/Mobility**

- 1. No access to transportation, public or private; may have car that is inoperable
- 2. Transportation is available but unreliable, unpredictable, unaffordable; may have car but no insurance, license, etc.
- 3. Transportation is available and reliable but limited and/or inconvenient; drivers are licensed and minimally insured
- 4. Transportation is generally accessible to meet basic travel needs
- 5. Transportation is readily available and affordable; car is adequately insured

**15. Community Involvement**

- 1. No community involvement; in "survival" mode
- 2. Socially isolated and/or no social skills and/or lacks motivation to become involved
- 3. Lacks knowledge of ways to become involved
- 4. Some community involvement (advisory group, support group) but has barriers such as transportation, childcare issues
- 5. Actively involved in community

**16. Safety**

- 1. Home or residence is not safe; immediate level of lethality is extremely high; possible CPS involvement
- 2. Safety is threatened/temporary protection is available; level of lethality is high
- 3. Current level of safety is minimally adequate; ongoing safety planning is essential
- 4. Environment is safe, yet future of such is uncertain; safety planning is important
- 5. Environment is apparently safe and stable

**17. Parenting Skills**

- 0. N/A
- 1. There are safety concerns regarding parenting skills
- 2. Parenting skills are minimal
- 3. Parenting skills are apparent but not adequate
- 4. Parenting skills are adequate
- 5. Parenting skills are well developed

# STABLE FAMILIES PROGRAM

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
**ASSESSMENT** Date form completed \_\_\_\_\_



The Stable Families Program will work with you for 3-6 months to help you stay in your home and keep your children in the same school. The program will help you find and use community resources and help you set and achieve your personal and family goals. Families will also develop a money management plan to make the most of their resources. Is this something you would be interested in?

In order to be considered for the program, it is important for CIS to collect some information from you. There are some intake questions that I need to ask you as part of our data collection. It is a requirement to participate in the program and participation is voluntary. In the initial phases of this program, case managers will be collecting data about your current housing crisis, rental history, criminal history, any personal barriers to maintaining housing, and income. Are you willing to participate in this process?

After taking down your information, the case manager will send it on to the supervisor of the program. The supervisor will then make a determination of whether or not this program fits your family's needs within 2 days. If it does, you will begin working with the case manager immediately. If this program is not a good fit for your family's needs, you will be provided with community resources to help you with your current situation. There is the ability to appeal the decision if you are not in agreement with it.

1. How long have you lived at this address? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How did you hear about our program? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Is there anything in what I've just told you about our program that really appeals to you? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What are your top three housing concerns? Rate them in order of importance.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

5. On a scale from 1-10, where would you rate your progress towards resolving these concerns:

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10  
Little or no progress      Some progress      Great Progress

6. What kept you from rating yourself lower? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Where do you want to be? \_\_\_\_\_

8. What would it take for you to get there? \_\_\_\_\_

9. What are you willing to do to get there? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Are you willing to accept case management to work on these concerns? \_\_\_\_\_

11. What are your families strengths and supports? \_\_\_\_\_

**Members of Household**

Name <small>(first, middle int., last, suffix, and maiden if applicable)</small>	Date of Birth	Gender <small>(male, female transgender)</small>	Social Sec. # <small>(if family refuses to give #, please put refused)</small>	Relationship <small>(See categories below)</small>	Race <small>(see codes below; add multiple codes if needed)</small>	Hispanic	Veteran <small>(if family member refuses to answer, put refused)</small>
Include any other names you have gone by in the past or present.							
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	Y N	Y N
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	Y N	Y N
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	Y N	Y N
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	Y N	Y N
5. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	Y N	Y N
6. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	Y N	Y N
7. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	Y N	Y N
8. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	Y N	Y N

**Race Codes: W – White AA – Black or African American AS – Asian AI – American Indian AN – Alaska Native HP – Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander**

**Relationship Categories: son, daughter, step-son, step-daughter. Grandson, granddaughter, wife, husband, brother, sister, mother, father, grandmother, grandfather, significant other, other relative, other non-relative, unknown**



**Adult Employment**

First Name	Employed	Place of Employment	Type	Hours worked last week	Gross monthly income	Source
1. _____	Y N	_____	P T S	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	Y N	_____	P T S	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	Y N	_____	P T S	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	Y N	_____	P T S	_____	_____	_____
5. _____	Y N	_____	P T S	_____	_____	_____

**Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Income Sources:** Earned Income, Unemployment Insurance, SSI Benefits, SSDI Benefits, Veterans Disability, Worker’s Compensation, TANF, Retirement Income from Soc. Sec., Private Disability, General assistance, Veteran’s Pension, Pension from former job, Child Support, Alimony, Other Source, No Financial Resources.

**Employment Type:** P- Permanent, T- Temporary, S- Seasonal.

If not employed, currently looking for work? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Adult Education**

First Name	Highest Level of Education Completed (see categories below)	Degree (see categories below)	Currently in School	Received Vocational Training
1. _____	_____	_____	Y N	Y N
2. _____	_____	_____	Y N	Y N
3. _____	_____	_____	Y N	Y N
4. _____	_____	_____	Y N	Y N
5. _____	_____	_____	Y N	Y N

**Highest Level education Completed:** no schooling, nursery school to 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 5<sup>th</sup> grade to 6<sup>th</sup> grade, 7<sup>th</sup> grade to 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 9<sup>th</sup> grade, 10<sup>th</sup> grade, 11<sup>th</sup> grade, 12<sup>th</sup> grade no diploma, high school diploma, GED, post-secondary school

**Degree: None, Associates degree, Bachelor's degree, Masters, Doctorate, Other graduate/professional degree**

**Non-Cash Benefits**

Does anyone in your household receive any of the following non-cash benefits (for the past month)?

**Food Stamps, MEDICAID, MEDICARE, State Children's Health Insurance Plan, WIC, VA Medical Benefits, TANF child care services, TANF transportation services, Other TANF-funded services, Section 8, public housing or other rental assistance, Other (specify)**

**(If family member has multiple sources of non cash benefits, please list separately)**

First Name	Benefit Received (specify using categories above)	Monthly Amount	First Name	Benefit Received (specify using categories above)	Monthly Amount
1. _____	_____	_____	2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	4. _____	_____	_____

**Total (for all family members):** \_\_\_\_\_

What other agencies are you working with or have you received assistance from in the recent past?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Caseworker's Name and Number \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Caseworker's Name and Number \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Caseworker's Name and Number \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Caseworker's Name and Number \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Caseworker's Name and Number \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is your current living situation?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Room, apartment, or house that is rented – without assistance of housing subsidy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Room, apartment, or house that is rented – with subsidy that is project-based.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Room, apartment, or house that is rented – with subsidy that is not project-based.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Apartment or house that you own.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Staying or living with family/friends
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hotel or motel
- \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency Shelter

- Transitional housing
- Permanent housing for formerly homeless persons
- Psychiatric hospital
- Substance abuse treatment facility
- Hospital
- Jail or prison
- Foster care home or foster group home
- Place not meant for habitation
- Don't know
- Refused
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

2. How long have you been at your current residence?

- One week or less
- More than one week, less than one month
- One to three weeks
- More than three months, but less than one year
- One year or longer

3. Where was your previous residence located?

- Within Franklin County (inside city-Columbus)
- Within Franklin County (outside city-Columbus)
- Within Ohio (outside Franklin County)
- Outside Ohio

4. List address for previous residence:

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip code of last permanent address (lived in longer than 90 days): \_\_\_\_\_

5. How did your household come to be in this housing crisis?

**P = Primary S = Secondary**

- Divorce/Separation
- Loss of job
- Loss of income
- Medical emergency

- \_\_\_\_\_ Family violence
- \_\_\_\_\_ Alcohol or drugs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mental disability
- \_\_\_\_\_ Eviction notice
- \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship problems
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pregnancy
- \_\_\_\_\_ Household expansion required relocation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Physical health problems
- \_\_\_\_\_ Substandard housing
- \_\_\_\_\_ Legal issues

3. How much is your monthly rent? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you have an eviction notice or a 3-day notice to leave the premises? \_\_\_\_\_  
 If so, how far along are you in the process? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Are you current on your rent payments? \_\_\_\_\_  
 If not, how far behind are you? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Do you think your landlord is willing to work with you? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Landlord Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*collect ROI from client to speak with landlord if necessary.

6. Do you have any past due utilities? \_\_\_\_\_  
 If so, which ones and how much? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Do you have a disconnect notice? If so, what is the shut off date? \_\_\_\_\_

**Child's School History**

First Name	Enrolled?	Grade Level	Current School	Type? (see below for categories)	Past schools attended and dates
1. _____	Y N	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	Y N	_____	_____	_____	_____

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Y N \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ Y N \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of school: Public or Parochial or other private school**

For children that are in school, how are they doing?

First Name

How doing?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

If child is not currently enrolled in school, what date was the child last enrolled in school?

First Name

Date of last enrollment?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Did client progress to Enrollment phase after assessment? Yes No

If No, why not?

- Client refused to participate
- Client not eligible per assessment – not at risk of literal homelessness
- Client not eligible per assessment – client needs are too great for program design
- Client unresponsive to communication
- Client resolved crisis w/o assistance
- Program at capacity