

Emergency Housing and Services

The goal of this program is to offer people who are experiencing homelessness immediate safety off the streets, and to provide them with shelter, meals, direct access to supportive services, and linkage to stable housing. Since the December 2004 launch of *Home Again: A Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness in Portland and Multnomah County*, the emphasis is shifting to placement into permanent housing linked with services to support stable tenancy.

EMERGENCY HOUSING AND SERVICE NEEDS

The need for Emergency Housing and Services is documented in the 2005-2010 Consolidated Plan, at pp. 147-148.

EMERGENCY HOUSING AND SERVICES PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Emergency Housing and Services offers immediate safety off the streets and provides shelter, meals, and direct access to supportive services to people who are experiencing homelessness. Increasingly, jurisdictions are encouraging, and in some cases requiring, that emergency housing providers link their clients to stable housing.

The services available vary from program to program. Some programs offer only basic shelter on a night-to-night basis, including inclement weather shelter, and night shelter where large groups of adults sleep on mats in a community space.

Most City programs offer longer stays, individualized assessments, case management services, and housing placement, as well as on-site access to specialized services such as alcohol and drug treatment, mental health, and employment programs. Some offer rent assistance to support successful transition to permanent housing, as well as home-based follow-along services after placement in permanent housing. Efforts are made to provide culturally appropriate services that will engage people with diverse backgrounds and needs.

PROGRAM TOOLS

- Initial assessments and appropriate referrals
- Meals
- Case management/individualized plans to achieve goals
- Guest beds with specialized services provided by partner organizations

Ending Homelessness

- Sleeping facilities (different degrees of privacy, hours of operation, and durations of stay)
- Housing placement services
- Follow-up/retention support
- Short-term rent assistance
- Linkage to mental health services or on-site mental health services
- Linkage or direct access to medical care and medications
- Linkage to chemical dependency services and detox
- Tuberculosis testing
- Transportation assistance

PROJECT SELECTION

The City of Portland renews funding for agencies carrying out Emergency Housing and Service activities, provided that the contractual obligations have been met and that the project outcomes have been successful. The City may choose to reduce or eliminate funding to an agency that does not meet contractual obligations, or that administers a project that fails to meet outcome goals. If an existing program does not fit with the Bureau's objectives, the agency may be asked to change its program design.

The City does not plan to initiate other large on-going emergency housing and service programs.

Some Emergency Shelter Activities are funded with ESG. Pursuant to Federal regulation, ESG funds must be matched by local funds. In FY 2008-09, total ESG is \$441,858. Local match invested in homeless program areas will include \$1,804,456 in City of Portland General Fund, and almost \$1,193,321 in CDBG, for a total of \$2,997,777, well exceeding the required match for ESG funded projects.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Single adults, youth, and families who are homeless are eligible for emergency housing and services. The City of Portland funds Emergency Housing and Services primarily for adult men and adult women. Multnomah County is the lead funder and oversight body for the Homeless Youth System, programs for homeless families with children, and domestic violence programs. Emergency

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housing services for large families with children and people with motor disabilities are available through Multnomah County's motel voucher program.

Unfortunately, emergency housing services are extremely limited for couples, people with pets, or in non-traditional families.

POTENTIAL BARRIERS

Potential Barriers are described in the 2005-2010 Consolidated Plan, at p. 150.

Multnomah County plans to cut \$20 million from its budget in FY 2008-09. This may affect funding for the County's emergency housing and services programs, and may result in the closure of some facilities.

PARTNER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

- Multnomah County oversees the homeless youth system, the domestic violence system, and the programs that serve homeless families with children.
- HAP provides Project-Based Section 8 to increase the supply of permanent supportive housing for people transitioning out of emergency shelters and owns many transitional housing properties.
- Many nonprofit organizations provide housing and services to people experiencing homelessness. The faith community provides shelter and food to many homeless people.

COMPLEMENTARY LOCAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL EFFORTS

The Emergency Housing and Services program plays a key role in the homeless service system. *Home Again: A Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness in Portland and Multnomah County* outlines the need for additional outreach and housing placement options to reduce the pressure on the shelter system and ensure that permanent housing is the primary housing option for people who are homeless. Under the Ten Year Plan, the Emergency Housing program will continue to provide immediate safety off the streets and direct access into services. Stays will be shorter, with the majority of all residents moving quickly into stable permanent housing. Individuals who have a pattern of repeated homelessness despite placement into permanent housing will be assessed and moved out of emergency shelter into more appropriate housing.

Ending Homelessness

GEOGRAPHIC SERVICE AREAS (INCLUDING AREAS OF LOW-INCOME FAMILIES AND/OR RACIAL/MINORITY CONCENTRATION)

Facilities offering emergency housing and services for adults and homeless youth are located in downtown Portland and in the Central East Side. Shelter facilities have good proximity to other essential services via public transportation within Fareless Square.

Family emergency housing and services, overseen by Multnomah County, are spread across Multnomah County, with services in NE Portland, N Portland, Inner SE Portland, Outer SE Portland/Gresham, NW Portland, and SW Portland.

MONITORING

A description of BHCD's Monitoring program is in Section One of the 2005-2010 Consolidated Plan.

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