

Clallam and Whatcom Counties, WA Rapid Re-Housing Demonstration Summary

Community Pilot Serves: **Clallam and Whatcom counties, Washington State**

Organizational Lead: **Opportunity Council (Community Action) Bellingham, WA**

Partner Organizations: Serenity House of Clallam County, Housing Authority of Clallam County, Whatcom County Health & Human Services, Clallam County Health & Human Services, Housing Assistance Unit, Dept of Commerce (WA)

Number of People Experiencing Homelessness 2009 PIT: Clallam-605, Whatcom-1,328

Number of Families Homeless in Community: Clallam PIT: 90 households--estimated annually: 300.
Whatcom PIT: 271 households-- estimated annually: 515.

Pilot Program Design

Annual Number of Families Targeted for Rapid Re-Housing Pilot: 50 households at a point-in-time, 160 households over 3 year project period

Referral Process: Both counties use a centralized intake and assessment center (3 offices in Clallam and 1 office in Whatcom) serving walk-ins and referrals from CoC agencies, DSHS, faith-based, 211, school liaisons and others. Intake and assessment process is virtually identical in the two counties and based on tools being used in Clallam since 2007. In Whatcom the assessment into RR leads to assignment to a partner agency for housing-based services. In Clallam, assessment into RR (or into other housing program choices) happens at the resource center, including housing assignment, financial plan, housing stability plan and home-based case management plan.

Services Planned:

Housing Location Strategies: Clallam has a well developed housing inventory list and extensive partnerships with landlords and property managers. Available inventory information is updated daily and available at the three Resource Centers. All units used for placement pass HQS inspection. Landlord follow up is very frequent at the initiation of placement, to ensure a quick response to issues. Both Clallam and Whatcom have staff doing outreach and education to landlords and property managers, to increase our access to affordable inventory and help the community understand the program and how it benefits the local market. Incentives are used rarely; landlords appreciate a reliable financial plan, case management presence, good outcomes and the ability to reduce periods of vacancy.

Rental Assistance: The Rapid Re-Housing Demonstration will fund up to 18 months of rental assistance and case management, with the client household paying 30% of gross household income. Our experience indicates that moderate-barrier households exit the program in 8-10 months, having increased household income to the point where they can sustain housing and related costs without overburdening the family budget.

Post-Housing Placement: Families go into appropriate and affordable permanent housing, which they retain when exiting the program. Home-based services are very focused on assisting the family build household income and make progress towards the goals they have determined. Case managers are experts in

linking families to suitable mainstream and community resources. Families continue to be eligible for extended case management and services post-discharge and are eligible for financial assistance from the Housing Resource Centers, which could include one-time rental assistance or other longer-term assistance.

Additional Information: Matching funds for services for the Rapid Re-Housing pilot come from the Washington State Homeless Gap Assistance Program. In addition, the federal funds leveraged about \$1.2 million in local government and community resources and services. In Clallam, some of the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program funds through the stimulus plan will be used for similar rapid-rehousing opportunities for adult households. We project that 80% of the families served in RR pilot will come from emergency shelter and 20% from the street.

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