**Rapid Re-Housing for Families: Making A Difference**

In 2009, Congress reauthorized the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Programs through the Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act, including incentives for communities to adopt rapid re-housing. To prevent large increases in homelessness due to recession, Congress also included $1.5 billion for the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Communities are relying primarily on McKinney-Vento and HPRP to implement rapid re-housing. It is having a tremendous impact. Families are moving quickly out of homelessness and into housing of their own, often with modest amounts of financial assistance. Evidence from communities across the country demonstrates that the country is on the right path to end family homelessness. It is critical that Congress provide the funding necessary to sustain their efforts. The following provides a small sample of the successful outcomes communities are achieving with rapid re-housing for families

Alabama

***State of Alabama*** rapidly re-housed 431 persons in homeless families through HPRP grants from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs with a median of 4 months of assistance. Over 80 percent of families assisted with three months of financial assistance or more exited homelessness for a permanent destination, as did virtually all families provided with less than three months of assistance.

***Mobile and Baldwin Counties*** rapidly re-housed 91 persons in families, providing a median of 83 days of financial assistance. All families exited homelessness for a permanent housing destination.

California

***Alameda County*** rapidly re-housed 192 families at an average cost of $2,587 per household. Only 3 percent of the households assisted with rapid re-housing returned to shelter within a 12 month period. The average cost for each successful exit using rapid re-housing in Alameda County is $2,800, a fraction of the $25,000 cost for each successful exit from transitional housing.

***Bakersfield and Kern County*** rapidly re-housed over 500 families. The new HPRP-funded prevention and rapid re-housing resources contributed to a 12 percent reduction in family homelessness between 2009 and 2011 despite a persistent double digit unemployment rate in the County.

***Marin County*** rapidly re-housed 119 homeless families at an average cost of $1,600, approximately $500 less than the cost of providing just one month of emergency shelter.

***Sacramento*** rapidly re-housed homeless families at an average cost of $5,262 for each successful exit to permanent housing. Only two percent of families experienced homelessness within 12 months of being assisted. In contrast, the average cost of each successful exit to permanent housing from transitional housing is $29,379 in Sacramento.

Florida

***Palm Beach County*** rapidly re-housed 154 homeless families at an average cost of $5,900. Nearly all (96 percent) of the households were re-housed directly from an emergency shelter or domestic violence program and most (69 percent) were re-housed within 30 days of entering shelter. Families received on average 9 months of rental assistance from HPRP and 20 percent were eventually connected to a permanent rent subsidy. One year after exiting the program, 75 percent of families remain housed.

Georgia

***DeKalb County*** rapidly re-housed 163 homeless families through a grant to Project Communities Connections, Inc. (PCCI), 97 percent of those assisted have had a subsequent homeless episode.

Illinois

***McHenry County*** rapidly re-housed 22 families since December 2010. All 22 families moved directly into permanent housing.

Louisiana

***Ouachita Parish/Monroe*** rapidly re-housed 193 households, including 228 children. Eighty percent of those assisted moved directly into permanent housing with an average of $1,860 in rental assistance.

Michigan

***State of Michigan*** rapidly re-housed 4,550 homeless persons in families. As of September 2011, fewer than five percent of families assisted have had a subsequent homeless episode.

Minnesota

***Hennepin County (Minneapolis)*** rapidly re-houses approximately 1,100 families each year through the state-funded Family Homelessness Prevention Assistance Program (FHPAP). With very limited start-up financial assistance, 90 percent of families remain outside the shelter system six months after receiving assistance.

Nevada

***Reno*** successfully rapidly re-housed 47 homeless households, including 36 families with children, since December 2009. All of the households assisted moved directly out of homelessness and into permanent housing for a total program cost of approximately $1,084 per person housed (less than the $1,359 cost of providing a 90 day shelter stay).

New Jersey

***Mercer County (Trenton)*** reduced the number of families relying on shelter or transitional housing on any given day by one-third over the last two years. The County’s first rapid re-housing initiative*, Housing Now,* began accepting families in January 2010. Families in the program were eligible to receive rental assistance for up to 18 months funded through the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Program. Within the first two years, 57 families exited the program. Among the families assisted, 9 percent returned to shelter or transitional housing and 75 percent increased their income from employment by an average of $1,100 a month. The Mercer County Board of Social Services (MCBOSS) was so impressed with the program outcomes, MCBOSS expanded rapid re-housing capacity in the community by creating a rapid re-housing unit within their agency.

New York

***New York City*** rapidly rehoused 16,500 families with locally-funded housing subsidies and services supported by HPRP.  More than 90 percent of families assisted with rapid re-housing have not re-entered shelter.

***Rochester*** rapidly re-housed 286 families with children with HPRP funds. Twelve months after receiving assistance, 60 percent remain stable in the same housing unit they moved into and less than 5 percent have returned to homelessness.

Ohio

***Hamilton County (Cincinnati)*** rapidly re-housed 219 homeless families under the HUD-funded Rapid Re-housing Demonstration Program and with HPRP resources. Fewer than 8 percent of the families assisted returned to shelter within a two year period.

***Montgomery County (Dayton)*** rapidly re-housed 474 households, including 138 families, at an average cost of $1,233. Over 90 percent of the households assisted moved directly out of homelessness and into permanent housing and 80 percent did not have a subsequent homeless episode.

***Oregon***

***Washington County*** rapidly re-housed 46 homeless families, including families on the community’s waitlist for emergency shelter at an average cost of $5,300 per household, including the cost of both rental assistance and case management services provided. Rapid re-housing helped reduce the number of families in the community waiting for emergency shelter. The Board of County Commissioners was so impressed with the outcomes, they provided an additional $88,000 in local county general funds to the county’s prevention and rapid re-housing initiatives.

Pennsylvania

***Philadelphia*** rapidly re-housed 648 homeless families. Only 11 households (1.7 percent) have had a subsequent homeless episode.

Tennessee

***Tennessee Valley*** rapidly re-housed 58 homeless households, including 30 families with children, with an average of $1,140 in rental assistance. Approximately one-third of the households served moved into housing with a permanent rent subsidy. The households assisted included a pregnant mother of two who was rapidly re-housed from emergency shelter after residing in car and a domestic violence survivor who suffered head trauma that left her permanently disabled.

Texas

***Harris County (Houston)*** rapidly re-housed over 1,000 persons in families. Only six percent experienced another homeless episode after being re-housed.

Utah

***Salt Lake City*** with county, and state HPRP funding and TANF resources to The Road Home in Salt Lake City, rapidly re-housed over 1,000 families in the last 31 months. Approximately half of the families transitioned out of the program after receiving on average five months of rental assistance and case management support. Most of the families, 86 percent, did not have a subsequent homeless episode. The road Home is providing targeted assistance to those who did lose their housing to help them achieve housing stability and a permanent end to their homelessness.

Virginia

***Richmond*** rapidly re-housed 30 homeless and doubled up families in a pilot supported by the Community Foundation at an average cost per family served of $2,666. In two years, the median length of time families remained homeless *system-wide* decreased from 90 to 45 days, due, in part to the ability to rapidly re-house families.

Washington

***King County*** rapidly re-housed 100 families at an average cost of $7,900 per household, 68 percent of families moved to permanent housing of their own and 19 percent moved back in with family.

***Sonomish County*** rapidly re-housed 107 families with an average of $1,411 in rental assistance. Less than 2 percent of the families assisted have had a subsequent homeless episode.

***Spokane*** rapidly re-housed132 homeless households (353 persons), including 89 families with children between October 2009 and March 2012 at an average cost of $2,665 per household served. To date, 82 percent of the households leaving the program exited to permanent housing.

***Yakima County*** provided rapid re-housing assistance to approximately 350 individuals in households, including 140 children.  The HPRP-funded prevention and rapid re-housing assistance contributed to 21 percent drop in family homelessness in just one year.