

## **NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS' HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

**TOTAL FUNDS:** In February, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was signed into law. The NJ Department of Community Affairs anticipates that it will receive \$10,221,710 in Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program funds (HPRP). These funds will be awarded to grantees through a public Request for Proposals process.

**PURPOSE OF PROGRAM:** To provide temporary financial assistance and services to:

- Prevent households from becoming homeless;
- Divert people who are applying for shelter into other housing; and
- Help those who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized.

### **ELIGIBLE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS:**

New Jersey resident, whose household's income is equal to or less than 50 percent of the Area Median Income and is either homeless or at risk of losing their housing and lack the financial resources and support networks to identify immediate housing or remain in existing housing. Please note that the program will only assist persons who can remain stably housed after the temporary assistance ends.

### **TARGET POPULATIONS:**

- Populations eligible for homeless prevention include individuals and families currently in housing but who are at risk of becoming homeless and need temporary rent or utility assistance to prevent them from becoming homeless or assistance to move to another housing unit.
- Populations eligible for rapid re-housing include individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness (e.g. residing in emergency or transitional shelters or on the street) and need temporary assistance in order to obtain housing and retain it.

**PRIORITY POPULATIONS:** DCA will target these resources to the following populations with the highest likelihood to become homeless:

- Victims of domestic violence, with or without children.
  - A referral from the Department of Children and Families, an emergency shelter agency, a county welfare agency or other social service agency

will be required.

- Households with children, which have broken up or face imminent breakup due to homelessness.
  - A referral from the Department of Children and Families, an emergency shelter agency, a county welfare agency or other social service agency will be required.
- Youth leaving the foster care system and/or juvenile justice system (18 – 23 years of age)
  - A referral from the Department of Children and Families or the Juvenile Justice Commission will be required.
- Households on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Successful graduates of transitional housing programs
  - A referral from a recognized transitional housing facility or the Department of Children and Families will be required.
- Households with children temporarily "doubled up" with friends or family or living in motels they pay for because they cannot afford housing.

#### **ELIGIBLE SUB-GRANTEES**

- Nonprofits servicing areas of the State that did not receive a direct allocation of HPRP funds from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- Local and county governments who did not receive a direct allocation of HPRP funds from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

All applicants will be required to provide a certification from their local Continuum of Care certifying that the program is consistent with the local homeless prevention plan.

#### **ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES**

- *Financial Assistance*
  - Security Deposits: up to 1 ½ months of rent.
  - Short-term Rental Assistance: up to 3 months of rental assistance.
  - Medium-term Rental Assistance: 4-18 months of rental assistance. All medium-term rental assistance recipients must be re-certified for eligibility at least once every three months. Medium-term rental assistance can be used to pay up to 6 months of rental arrears.
  - Utility Deposits and Payments: up to 18 months of utility payments, including 6 months of utility payments in arrears.
  - Moving Cost Assistance: reasonable moving costs, such as a truck rental, hiring a moving company or short-term storage fees for a maximum of

three months or until the program participant is in housing, whichever is shorter.

- *Case Management*: arrangement, coordination, monitoring, and delivery of services related to meeting the housing needs of program participants and helping them to obtain housing stability. Case management services include:
  - Developing an individualized housing and service plan for program participants.
  - Identifying and obtaining services for program participants.
  - 3 month monitoring and evaluation of the program participant's progress.
- *Housing Search and Placement*: assist program participants locate, secure, and retain suitable housing.
- *Credit Repair*: assist program participants develop a budget, manage their money, access and review a free credit report, and resolve personal credit issues.
- *Legal Services*: legal advice and representation in administrative or court proceedings related to tenant/landlord matters or other rental housing issues.
- *Data Collection and Evaluation*: costs associated with operating a Homeless Management Information System for purposes of collecting and reporting data required under HPRP. Eligible costs include:
  - HMIS software purchases and user licenses,
  - Leasing or purchasing needed computer equipment.
  - Staffing associated with the operation of HMIS.

**Please note ineligible data collection costs include planning and development of HMIS systems, development of new software systems, and replacing state and local government funding for an existing HMIS.**

#### **INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES:**

- Employment training or child care.
- Mortgage costs or other expenses needed by homeowners for fees, taxes, or other costs of refinancing a mortgage.
- Construction or rehabilitation.
- Credit card bills or consumer debt.
- Car repair or transportation costs.
- Food
- Medical or dental care or medicines.
- Clothing and grooming costs.
- Home furnishings.
- Pet care.
- Entertainment activities.
- Work or education-related materials.
- Cash assistance to program participants.
- Discharge planning initiatives.

- Providing assistance to renters residing in a property owned by the grantee, sub-grantee or the parent, subsidiary or affiliated organization of the sub-grantee.

<b>HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM BUDGET</b>		
<b>BUDGET CATEGORY</b>	<b>FUNDING AMOUNT</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>\$511,086</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>RENTAL ASSISTANCE</b>	<b>\$5,110,855</b>	<b>50%</b>
Short-term (25%)	\$1,277,714	
Medium-term (60%)	\$3,066,513	
Security deposits (10%)	\$511,086	
Utility deposits/payments (5%)	\$255,543	
<b>MOVING COST ASSISTANCE</b>	<b>\$511,086</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>CASE MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>\$1,839,908</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>HOUSING SEARCH/PLACEMENT</b>	<b>\$1,022,171</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>CREDIT REPAIR</b>	<b>\$511,086</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>LEGAL SERVICES</b>	<b>\$511,086</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>DATA COLLECTION/EVALUATION</b>	<b>\$204,434</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$10,221,710</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Please note the maximum amount of financial assistance that can be provided to any household is 18 months. The financial assistance and housing relocation/stabilization funds will be split 50-50 between Homelessness Prevention activities and Rapid Re-Housing activities.**

Administration: The State will share the eligible administration funds with sub-grantees; 25% of the eligible funding will go to DCA and 75% will be allocated to the sub-grantees.

Applicants may request 4% of their total budget **up to** a maximum of \$20,000 for administration. Administration includes accounting for the use of grant funds, preparing reports or obtaining program audits, and similar costs related to administering the grant. Staff costs directly associated with delivering rental

assistance payments, client services and client data collection can be paid by programmatic funds from the appropriate categories.

## **DEFINITIONS:**

**Annual income:** the gross amount of income anticipated to be received by the family during the 12 months following the effective date of the examination or re-examination.

**Applicant:** an individual or family that has applied for admission to a program but is not yet a participant in the program.

**Calculation of family share rent:** the family share of rent is 30 percent based upon the household's adjusted annual income. Rents above the payment standard may increase the family share above 30 percent.

**Calculation of HPRP Subsidy:** the difference between the tenant rent and the applicable DCA payment standard or the gross rent, whichever is lower. DCA's payment standard ranges from the current HUD approved fair market rent to 110 percent of the fair market rent based upon bedroom size and housing market. The family is responsible for all rent payments in excess of the payment standard.

**DCA:** the Department of Community Affairs.

**Fair Market Rent (FMR):** the cost of gross rent for an area (shelter plus utilities) of privately owned, decent and safe rental housing of a modest nature (non-luxury) with suitable amenities.

**Family:** a person or group of persons, as determined by the DCA, approved to reside in a unit with assistance under the program.

**Family rent to owner:** the portion of rent to owner paid by the family.

**Family unit size:** means the appropriate number of bedrooms for a family, as determined by DCA.

**Homeless:** an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and a person who has a nighttime residence that is:  
(a) a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill);

(b) an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or

(c) a public or private place not designed for, nor ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

**Household:** one or more persons occupying a domicile, whose income and resources are available to meet the household's needs.

**Housing Assistance Payment (HAP):** the monthly assistance payment made by DCA to the Owner of an assisted unit

**Housing Quality Standards (HQS):** the HUD minimum quality standards for housing assisted under the tenant-based programs.

**Lease:** a written agreement between an owner and a tenant for the leasing of a dwelling unit to the tenant.

**Owner:** any person or entity with the legal right to lease or sublease a unit to a participant.

**Participant:** a family that has been admitted to the DCA program and is currently assisted in the program.

**Payment standard:** the calculation of the housing assistance payment that DCA pays to the owner on behalf of the family leasing the unit. Payment standards range from 100 percent through 110 percent of the FMR.

**Rapid re-housing:** a set of strategies to help families quickly move out of homelessness and into permanent housing including the following:

- Providing housing and case management services in order to stabilize homeless individuals.
- Identifying barriers to long-term housing and obtaining the resources necessary to address these barriers.
- Providing supportive services to help a household secure and maintain long-term housing.

*Target population:* Families with moderate to severe housing barriers. Example of barriers include: poor or no rental history; eviction history; no high school diploma and history of substance abuse but not currently using.

**Rent reasonableness:** ensures that the rents charged by owners are reasonable (a comparison of the rents for the voucher unit to rents for similar unassisted units in the marketplace and compare the rent to rents for similar units on the premises).

**Rent to owner:** the total monthly rent payable to the owner under the lease for the unit.

**Tenant:** the person or persons (other than a live-in aide) who executes the lease as lessee of the dwelling unit.

**Voucher holder:** a family holding a voucher with an unexpired term (search time).

**Voucher:** a document issued by the DCA to a family selected for admission to the HPRP program. This document describes the program and the procedures for DCA approval of a unit selected by the family. The voucher also states obligations of the family under the program.

**OUTCOME MEASURES:**

DCA will utilize the following measures to assess the effectiveness of this program:

<b>GOAL</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>
Number of households referred to the HPRP Program/Number accepted into the program	Number of households
Provision of case management to ensure HPRP participants have access to a variety of social services	Number of households obtaining case management
Number of homeless participants moved from an emergency shelter/transitional housing facility to permanent housing	Number of participants
Number of homeless participants diverted from entering a homeless shelter or motel.	Number of participants
Number of participants remaining in permanent housing after 6 months	Number of participants
Number of participants remaining in permanent housing after 12 months	Number of participants
Number of HPRP participants that obtained employment or a better paying job upon exit of the program	Number of participants



**A. General Information**

<b>Grantee Name</b>	State of New Jersey
<b>Name of Entity or Department Administering Funds</b>	NJ Department of Community Affairs
<b>HPRP Contact Person</b> (person to answer questions about this amendment and HPRP)	Sheri Malnak
<b>Title</b>	Administrator
<b>Address Line 1</b>	NJ Department of Community Affairs Division of Housing and Community Resources
<b>Address Line 2</b>	PO Box 051
<b>City, State, Zip Code</b>	Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0051
<b>Telephone</b>	609-984-8453
<b>Fax</b>	609-633-8084
<b>Email Address</b>	smalnak@dca.state.nj.us
<b>Authorized Official</b> (if different from Contact Person)	Deborah Heinz
<b>Title</b>	Deputy Director
<b>Address Line 1</b>	NJ Department of Community Affairs Division of Housing and Community Resources
<b>Address Line 2</b>	PO Box 051
<b>City, State, Zip Code</b>	Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0051
<b>Telephone</b>	609-633-6177
<b>Fax</b>	609-633-8084
<b>Email Address</b>	dheinz@dca.state.nj.us
<b>Web Address where this Form is Posted</b>	<a href="http://www.state.nj.us/dca/divisions/dhcr/">http://www.state.nj.us/dca/divisions/dhcr/</a>

<b>Amount Grantee is Eligible to Receive*</b>	<b>\$10,221,710</b>
<b>Amount Grantee is Requesting</b>	<b>\$10,221,710</b>

## **B. Citizen Participation and Public Comment**

1. Briefly describe how the grantee followed its citizen participation plan regarding this proposed substantial amendment (limit 250 words).

Response:

In accordance with the federal regulations, New Jersey used the following citizen participation process to ensure adequate public participation with the HPRP Amendment to its FFY 2008 Consolidated Plan.

- DCA posted the final draft amendment on the Division of Housing and Community Resources' website, <http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/dhcr>, for public review and comment on April 28, 2009. The public was given 13 days until May 11, 2009 to provide comments.
- Additionally, a notice describing the availability of the HPRP Amendment was posted on the Division of Housing and Community Resources' website. The notice clearly stated the length of the public comment period, where the draft plan was available for review, and the addresses to which comments should be mailed, e-mailed or faxed.

2. Provide the appropriate response regarding this substantial amendment by checking one of the following options:

Grantee did not receive public comments.

Grantee received and accepted all public comments.

Grantee received public comments and did not accept one or more of the comments.

3. Provide a summary of the public comments regarding this substantial amendment. Include a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons for non-acceptance.

Comment: There is no provision for housing prisoners with drug distribution convictions who are routinely being discharged from jails and prisons into homelessness. Persons being imminently discharged from correctional facilities, halfway houses or other publicly-funded institutions, as well as formerly incarcerated individuals, must be expressly identified and included as "target populations."

Response:U The State is currently providing housing resources for the post-incarcerated from the State Rental Assistance Program, HOPWA Post Incarcerated Program, Homelessness Prevention Program and HMFA's Ex-Offenders Re-entry Housing Program. Examples of these

initiatives are: During FY 2008 and FY 2009, DCA and HMFA provided capital financing and 10 year project-based vouchers to the Volunteers of America's Promise Program and the Trenton Rescue Mission's Carroll Street Project. Both projects provide permanent housing for ex-offenders.

In addition, as part of the Another Chance Initiative, DCA has partnered with the State Parole Board to expand housing resources available for use by inmates released from prison without a stable living arrangement to return to. To date, the program has received \$700,000 from the Homelessness Prevention Program to provide temporary housing assistance (up to 6 months) to offenders being released from designated Department of Correction's facilities that do not have an approved residence of record. The program is currently operating at Northern State Prison, Riverfront State Prison, Edna Mahon Correctional Facility for Women, or Garden State Youth Correctional Facility. DCA has set-aside funds for FY 2010 to continue this worthwhile initiative.

The State has identified youth being released from the Juvenile Justice System and Aging Out Youth as HPRP's target populations.

In regards to individuals being released from other publicly-funded institutions - in FY 2009, DCA awarded SRAP vouchers with an unlimited term to 500 Olmstead clients.

The State has an active Discharge Policy in place and therefore will keep the target populations identified in the HPRP draft as is.

Comment: Limiting assistance only to "persons who can remain stably housed after the temporary assistance ends," without further explanation, will result in the unjust and unwise rejection of many households, including many of those most in need. People should be eligible for assistance if there is a "reasonable possibility" that they will be able to sustain housing after 18 months of assistance. The existence of a "reasonable possibility" should be found if a person is currently employed part-time, or on a waiting list for subsidized housing, or a current participant in or applicant for a job-training program, or will be able to live with extended family, or can otherwise identify a possible plan that will leave them stably housed 18 months from the date of application.

Response: The target areas identified in the RFP will be expanded to include an "Other" category. An applicant will have

the opportunity to identify and justify why another population in their respective area should be eligible for HPRP funding.

Comment: The plan, and ensuing RFP, should also explicitly list each of the 18 “risk factors for homelessness” identified in section IV(D)(3) of the HUD Notice, indicate that the list is not exhaustive, and state that families and individuals who experience one or more of them may be eligible program recipients. The same is true for the 5 criteria used in section IV(D)(4) to identify individuals and families who are eligible for rapid re-housing assistance. Doing so will help potential grantees and subgrantees develop appropriate and effective programs that target those who are most vulnerable in meaningful ways, a result expressly referred to in the Notice.

Response: The instruction section of the RFP will include both the risk factors and criteria cited in the HUD Notice.

Comment: As for TANF households, since many of them are entitled to “emergency assistance” pursuant to the Work First regulations, HPRP eligibility should be limited to those TANF recipients who have “exhausted or been found ineligible for EA benefits.” GA recipients should be included here as well.

Priority status should also be given to certain households deemed ineligible for TANF because they are working and earning too much at the time they apply. Such families should be given priority status if, had they become employed after becoming TANF recipients instead of before, they would have been able to retain TANF eligibility due to applicable income disregards. People that have been reduced to part-time employment should be encouraged and helped to retain their jobs, by making sure that the recession-driven conditions of their employment do not result in homelessness.

Response: TANF households were identified as a target population because the program provides resources that can be used in conjunction with the HPRP temporary assistance to help prevent and end homelessness. These resources include cash assistance, additional rental assistance and appropriate work activities and supports for the families.

As previously stated, an “Other” category will be added to the RFP so that applicants can justify why additional groups should be assisted with HPRP.

Comment: In accordance with the HUD notice, it should be made clear in a preface to the “Financial Assistance” provisions that a household can

receive several different kinds of financial assistance, as long as the total amount of assistance provided does not exceed 18 months.

Response: This information is currently stated in the budget section of the HPRP plan. It will be part of the RFP instructions.

Comment: “Motel and hotel vouchers” should be included as an eligible financial activity. The HUD notice, at section IV(A)(1)(e), identifies them as such. Short-term stays in these facilities remain an extremely important means of preventing or alleviating actual or imminent homelessness, especially for families transitioning to more appropriate housing.

Response: DCA identified the eligible types of assistance by collaborating with the Department of Human Services, Department of Children and Families and the County Continuums. The most “cost effective” types of assistance were selected.

Comment: The definition of “homeless” included in the draft plan does not comport with section I(B) of the HUD Notice. The latter expressly refers to and incorporates the definition set forth in “section 103 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302).”

Response: The definition of homeless has been changed to comport with section I(B) of the HUD Notice.

Comment: The proposed definition of “household” is plainly inadequate and not compliant with the program guidelines. In defining “Program Participant,” HUD at section I(B) of the governing Notice includes the following sentence: “In this Notice, the term ‘household’ refers to individuals or families.” The definition in the draft plan should therefore be amended to read as follows: “Household: one or more persons occupying a domicile whose income and resources are available to meet the household’s needs.”

Response: The definition for household has been changed.

Comment: The HPRP Substantial Amendment should add individuals with disabilities as an additional priority population. The rationale given for excluding them is that they are not among the groups that will be able to maintain their housing after the HPRP ends. On the other hand, DCA does prioritize TANF households and explains that TANF resources can be used to help prevent and end homelessness.

The very same resources available to TANF families under the WFNJ program are available to GA and SSI recipients, ie. Emergency

Assistance. In addition, the newly-revised long-term Supportive Housing Assistance Program (SHAP) provides for this assistance to continue on a long-term basis to enable them to maintain their housing (see "Supportive Housing Assistance Program", page 3, Program Instruction DFDI 09-4-4/GAPI 09-4-2) (April 7, 2009).

Response: As previously stated, the target areas identified in the RFP will be expanded to include an "Other" category. An applicant will have the opportunity to identify and justify why another population in their respective area should be eligible for HPRP funding.

### **C. Distribution and Administration of Funds**

Reminder: The HPRP grant will be made by means of a grant agreement executed by HUD and the grantee. The three-year deadline to expend funds begins when HUD signs the grant agreement. Grantees should ensure that sufficient planning is in place to begin to expend funds shortly after grant agreement.

1. Check the process(es) that the grantee plans to use to select subgrantees. Note that a subgrantee is defined as the organization to which the grantee provides HPRP funds.

X Competitive Process

Formula Allocation

Other (Specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

2. Briefly describe the process(es) indicated in question 1 above (limit 250 words).

Response: The Department of Community Affairs will release a Request for Proposals via the New Jersey System for Administering Grants Electronically (NJDCASAGE) July 15, 2009. Eligible grantees will have 30 days to submit their proposals at <https://njdcasage.state.nj.us/Portal.asp>. The RFP will be advertised on the Department's web site at <http://www.state.nj.us/dca/>

3. Briefly describe the process the grantee plans to use, once HUD signs the grant agreement, to allocate funds available to subgrantees by September 30, 2009, as required by the HPRP Notice (limit 250 words).

Response: As previously stated the Department will issue a Request for Proposals by July 15, 2009. All eligible entities will have 30 days to

submit their proposals, until August 15, 2009. The Department will review and score all of the applications submitted by September 15, 2009 and will issue contracts by September 30, 2009.

4. Describe the grantee's plan for ensuring the effective and timely use of HPRP grant funds on eligible activities, as outlined in the HPRP Notice. Include a description of how the grantee plans to oversee and monitor the administration and use of its own HPRP funds, as well as those used by its subgrantees (limit 500 words).

Response: The Department will only award HPRP funds to sub-grantees that have the following:

1. Significant experience directly administering homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing programs; and
2. Have the administrative capacity to effectively manage a program.

The Department will conduct periodic monitoring visits. These reviews will include the examination of the grantee's financial management systems, supporting documentation and client records. Any deficiencies identified will be addressed and corrected immediately. Additional monitoring and on-going technical assistance will be provided on as needed basis.

The Department will also use the System for Administering Grants Electronically (SAGE) reports to monthly evaluate the performance of all of its sub-grantees. These reports will help determine whether funds for the program activities are being utilized effectively and timely. Sub-grantees that are not performing well by the 12 month of the contract may have their remaining funds recaptured. Any recaptured funds will be reallocated promptly to other areas within the State that have demonstrated success in spending their funds effectively.

In addition, Governor Corzine has created the NJ Recovery Accountability Task Force to oversee the distribution of all of the Recovery Act funds. Specifically, the Task Force will work in partnership with federal and state agencies to do the following:

- Ensure public access to information concerning use of ARRA funds, including programmatic, financial, project, and vendor-related information, as well as criteria for project selection;
- Provide guidance to agencies receiving ARRA funds on merit-based project selection, internal controls, accounting practices, and best practices in contract management and grant administration;
- Review project-selection criteria and processes used by New Jersey government agencies receiving ARRA funds to ensure clarity and compliance with applicable standards;

- Perform a coordination role concerning ARRA-related efforts being carried out by state and local government agencies as well as relevant oversight bodies;
- Provide a means to receive and address concerns from New Jersey residents about uses of Recovery Act funds; and
- Ensure ongoing assessments of results, through agency self-analysis or reviews by State oversight entities.

#### **D. Collaboration**

1. Briefly describe how the grantee plans to collaborate with the local agencies that can serve similar target populations, which received funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 from other Federal agencies, including the U.S. Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, and Labor (limit 250 words).

Response: The State will collaborate with local organizations that may receive federal stimulus funds to serve homeless and at risk populations through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009; including County Human Service Agencies and One Stop Career Centers.

In addition, our sub-grantees will also be expected to closely collaborate with local social service and homeless/housing provider agencies.

2. Briefly describe how the grantee plans to collaborate with appropriate Continuum(s) of Care and mainstream resources regarding HPRP activities (limit 250 words).

Response: The Department e-mailed all of the COCs a developmental draft program description review and comment on. The following is a summary of the comments received.

#### **Bergen County COC**

##### Comment

Nonprofit applicants obtain a letter from the County in which the program is provided certifying that the program is consistent with local homeless prevention planning.

##### Response

The State, in the RFP, will require all applicants to obtain a certification from the local COC that the proposed activities are consistent with the local homeless plan.



Comment

Require nonprofits to participate in its County HMIS.

Response

Applicants who are currently using their local HMIS will receive additional points in the RFP.

Comment

Include single individuals with disabilities as a priority population.

Response

The HPRP program is intended to serve persons who can remain stably housed after the temporary assistance ends. DCA identified the populations that we believe will be able to maintain their housing after the HPRP assistance ends.

Comment

Why have we prioritized TANF population?

Response

TANF provides resources that can be used in conjunction with the HPRP temporary assistance to help prevent and end homelessness.

**Cape May COC**

Comment

Outcome goal for diversion – there is a goal identified for assisting those who are already in the homeless system but there is not one identified for those who are helped prior to entering the system (deferred).

Response

An outcome was added.

Comment

Why DYFS referrals – it is not clear why DYFS would be the referring agency or the agency to issue a referral for a domestic violence case or for a case where the youth is aging out of the juvenile justice system - it would seem more appropriate for the local domestic violence agency to issue a referral for domestic violence cases and for the Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) or a JJC approved facility/institution to issue the referral for a juvenile justice system involved youth.

Response

DYFS is one of the sited sources for referrals that DCA will accept for Domestic Violence cases that involve children.

The Juvenile Justice Commission has been added as a referring agency.

Comment

Are local Boards of Social Services eligible to apply to be the administering agency?

Response

The County would have to apply as the lead agency.

Comment

Are mortgage payments an eligible expense for either component?

Response

No

Comment

What is the homeless definition for the rapid re-housing component? Do individuals/families need to spend a night (or specified length of time) in the system in order to be eligible?

Response

The program uses the following federal definition:

1. an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and
2. an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is —
  - A. a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill);
  - B. an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or
  - C. a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

**Hunterdon COC**

Comment

In addition to local and county governments of counties which DID NOT receive any funding from the HPRP HUD allocation, we ask that all non profits serving these same counties be PRIORITIZED

above all counties and nonprofits from those counties which did receive funding, directly or through allocation indirectly through the local RFP process.

Response

We restricted all funds to “non-entitlement areas”.

Comment

Homeless families be part of the prioritized list, whether or not they face imminent breakup. We are proposing that those receiving SSH funding, for example, be deemed a funding priority as well.

Response

The HPRP program is intended to serve persons who can remain stably housed after the temporary assistance ends. DCA identified the populations that we believe will be able to maintain their housing after HPRP ends.

Comment

We would like to see language in reference to “victims of domestic violence” to include “all victims of domestic violence, with or without children.”

Response

The change has been made

**Mercer COC**

Comment

It would be helpful to have a fuller description of what constitutes Rapid rehousing, as part of the State’s RFP. Attached is a one-page summary.

Response

A definition for Rapid Re-Housing has been added.

Comment

Allocate about 50% of its HPRP funding for those jurisdictions who are spending their own HPRP allocation on rapid rehousing.

Response

DCA is going to allocate funds to “non-entitlement” areas that did not receive a HPRP allocation.

## **Passaic COC**

### Comment

Applicants should be required to coordinate their applications and obtain approval from the local COCs and CEAS committees.

### Response

All applicants will be required to obtain a certification from the COCs that the proposed project is consistent with the local homeless plan.

### Comment

The program should prioritize sections of the population that would most benefit – persons that would be homeless but for this assistance; victims of the recession; families and individuals that do not fit into traditional social service populations but are capable of sustaining self-sufficiency. Populations such as aging out youth and TANF families that can access additional recovery resources but also may need additional supportive services beyond the scope of HPRP may not be suitable as priorities.

### Response

The HPRP program is intended to serve persons who can remain stably housed after the temporary assistance ends. DCA identified the populations that we believe will be able to maintain their housing after HPRP ends.

## **Sussex COC**

### Comment

Require applicants to coordinate with COCs.

### Response

All applicants will be required to obtain a certification from the COCs that the proposed project is consistent with the local homeless plan.

### Comment

Give priority to nonprofits and local or county government from communities that did not receive direct allocations.

### Response

DCA is going to allocate funds to “non-entitlement” areas that did not receive a HPRP allocation.

3. Briefly describe how HPRP grant funds for financial assistance and housing relocation/stabilization services will be used in a manner that is consistent with the grantee's Consolidated Plan (limit 250 words).

Response: The use of HPRP funds is consistent with the State's 2005-2009 Consolidated Plan's following priority goals:

1. Assist homeless individuals and families obtain permanent housing, with needed support services to become self-sufficient.
2. Support local jurisdictions' planning processes to reduce and end homelessness.

**E. Estimated Budget Summary**

HUD requires the grantee to complete the following table so that participants in the citizen participation process may see the grantee’s preliminary estimated amounts for various HPRP activities. Enter the estimated budget amounts for each activity in the appropriate column and row. The grantee will be required to report actual amounts in subsequent reporting.

<b>HPRP Estimated Budget Summary</b>			
	<b>Homelessness Prevention</b>	<b>Rapid Re-housing</b>	<b>Total Amount Budgeted</b>
Financial Assistance	\$3,066,512	\$3,066,512	\$6,133,024
Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services	\$1,533,257	\$1,533,257	\$3,066,514
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$4,599,769</b>	<b>\$4,599,769</b>	<b>\$9,199,538</b>

Data Collection and Evaluation	\$511,086
Administration (up to 5% of allocation)	\$511,086
<b>Total HPRP Amount Budgeted</b>	<b>\$10,221,710</b>

**FY 2009 Income Limits for HPRP (50% of HUD Area Median Income)**

County/Town Name	1 person household	2 person household	3 person household	4 person household	5 person household	6 person household	7 person household	8 person household
Atlantic County	\$23,950	\$27,350	\$30,800	\$34,200	\$36,950	\$39,650	\$42,400	\$45,150
Bergen County	\$31,900	\$36,500	\$41,050	\$45,600	\$49,250	\$52,900	\$56,550	\$60,200
Burlington County	\$27,250	\$31,100	\$35,000	\$38,900	\$42,000	\$45,100	\$48,250	\$51,350
Camden County	\$27,250	\$31,100	\$35,000	\$38,900	\$42,000	\$45,100	\$48,250	\$51,350
Cape May County	\$23,500	\$26,900	\$30,250	\$33,600	\$36,300	\$39,000	\$41,650	\$44,350
Cumberland County	\$20,950	\$23,950	\$26,950	\$29,950	\$32,350	\$34,750	\$37,150	\$39,550
Essex County	\$30,650	\$35,050	\$39,400	\$43,800	\$47,300	\$50,800	\$54,300	\$57,800
Gloucester County	\$27,250	\$31,100	\$35,000	\$38,900	\$42,000	\$45,100	\$48,250	\$51,350
Hudson County	\$24,900	\$28,450	\$32,000	\$35,550	\$38,400	\$41,250	\$44,100	\$46,950
Hunterdon County	\$35,050	\$40,050	\$45,050	\$50,050	\$54,050	\$58,050	\$62,050	\$66,050
Mercer County	\$31,550	\$36,050	\$40,550	\$45,050	\$48,650	\$52,250	\$55,850	\$59,450
Middlesex County	\$35,050	\$40,050	\$45,050	\$50,050	\$54,050	\$58,050	\$62,050	\$66,050
Monmouth County	\$30,700	\$35,100	\$39,450	\$43,850	\$47,350	\$50,850	\$54,350	\$57,900
Morris County	\$30,650	\$35,050	\$39,400	\$43,800	\$47,300	\$50,800	\$54,300	\$57,800
Ocean County	\$30,700	\$35,100	\$39,450	\$43,850	\$47,350	\$50,850	\$54,350	\$57,900
Passaic County	\$31,900	\$36,500	\$41,050	\$45,600	\$49,250	\$52,900	\$56,550	\$60,200
Salem County	\$27,250	\$31,100	\$35,000	\$38,900	\$42,000	\$45,100	\$48,250	\$51,350
Somerset County	\$35,050	\$40,050	\$45,050	\$50,050	\$54,050	\$58,050	\$62,050	\$66,050
Sussex County	\$30,650	\$35,050	\$39,400	\$43,800	\$47,300	\$50,800	\$54,300	\$57,800
Union County	\$30,650	\$35,050	\$39,400	\$43,800	\$47,300	\$50,800	\$54,300	\$57,800
Warren County	\$30,150	\$34,450	\$38,750	\$43,050	\$46,500	\$49,950	\$53,400	\$56,850