



PLANNING FOR HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION



American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)
Homeless Prevention & Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRP)

HPRP Prevention

“If not for this assistance would they be homeless?”



A Prevention Program under HPRP is designed to **PREVENT** or **DIVERT** persons from being homeless. In many ways it looks like local emergency assistance activities, but with a higher level of case management or supportive services than normal emergency/financial assistance programs provide over a longer-term.

HUD strongly encourages targeting prevention assistance to those individuals/families at greatest risk of becoming homeless.

Change we can believe in



- Consider how prevention and emergency assistance is currently provided in your community. With this large amount of funding, with local control, can you design a system that changes what is broken today?
 - ▣ Do people in your community have to go to multiple Emergency Assistance Centers to gather enough money to pay their rent in a time of crisis?
 - ▣ Do people in your community receive supportive services when they need rental assistance?
 - ▣ Do people in your community receive mainstream resource benefits access support if they are in financial crisis to ensure they really are getting benefits they need?

Planning a prevention program

- Consider including – those in your community who are currently doing prevention work. Think about who are the emergency assistance providers...who gets your FEMA money for emergency rent/utility assistance? Make sure your CoC leadership is involved!
- Consider access into the program....do you have a 211 system that could screen and direct clients most at-risk...do you have a “common intake into shelter” system that could screen and divert to the program?

ESTABLISH A HOMELESS PREVENTION TEAM TO DESIGN AND/OR IMPLEMENT THE NEW PROGRAM

(?)



Every point with a (?) indicates a point of decision making for the Homeless Prevention Team

HPRP Notice at:

<http://hudhre.info/index.cfm?do=viewHPRP>

Funding Available

HPRP Funds Available

Go to: <http://hudhre.info/index.cfm?do=viewHPRP#top> to view the list of ARRA Homeless Prevention Fund Formula Allocations

Determine your allocation.

Consider – do you want to partner with another jurisdiction (especially if the City and its County received an award) – HUD is allowing one jurisdiction to sub-grant it's award to another (see Notice page 12) (?)

DETERMINE PROGRAM ALLOCATIONS (?)

Prevention	Rapid Rehousing	HMIS (Notice page 18)	Administration (Notice page 18)
What %	What %	What will it take to implement HMIS in new agencies, with new users?	Limited to 5%

Homeless Prevention Fund Breakdown

HOMELESS PREVENTION -- ESTIMATION	
Available Funding	Determine what portion of the available funds should be spent on prevention activities.
Financial Assistance	Determine maximum rent, utility assistance, moving costs allowable per case
Hotel/Motel	Do you need to set aside money for hotel/motel housing? (Notice page 16)
Outreach/engagement (HUD is not using social work terms here)	Do you have costs associated with publicizing the program?
Case management	Determine if you will be hiring case workers to provide supportive services. If so determine caseworker to client ratio. (Notice page 16)
Legal Services	Do you need to contract/hire legal services? (Notice page 17)
Credit Repair	Do you need to contract/hire credit repair services? (Notice page 17)

Targeted clients



May serve either/both at-risk families or single individuals with Prevention Funds.

“Resources will be **targeted** and **prioritized** to serve **households most in need of temporary assistance** and are **most likely to achieve stable housing**, whether subsidized or unsubsidized outside of HPRP after the program concludes.”

Eligible Activities



- Financial Assistance
- Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services
- Data Collection
- Administration

“Activities are intentionally focused on housing – either financial assistance to help pay for housing or services designed to keep people in housing or to find housing.”

Focused activities



Services **must** focus on:

- Housing stabilization
- Linking program participants to community resources and mainstream benefits
- Helping clients develop a plan to prevent future homelessness or housing instability

Eligible Financial Assistance

- Rental assistance to maintain someone in housing. Grantees must choose either up to 3 month assistance (short-term) OR 4-18 months assistance (medium term). (?)
 - Shallow Subsidy (payment of a portion of the rent)
 - 100% of rent
 - Graduated/declining subsidy
 - NO assistance may be provided to persons in subsidized housing (e.g. Section 8, CMHA, SPC, CoC)
 - No Mortgage assistance may be provided
- Utility assistance
- Assistance with moving (under certain conditions)
 - Deposit
 - First Month's Rent
 - Utility Deposit
 - Moving Cost Assistance
- Rent or utility arrears

Hotel/Motel



Though generally not a *Prevention Activity* -- HPRP funding may be used to provide motel or hotel vouchers.

- ▣ Hotels must be reasonable and appropriate facilities.
- ▣ No voucher may be issued for more than 30 days.
- ▣ Vouchers may only be issued if NO shelter beds are available AND subsequent rental housing has been identified but is not immediately available for move-in by participants.

Ineligible or Prohibited Activities

- ❑ Payment of mortgage assistance
- ❑ Construction/rehabilitation
- ❑ Credit card bills or other consumer debt
- ❑ Car repair or other transportation costs
- ❑ Travel costs
- ❑ Food
- ❑ Medical, dental care or medicine
- ❑ Clothing or grooming
- ❑ Home furnishings
- ❑ Pet care
- ❑ Entertainment activities
- ❑ Work or education related materials
- ❑ Cash assistance to program participants
- ❑ Any other activity that another Recovery Act Resource may pay for – including child care and employment training.

Maximum Assistance

“Grantee programs should ensure that there is a clear process for determining the type, **level, and duration** of assistance for each program participant”

- Must be “**need based**” – agencies must determine the **MINIMUM** amount needed to assist a case.
- Assistance budgeted at an average of **\$(?)/case**
- A maximum per case limit of **\$(?)/case**
- A maximum number of times the same case can be assisted **(?)**

Requirements for Program Participants

- All cases assisted with financial assistance must have at least an initial consultation with a case manager
- Household must be at or below 50% of Area Median Income (See: <http://www.huduser.org/DATASETS/il.html>)
- Household must be at-risk of losing its housing and meet both the following circumstances:
 1. No appropriate subsequent housing options have been identified. AND
 2. The household lacks the financial resources and support networks needed to obtain immediate housing or remain in its existing housing.

Participant Requirements continued



- “HUD strongly encourages grantees to target prevention assistance to those individuals and families at greatest risk of becoming homeless”

*Would this case be homeless **but** for this assistance?*

- Selected risk factors that will help you determine who to target for assistance (?) (Notice page 24 provides a list to consider)

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

HMIS is required for use with Prevention Programs.

HMIS Considerations:

- ❑ New data-standards will be released to include prevention activities – coordinate with your vendor.
- ❑ Are new user licenses required – coordinate with your vendor.
- ❑ Plan for HMIS training of new users (even if the agency is using the system expect the Prevention Program staff to be new users)
- ❑ Plan for reporting to be generated by HMIS (HUD quarterly reporting is required (Notice page 37-38))
- ❑ Plan that individual Prevention agency will need the ability to pull individual reports based on their agencies data for internal use.
- ❑ Plan for on-going user support.

Note: If you do not have an established HMIS in your jurisdiction, the notice also permits the use of a compatible data base.

General items



- No match for these funds is required
- Local jurisdictions, private foundations, etc. may add to the funds available.
- Rent reasonableness tests are required.
- Housing inspection is required for all clients that are moved to new units with this assistance (process to be developed)

Timeline



- Consolidated plan amendment must be sent no later than *May 18, 2009*
- HUD has a maximum of 45 days to ok the plan or return it for amendment.
- Funds must be obligated by *September 30, 2009*



Prepared by:



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