

## **Mercer County, NJ Rapid Re-Housing Demonstration Summary**

Community Pilot Serves: **Mercer County NJ**, a county with a population of 350,000 with one major urban city, Trenton with a population of 85,000

Organizational Lead: **Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness**

Partner Organizations: City of Trenton, County of Mercer, Mercer County Board of Social Services (local TANF agency) and the State Division of Family Development (State TANF agency)

Number of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness in Community:	<b>712</b> (P.I.T. 2009)
Number of Families Homeless in Community:	<b>240</b> (P.I.T. 2009)
Unduplicated shelter admissions: Individuals:	<b>1143</b> (HMIS 2008)
Families:	<b>232</b> (HMIS 2008)

### **Pilot Program Design**

Program: **Mercer Housing Now**

Annual Number of Families Targeted for Rapid Re-Housing Pilot: **50** (rolling)

#### **Referral Process:**

- Families are screened for pilot by the local TANF agency based on a screening tool created for this purpose.
- Screening occurs during the eligibility process for Emergency Assistance or, if not TANF-eligible, when family is identified by shelter as potentially eligible.
- The screening process determines initial eligibility. A further assessment is done by the Rapid Rehousing agency in partnership with the TANF case manager to determine entry into the program

#### **Services Planned:**

##### *Housing Location Strategies:*

Mercer Housing Now has contracted with a real estate agency as a housing locator. They will be responsible for identifying housing stock, working with landlords and ensuring that the housing adheres to local codes and inspection processes. They will participate in a team process to ensure the successful implementation of pilot.

##### *Rental Assistance:*

- Pilot leverages the existing state rental assistance program for TANF eligible families to fund rental assistance for 40 families in the pilot
- HUD Rapid Rehousing Grant funds rental assistance for 9 families and HPRP for 11 additional families

*Post-Housing Placement:*

Case management and flexible funding are available for all families. Assessment determines length of services. A plan focusing on self-sufficiency and housing stability is developed and home-based case management is utilized to access mainstream services.

**Additional Information:**

--A shelter diversion program was developed using HPRP funds and can be utilized during the screening process.

--A system monitoring process has been created to continue the development and monitoring of the pilot. It is coordinated by the Mercer Alliance and includes government funders and Rapid Re-Housing agency.

Contact:

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