

# CHRONIC HOMELESS INITIATIVE

A Housing First Program for Single Adults

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# KEY DEFINITIONS

**CHRONIC HOMELESS:** An unaccompanied individual with a disabling condition who has either been:

- continuously homeless for a year or more **OR**
- has had a least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years **AND** must have been sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (living on the streets and/or in an emergency shelter ).

# KEY CONCEPT

- The intent of the model is to provide individuals with **"Housing First"** and through continued engagement, support services will eventually be accepted and delivered to each consumer.

# History

Nonperforming SHP Grant converted to help implement Chronic Homeless Initiative (CHI) after unsuccessful application for federal funding.

\$266,084 to serve (65)dually diagnosed individuals.

# COLLABORATIONS

- **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** was developed between the Department of Mental Health (DMH), District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA), Pathways to Housing DC and The Community Partnership (TCP).

# PARTNER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Department of Mental Health (DMH):** Provides funding for Pathways to Housing DC to deliver support services to participants.
- **District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA):**
  - committed (75) Housing Choice Vouchers for program participants.
- **Pathways to Housing DC:** Determines program eligibility and provides engagement and support services.

# PARTNER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES Cont...

- TCP: Provides leasing funds through rental payment for the participant's first three (3) months in the program and one (1) month security deposit.
- TCP also provides funding for start up items (i.e. home furnishing). This is a one time benefit offered to each participant.
- TCP is also responsible for the identification and inspection of all units.

# CONSUMER REFERRAL/LINKAGES

- **PATHWAYS:** Consumers are referred to Pathways to Housing DC through outreach and other homeless service providers throughout the District.
- Upon notification, a member from Pathways **Assertive Community Treatment (ACT)** team engages the consumer, conducts an assessment, determines program eligibility and explains the initiatives housing requirements.
- All consumers must meet the chronic homeless definition and have a dual diagnosis of mental illness and substance abuse.

# CONSUMER REFERRAL/LINKAGES CONT...

- **TCP:** Once program eligibility has been determined, Pathways to Housing DC will review the housing vacancy list with the consumer to determine housing interest. The housing vacancy list is produced by TCP and is forwarded to Pathways weekly.
- Consumers are free to visit any unit of interest (up to 3 units) . after the unit has been inspected and approved for occupancy by TCP.

# HOUSING SELECTION

- Once the consumer chooses a unit, Pathways forwards homeless and income verification and other supporting documentation to TCP.

# HOUSING PLACEMENT

- All units are Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TRA) - the housing relationship (i.e., lease agreement) is between the consumer and landlord. However, a Pathways to Housing Lease Addendum is signed between the tenant, landlord and TCP. The Housing Lease Addendum links all parties and obligates TCP to pay the federally funded portion of the rent.

# CONSUMER RESPONSIBILITIES

Consumers are responsible for paying  
30% of income towards the cost of unit.

Consumers with no income are eligible.

# HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER (HCV)

- All consumers must complete a Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) application at program entry to ensure that a HCV is executed on within three (3) months of housing placement.
- TCP reviews application and forwards to DCHA
- All consumers must attend DCHA briefing held at Pathways in a group setting.

# HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROCESS - INSPECTION

- Once the Lease Up Package has been submitted, DCHA.
- If the unit passes inspection, the date of inspection is the official payment start date for the HCV.

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- To date, 40 consumers have been served
- Program participants reside throughout the District:
- NE: 14      NW: 24      SE: 1      SW: 1
- To date, (31) participants have received a HCV.
- Eight (8) consumers were transferred to Shelter Plus Care Permanent Housing..
- Consumers are followed by Pathways for a minimum of six (6) months after receiving payment from DCHA.
- Currently 31 consumers have been in their unit more than 6 months.

# All demographic and housing information entered into HMIS.

- Males 27 (67.5%)    Females 13 (32.5%)
- Black/African American 30 (75%)  
White 8 (20%)  
Latino 1 (2.5%)  
Other (Native Hawaiian) 1 (2.5%)
- Living Situation Prior to Program Entry  
Emergency Shelter 13 (32.5 %)  
Place Not Meant for Human Habitation 27 ( 67.5%)