

**EXPLORING RAPID RE-  
HOUSING IN HIGH RENT  
JURISDICTIONS**

HOUSING JUSTICE NETWORK CONFERENCE

MARCH 18, 2019

# SETTING THE STAGE

# TODAY'S ROUNDTABLE ACTIVITY



Break into small groups

Identify challenges

Discuss best practices and effective approaches

Share policy alternatives

# PROBLEM SOLVING TO END HOMELESSNESS

Client strengths & priorities

Program resources, knowledge & skills

Community resources

Focus on ending homelessness

# PROBLEM SOLVING TO END HOMELESSNESS

## Individualized Assistance

Start with the least amount of services and assistance necessary

Frequently re-assess housing barriers and provide targeted support

Always look for options that are sustainable beyond the RRH program

# COC'S POLICIES AND STANDARDS FOR ADMINISTERING RRH ASSISTANCE

## ➤ Principles

- Rent and move-in assistance will be **flexible and tailored** to the varying and changing needs of a household while providing the assistance necessary for households to move immediately out of homelessness and to stabilize in permanent housing.
- All RRH programs will make efforts to maximize the number of households they are able to serve by providing households with the financial assistance in a progressive manner, providing **only the assistance necessary** to stabilize in permanent housing.

RRH programs will provide “the least amount of assistance for the least amount of time,” while ensuring that enough is provided to be reasonably sure that the housing will “stick” and the assisted household does not return to homelessness.

# PROBLEM SOLVING TO END HOMELESSNESS

What makes the difference?

Support networks and/or a safety net

Life skills that allow individuals and families to operate independently

Income (employment, education, public benefits, or a combination)

➤ Client choice and client-driven solutions

# RRH ASSISTANCE

Rule-based &  
standardized  
approach

Flexible &  
individualized  
approach

Clear & easy to  
implement

Meet your  
budget

Will work for  
some people

Will work for  
more people

Long-term  
stability

Cost  
effectiveness

Empowered  
clients





# WHAT DOES FLEXIBLE & INDIVIDUALIZED LOOK LIKE?

Housing options

Length and amount of rental assistance

Type, duration, and depth of services

Level of case management engagement

➤ **What else?**

# PLANNING FOR FLEXIBILITY

## Goals

Identify service connections to meet client's needs

Adjust length & amount of RA based on the client's need

Tailor case management to the client's needs

Housing stability for high percentage of clients served

Engage and retain landlords

## Challenges

Creating a budget before you know what clients will need

Creating a staffing plan before you know what clients will need

Tracking spend-down as client needs fluctuate

Running out of money

Under-spending

# HOUSING STRATEGIES

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Systematize Housing-Focused CM

Unit location &  
retention

Housing outside the box

Reducing expenses

Supporting savings

Life skills & knowledge

Safety net/support  
system

Client Choice

# WHAT IS SHARED HOUSING?

Two or more people living in a permanent rental unit, sharing housing costs

- Multi-bedroom apartment
- Single family house
- Two or more RRH clients
- RRH clients and housed family or friends
- RRH clients and roommates

# SHARED HOUSING

## Advantages

Increased housing options

Reduction of rent burden

Help with childcare

Increased social connections

Support with shared goals

Assistance with disability


## Challenges

Interpersonal issues

Landlord challenges

Filling vacancies

# FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

- Who has to be on the lease? Are there other lease requirements?
  - Who needs to be eligible for the program? Who doesn't?
  - How do rent limitations apply?
  - How do you calculate the client's portion of rent?
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Questions?

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