

INNOVATIVE SOLUTION

The Recovery Act's Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program has, in short order, fundamentally changed the way communities provide services to people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless...

Opening Doors 2010

RETOOL THE HOMELESS CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM

Objective 10:

Transform homeless services to crisis response systems that prevent homelessness and rapidly return people who experience homelessness to stable housing.

Opening Doors 2010

Objective 10. Transform Crisis Response Systems for Veterans, Families, Youth, Chronic Homeless

- a. Promote best practices in crisis response •••••
- b. Use mainstream resources for housing stability •••••
- c. Implementation strategies for HEARTH Act •••••
- d. Ensure continuity through HPRP services •••••
- e. Ensure prevention in place-based strategies •••••

Opening Doors 2010

Objective 3: Increase Access to Stable and Affordable Housing

Provide affordable housing to people experiencing or most at risk of homelessness

Assessment and targeting mechanisms need to be used to distinguish between those who can resolve their homeless situation on their own or with mainstream supports, those who need targeted short-term assistance, and those who require long-term housing assistance.

Opening Doors 2010

United Way, City of Wichita, Catholic Charities Wichita, & Center of Hope

A collaborative effort to deliver ARRA
Homeless Prevention & Rapid ReHousing
in Sedgwick County, Kansas

TARGET

Our local collaborative targets those clients who are:

- 1) most need of temporary assistance, and
- 2) most likely to achieve stable housing outside of grant support within 3 months.



Catholic Charities Wichita

Application Process for Rapid ReHousing

Central point of contact - United Way 2-1-1

To apply clients call 2-1-1 to be screened for eligibility and suitability or a referral can be made by authorized United Way partner agencies.

Eligibility: Must be literally homeless and at, or below 50% AMI.

Suitability: Clients must have some income or be able to demonstrate that they have immediate pending income.

Clients determined eligible and suitable by United Way are referred to Catholic Charities.

Application process time line: (typical)



- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 5 days | United Way sends referral to Catholic Charities |
| 2 days | Client attends intake meeting and receives application packet |
| 10 days | Client submits application packet |
| 10 days | Application processed and sent to City for approval |
| 1 day | City approves (or denies) application |
| 2 days | Client meets with CM and develops Housing Services Plan |
| 5 – 30 days | Client locates housing |
| 2 days | Unit inspected |
| 1 day | Lease signed and client moves in |

All housing guidelines, allowable rent rates, inspections, occupancy standards, etc. are the same as those established by the Wichita Housing Authority for Section 8 clients

Financial services HPRP Sedgwick County can provide to achieve stable housing:

- Rent assistance
- Security deposit
- Utility assistance
- Utility deposit
- Utility arrearage up to 6 months
- Moving expenses

Statistics (unofficial):

- 67% clients came from local shelters
- 102 households consisting of 213 household members have been place in permanent housing since 12/2009
- Number of single persons vs. families of two or more is split 50/50
- Average cost per household is \$2,567.35

The creation of the temporary Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) at HUD through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act gave communities resources to begin retooling their homeless crisis response systems.

The HEARTH Act sets a goal of ensuring that no family is homeless for more than 30 days.

Stable housing is the foundation
upon which people build their lives