

## **DCA Rapid Re-Housing Overview**

- Rapid Re-Housing Programs are designed to help homeless people transition more rapidly out of the shelter system or to avoid a shelter stay altogether.
- The primary goal is to stabilize a consumer in permanent housing as quickly as possible.
- Agencies assist consumers in quickly identifying barriers and providing assistance to overcome those barriers.
- Programs should provide time-limited flexible funds to secure permanent housing partnered with in-home housing support.

### **Rapid Re-Housing Philosophy**

- There is an immediate and primary focus on helping families and individuals access permanent housing as quickly as possible
- Obtaining Housing is the primary goal and services are provided AFTER the family or individual obtains housing in order sustain housing
- Individualized services are provided primarily following the move into permanent housing, to help the individual or family attain improved social and/or economic well-being
- The housing is not time-limited

### **Evidence to Support the Rapid Re-Housing Model**

- Research found that families with lowest needs stayed in transitional housing the longest
- Research also found that length of stay in transitional housing was not linked to a difference in outcomes
- Hennepin County found that 75% of the consumers screened were candidates for Rapid Re-Housing
- Reduces time in shelters
- Saves Time and Money
  - Hennepin County found that families stayed in shelters to save the \$2000 needed for housing – cost the shelters an average of \$9000 per family. Now they provide the \$2000 up front and save money, time and resources as well as decrease the negative outcomes for the family
- High Success Rate
  - Consumers are better able to engage in services once they are stably housed
  - 88% of families placed in housing by Beyond Shelter were still in permanent housing 3 years after initial placement.
  - Two years after program entry, 85% of families in the Rapid Exit Program remained in permanent housing.

# Components of Rapid Re-Housing

## Phase 1: Intake and Assessment

### Phase 2: Housing Search

### Phase 3: Housing Placement

### Phase 4: Housing Support

## Phase 1: Intake and Assessment

### Components

- Crisis Stabilization
- Meeting IMMEDIATE needs
- Assessing Barriers to Housing
- Assessing Needs and Resources
- Initial Case Management around ACCESSING HOUSING

### Considerations

- Where will consumers come from?
  - Shelters, Service Providers, DFCS, etc.
- Who is responsible for initial intake, assessment and crisis stabilization?
- Which individuals/families should be targeted?

## Phase 2: Housing Search

### Components

- Clarifying consumers' housing needs and preferences
- Developing rental "resumes"
- Addressing any immediate barriers to housing
- Partnering with Landlords
- Assisting with locating viable housing

### Considerations

- How can you help to increase access to affordable housing in the community?
- Where can you find affordable housing? Who can you partner with to increase this access?
- Where can you find housing for clients with certain barriers (bad credit, poor rental history, criminal background, large family, etc.)?

## Phase 3: Housing Placement

### Components

- Assistance with negotiating a lease
  - Partnering with Landlords
- Financial assistance such as:
  - Short-term rental subsidy, Deposit, Utilities, Moving Expenses
- Partnerships with other agencies and the community to provide resources (e.g. furniture)

### Considerations

- Who will be the initial lease holder?
- What types of direct financial assistance will you provide?
- What amount of direct financial assistance will you provide? For how long?
- How flexible and accessible will this funding be?

## Phase 4: Housing Support

### Components

- Individualized home-based case management services after a consumer has moved into the home
  - Intensive during the first 90 days
  - Intensifies during crisis
  - Connecting people to community resources and services to meet their particular needs
- Providing ongoing crisis prevention and crisis management as needed
- Experience has shown that formerly homeless families are most at risk for another episode of homelessness during the first 90 days in permanent housing.

### Considerations

- How long will you provide case management services?
- What intensity of services will you provide?
- Will the intensity of services vary over time?
- How will you tailor services to the individual needs of the consumer?
- How will you encourage people to participate in case management and keep them engaged over time?
- What relationships can you create with other agencies to increase the scope of services?
- How will you train and support staff?
- What will the case management load look like?
- How will you track the success of your services?

## **Important Agency/Staff Competencies**

- Ability to employ an individualized case management approach that empowers and motivates consumers to work toward their goals
- Ability to engage consumers and interest them in participating in case management
- Ability to employ crisis prevention, crisis management and other methods to prevent a re-occurrence of homelessness whenever possible
- Willingness to work off-site and outside of regular work day
- Ability to thoroughly assess needs and resources of consumers
- Ability to help consumers identify housing needs and preferences
- Ability to access funds for consumers in a timely manner while managing overall finances
- Ability to develop strong collaborations with other agencies
- Understanding needs/concerns of landlords and development of strong partnerships
- Knowledge of tenant rights

## **Important Steps in Starting a Rapid Re-Housing Program**

- Understand and Adopt the Philosophy
- Define your Target Population
- Assess the Availability of Existing Resources
- Identify Funding
- Get Buy-In from Board, Staff, Funders
- Develop Program Goals
- Define Program Design
- Hire or Re-Train Staff
- Identify and Develop Community Linkages
- Conduct Outreach to Landlords
- Track Program Success and Challenges

*\* National Alliance to End Homelessness (2004)*

## **Resources**

- Beyond Shelter - [www.beyondshelter.org](http://www.beyondshelter.org)
- National Alliance to End Family Homelessness – [www.naeh.org](http://www.naeh.org)
- Homelessness Resource Exchange – [www.hudhre.org](http://www.hudhre.org)