

## **Austin/Travis County, TX Rapid Re-Housing Demonstration Summary**

Community Pilot Serves: **Austin/Travis County, Texas** (Travis County population: 998,543; Austin population: 709,893)

Organizational Lead: **The Salvation Army Austin Area Command**

Partner Organizations: Foundation Communities (commitment of 15 units of affordable housing per year, on-site after-school-care for up to 15 families and financial coaching for 25 families) Caritas of Austin (commitment of Housing Locator services for 10 families per year housed at scattered sites)

Other Passages partner organizations will serve as the primary referral network: SafePlace Family Shelter for Domestic/Sexual Violence Survivors, Foundation for the Homeless Interfaith Hospitality Network, Austin Shelter for Women and Children, LifeWorks Mother's and Babies Emergency Shelter for young parents under 25, Family Connections child care resource program.

Number of People Experiencing Homelessness in Community: 3,451 (PIT 2008)

Number of Families Homeless in Community:

Number of Homeless Families	160 (PIT 2008)
Persons in Families	570 (PIT 2008)

### **Pilot Program Design**

Annual Number of Families Targeted for Rapid Re-Housing Pilot: **25**

Referral Process: Homeless families with children will be referred to a centralized intake at The Salvation Army by Passages case managers at the major emergency shelters and street outreach locations.

The Salvation Army will conduct an assessment using an assessment tool developed to document barriers to housing and potential for applicants to sustain housing if assisted. Priority will be given to families who have the willingness and capacity to engage in short-term job training. The assessment also includes a credit check, rental history, and substance abuse assessment. Intake process is overseen by a licensed clinical social worker.

**Services Planned:**

*Housing Location Strategies:* Fifteen units per year are committed at four Foundation Communities properties with on-site services. Ten units per year will be located with assistance from Caritas of Austin Housing Specialist using an affordable housing database.

*Rental Assistance:* Fifteen units at Foundation Communities will be 100% rent subsidized for one year as clients participate in job training. Ten scattered site units will be subsidized at 100% for 6 months or 50% for 12 months according to assessments.

*Post-Housing Placement:* Home based case management will focus on individualized plans to attain financial stability. The program will assist in paying for short-term training that can result in increased income, subsidized child care and any legal documents needed to obtain housing. Participants will set goals with their case manager to increase skills and income. Plans could include job training, job search to obtain or upgrade employment, debt reduction, and household budgeting. Participants will be encouraged to open savings accounts and take advantage of financial coaching opportunities provided by Foundation Communities' volunteers. Participants may stay in their units unsubsidized after 12 months or move to other permanent housing. Six months follow-up case management is provided to ensure that housing and financial stability are retained.

**Additional Information:**

The Passage Program strives to provide wrap-around services that address each family's needs in a holistic manner. The Passages team of nine case managers meets twice monthly to staff cases and share resources. The Passages Program offers an existing framework of coordinated services that should support and enhance the Rapid Re-Housing Demonstration Project.

The project was funded by HUD for \$795,540 and a matching grant of \$100,000 was also awarded through Salvation Army for three years.

Presenters Name/Contact: Kathleen Ridings, Director of Social Services  
The Salvation Army Austin Area Command  
PO Box 1000, Austin, TX 78767  
[Kathleen\\_Ridings@USS.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Kathleen_Ridings@USS.salvationarmy.org)  
Phone: (512) 634-5916  
Fax: (512) 476-2695