

Kalamazoo County, MI Rapid Re-Housing Demonstration Summary

Community Pilot Serves: **Kalamazoo County, Kalamazoo, Michigan**

Organizational Lead: **Housing Resources, Inc. (HRI)**

Partner Organizations: Service Providers in Kalamazoo County

Number of People Experiencing Homelessness in Community (2008): 3,666

Number of Families Homeless in Community (2008): 1,041

Pilot Program Design

Annual Number of Families Targeted for Rapid Re-Housing Pilot: 20 families per year for three years. The target population reflects a current gap in services within our community and is complimentary to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. In addition to the NOFA eligibility requirements, participating households will:

- 1) Be experiencing their first crisis with homelessness (as verified by HMIS); and,
- 2) Have incomes between 30—50% of Area Median Income; and,
- 3) Has a score of between 7-10 on the Arizona Self Sufficiency Matrix at the time of entrance to the program.

Referral Process: Kalamazoo County has a centralized intake process through HRI which includes direct worker referral from one of six area shelters. Assessment for Rapid Re-housing occurs first by shelter staff through the Rapid Re-housing screening/assessment tool. Households meeting the eligibility criteria will be referred to the HRI Landlord Liaison Officer who completes an in depth housing assessment, including identification of sustainable housing alternatives, within the first 48 hours of entering emergency shelter.

Services Planned:

Housing Location Strategies: The HRI has established Landlord Liaison services providing tenant placement, tenant mediation, tenant education, and landlord outreach/education. A quarterly newsletter is distributed to over 300 area landlords. Identification of sustainable housing alternatives is made within the first 48 hours of entering emergency shelter.

Rental Assistance: In addition to the 3-6 months of rental assistance provided in the Pilot Program, HRI offers a variety of complimentary Rapid-Re-housing housing programs including: Transitional HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA), Permanent Supportive Housing. HRI has also developed and currently operates four Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) developments representing 281 units (117 of which are reserved for persons with special needs at or below 30% AMI).

Post-Housing Placement: HRI has memorandums of understanding (MOU's) with area mainstream service providers. Providers of service to program participants agree to provide ongoing support services for the duration of their participation of participation. Six month post exit participation is also part of the service design. Participating families will realize an increase in self sufficiency through skill building/increased income at the time of exit from the program as documented in HMIS.

Additional Information: In addition to the Rapid Re-housing services available through HRI, the agency serves as the HMIS systems administrator for the local continuum of care. HRI also operates a 24 bed emergency shelter for families and is the primary provider of private Homeless Prevention services. The agency's prevention services are focused through a county-wide Eviction Diversion Program. This innovative program is a broad based community collaborative involving the courts, mainstream service providers, legal aid, fair housing, landlords, and HRI. One-stop Housing Clinics staffed by multiple agencies and on site intervention teams at the District Court are the primary modes of service delivery.

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