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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 has been allocated \$13,467,433 to provide financial assistance and services to either prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless or to help those who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized. Local HUD Entitlement jurisdictions will receive separate allocations directly from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). THDA is administering the state allocation.

The Substantial Amendment to the Consolidated Plan and Program Description was submitted to HUD on May 15, 2009. HUD has until July 2, 2009 to approve the Substantial Amendment and must execute a Grant Agreement by September 1, 2009. THDA is required to pass these funds through to units of local governments and /or private non-profit entities.

THDA is required to execute all local sub-grantee contract agreements by September 30, 2009, and expects an effective local program start date of October 1, 2009. THDA will allocate funds to the state's 10 Continuum of Care organizations based on the HUD-defined pro rata share formula and additional data that reflects current Tennessee unemployment and change in unemployment data. Tennessee's Continua cover all 95 counties.

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. [Click here for the map with contact information.](#)

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 will allocate funds locally over an initial two year contract period beginning October 2009.

Tennessee Allocation:

TN STATE PROGRAM	\$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.
- Provides temporary financial assistance and/or services to help persons gain housing stability.
- 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

Tennessee’s HPRP Program Guidelines

THDA will provide the majority of the HPRP funding through formula contracts to Tennessee’s 10 Continuum of Care organizations.

In this way, THDA can ensure:

- A streamlined application and 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 is \$22,200-31,600*)
- have no other housing options
- have no financial resources or support networks to obtain or remain in housing

1. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - Eligible Activities:

- Rent and Utility assistance up to 12 months
- Arrears (up to 6 months) but counts toward 12-month service period
- Rental assistance must comply with HUD’s “rent reasonableness” and “housing suitability” standards.
- Security and/or Utility Deposits

- Moving costs, Storage (up to 3 months)
- Hotel/motel vouchers (up to 30 days)
- Staffing costs to issue financial assistance and provide housing inspections.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - Ineligible Activities:

- Duplicate payments – using HPRP funds and another source for exact same cost type/same time period
- Mortgage assistance
- Operations costs of housing programs
- Direct payments to program participants
- Payment of credit arrears (credit cards, loans, etc)

2. HOUSING RELOCATION AND STABILIZATION SERVICES - Eligible Activities:

Case management, outreach, housing search and placement, and limited legal services to:

- assist homeless persons that need temporary assistance to locate/obtain housing
- assist persons at risk of homelessness to maintain housing

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
- 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%.

Timeline

3/19/09	HUD Program Notice Published
5/18/09	Consolidated Plan Substantial Amendment submitted to HUD
7/02/09	HUD Reviews Completed by
9/01/09	HUD Grant Agreement with THDA Executed by
9/30/09	Subgrantee Contracts signed by
10/01/09	Effective local program start date

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