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Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing

Through the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP), funds are available to provide housing stability services in Tennessee communities. The State of Tennessee was awarded \$13,467,433 to provide financial assistance and services to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless or to help those who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized.

THDA is required to pass these funds through to units of local governments and /or private non-profit organizations to provide direct HPRP services. THDA's HPRP program started October 1, 2009 and is expected to last two years depending on the availability of federal funds and program demand.

THDA will allocate funds to the state's 10 Continuum of Care organizations based on an existing HUD formula with additional data that reflects current Tennessee unemployment and change in unemployment data.

A Continuum of Care is a community-based, long-range plan that addresses the needs of homeless persons in order to help them reach maximum self-sufficiency. The Continuum of Care is developed through collaboration with a broad cross section of the community and based on an assessment of local homeless needs and resources. The Continuum of Care is recommended by HUD as a comprehensive and strategic approach to addressing homelessness.

[Contact the Continuum of Care in your county](#) for more information on the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program.

Background

- The Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) is one of many grant opportunities made available to states and cities through the \$1.4B American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). HPRP is funded by HUD.
- The statewide program in Tennessee is administered by THDA. The four Entitlement Cities listed below will administer their own allocation directly.
- At present, this is a one-time federal Grant Award with a requirement that all funds be spent within three years. THDA allocated funds locally over an initial two year contract period beginning October 2009.

Tennessee Allocation:

TN STATE PROGRAM-THDA	\$13,467,433		
CHATTANOOGA	\$712,946	MEMPHIS	\$3,329,685
KNOXVILLE	\$771,803	NASHVILLE-DAVIDSON	\$2,012,994

Program Intent

- Housing stabilization. HPRP basically provides rent and utility assistance and case management activities to prevent low income individuals from becoming homeless and to quickly move currently homeless people back in to suitable housing.
- Intent is to serve persons who are homeless or would be homeless without this assistance and can remain stably housed after this temporary assistance ends.

HPRP is NOT...

- A mortgage assistance program
- Intended to serve persons who need long-term and/or intensive supports
- A housing subsidy program; it is short term, temporary assistance

Tennessee's HPRP Program Guidelines
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THDA will provide HPRP funding through formula contracts to Tennessee's 10 Continuum of Care organizations.

In this way, THDA can ensure:

- A streamlined funding mechanism that meets HUD recommendations and timelines;
- availability of funds in all 95 counties;
- successful targeting of THDA-identified populations; and
- quick project implementation with a network of organizations familiar with the housing stability issues faced by homeless people and at-risk populations.

ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS:

Program participants must be homeless or about to become homeless AND:

- Undergo an initial consultation to determine appropriate assistance
- Income of 50% or less Area Median Income (AMI) (*50% TN AMI maximum is \$34,500*)
- have no other housing options

Eligible Activities:

- Short term rent and utility assistance (up to 12 months in extreme situations)
- Rent/Utility arrears (up to 6 months), but counts toward max. 12-month service period
- Rental assistance must comply with HUD's "rent reasonableness" and "housing suitability" standards.
- Security / Utility Deposits
- Moving costs
- Hotel/motel vouchers (up to 30 days)
- Case management, outreach, housing search and placement to:
 - o - assist homeless persons that need temporary assistance to locate/obtain housing
 - o - assist persons at risk of homelessness to maintain housing
 - o

Ineligible Activities:

- Duplicate payments – using HPRP funds and another source for the exact same activity

- Mortgage assistance
- Paying the operational costs of homeless shelters or other housing programs
- Direct payments to program participants
- Payment of credit arrears (credit cards, loans, etc)

THDA Program Management Responsibilities:

- THDA must assure that HPRP is administered in coordination with existing CofC and other local homeless planning efforts to:
 - Identify local gaps and needs for HPRP services
 - Promote collaborative use of other federal Recovery Act funds
 - Align HPRP activities with CoC strategies for preventing and ending homelessness
- All Recovery Act programs have stringent and transparent accountability, reporting, and data collection responsibilities. THDA will report to HUD quarterly on HPRP activities.
- HUD limits administrative expenses to 5% of the Grant Award and requires that the state share administrative expenses with funded partners. THDA will retain 2% and pass through 3%.

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