

Greater New Orleans, LA Rapid Re-Housing Demonstration Summary

Community Pilot Serves: **Greater New Orleans Area** –Population of 750,000 with one major urban city, New Orleans, with a population of 311,000.

Organizational Lead: **UNITY of Greater New Orleans**

Partner Organizations: 3 project sponsors to provide services (TBD); 5 emergency shelters for homeless families; homeless outreach teams and LA Department of Social Services.

Number of People Experiencing Homelessness in Community: 11,500

Number of Families Homeless in Community: 745

Pilot Program Design

Annual Number of Families Targeted for Rapid Re-Housing Pilot: 122

Referral Process: Eligibility includes families with dependent children presently living in emergency shelters or in places not fit for human habitation **and** those who have moderate housing barriers.

- 1) The Salvation Army Emergency Family Shelter, will serve as the site for the point of entry.
- 2) An intake worker, funded by the pilot project, will have an office at the site and will screen referrals for potential eligibility.
- 3) If the family is found to be potentially eligible for the program, an assessment is scheduled at a location convenient to the family (other emergency shelter, day shelter, etc.) to determine acceptance into program and extent of needs, problems, barriers, etc.
- 4) If assessment confirms eligibility, family is accepted into program and services commence.

Services Planned:

Housing Location Strategies:

- UNITY's housing search program, www.unityhousinglink.org, will identify affordable housing possibilities for participants based on preferences and needs. Landlords list their units free on the HousingLink website which is co-sponsored by the Apartment Association of New Orleans. Only rentals with rents lower or at 80% of the local Fair Market Rents can be listed on the website (to ensure affordability for lower-income tenants).
- HousingLink staff network and negotiate lower rents with landlords by offering additional support to landlords as they rent to tenants with significant challenges.

Rental Assistance:

- Based on assessment, 3 to 6 months of rental assistance will be provided.

Post-Housing Placement:

- In addition to rental assistance for a pre-determined # of months based on assessment, other services include: home-based case management, landlord mediation, life skills training, employment services and linkages to mainstream and other resources.

Additional Information:

- After a family has established an ongoing source of income, family may be referred to the UNITY Housing Choice Voucher Set-Aside Program, a partnership with the local housing authority that has set aside 100 HCV vouchers for homeless families. UNITY is targeting the most vulnerable homeless families (those who have lived in congregate shelters within the last 3 years) for this program.
- This Rapid Re-housing Pilot Program will also be coordinated with upcoming HPRP funds.

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