

A Community Plan for Troy's Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HUD)

Formed and recommended by:

- **Rensselaer County's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness**
- **Troy's Homeless Services Collaborative**

"The Homelessness Prevention Fund offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform homeless assistance to be more effective and efficient. This resource can be used not only to enhance existing activities, but to transform homeless assistance, shifting the focus from providing shelter to preventing homelessness and quickly re-housing people who do become homeless."

– National Alliance to End Homelessness

Since HUD announced their \$1.5 billion Homelessness Prevention Fund, both Troy's Homeless Services Collaborative and the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness have met as have several sub-committees of community based organizations and interested parties to discuss the most effective way that Troy could utilize this funding.

Our recommendation is that three agencies each receive a portion of this funding—Unity House and Joseph's House and Shelter by direct contract and the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern NY through a sub-contract with Joseph's House and Shelter.

Unity House will take the lead in the provision of *Homelessness Prevention Services*. The Homelessness Prevention program will assess immediate housing needs, explore housing options and resources, provide flexible financial assistance and offer voluntary case management services. Prevention services will be targeted to people who have extremely low incomes, who have a demonstrated housing crisis and who lack protective factors such as friends and family who can help them. This funding would augment an existing Unity House program and funding could begin to be disbursed to those in need as soon as it becomes available.

Joseph's House would take the lead in the provision of *Rapid Re-housing Services*. Rapid Re-housing program works with people who are already homeless to help them quickly move into rental housing. The program will be short-term and involve housing location, financial assistance and an offer of case management. This funding would augment an existing Joseph's House program and funding could begin to be disbursed to those in need as soon as it becomes available.

In addition, \$15,000 in funding would be used to increase *legal services* already available in a legal housing outreach program operated by Joseph's House. Combining this funding with other in-place resources would provide a .5 FTE lawyer to work on housing issues.

Sixty-five percent of the funding available will be used to provide direct assistance to households at-risk-of or currently homeless in the form of time limited rental subsidies, emergency rent payments, emergency utility payments, first month's rent and assistance and other eligible activities as needed. [HUD is requiring that 50% of this funding be used for this purpose.]

The remaining funding would be used to create 3.5 FTE's to oversee and run the program— 1.75 FTE's in each agency. Funding would also cover some of the other expenses related to providing this direct assistance. For more detail we have attached a preliminary budget for your review.

Unity House and Joseph's House will work collaboratively and closely on this program. Both agencies' workers will communicate regularly, and it is expected that both agencies will be able to provide direct assistance across the continuum (homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing.)

The program will accept referrals from community based organizations, local government units as well as self-referrals and will market the program to a wide audience so that at-risk households in Troy know that this help is available.

	Joseph's House Rapid Rehousing Annualized Budget	Unity House HP, Div & RRH Annualized Budget	Total ESG Stimulus Annualized Budget	Total ESG Stimulus Two year total
HUD Housing Prevention - Rapid Rehousing	215,669	194,295	409,964	819,928
Expense				
SUPPORT SERVICES				
Personnel				
HPP/RR Advocates-Casemanagers - 3.5 FTE (1.75 each agency)	46,000	46,256	92,256	184,512
Total Salaries:	46,000	46,256	92,256	184,512
Medical Benefits				
Health Insurance	5,250			
Dental Insurance	613			
Payroll taxes, etc.				
FICA	3,252			
Disability	180			
Worker's Comp	1,495			
Unemployment	276			
TOTAL FRINGE (Benefits, Payroll taxes)	11,066	12,027	23,092	46,185
TOTAL PERSONNEL COSTS:	57,066	58,283	115,348	230,697
Case Management and Outreach Support	10,000	10,000		
Contracted Services (Legal Aid)	15,000	0	15,000	30,000
TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICES	82,066	68,283	130,348	260,697
DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO ADULTS AND FAMILIES				
Rapid Resettlement				
Short Term Rental Assistance (3-6 months 'shallow subsidies')	40,000		40,000	80,000
Medium Term Rental Assistance (6-18 mos 'declining subsidies')	54,000		54,000	108,000
First Month's Rent & Security & Other Eligible Financial Assistance	30,710		30,710	61,420
Homelessness Prevention				
Rental Assistance		70,000	70,000	140,000
Utility Payment and Other Eligible Financial Assistance		48,000	48,000	96,000
TOTAL DIRECT ASSISTANCE	124,710	118,000	242,710	485,420
SUBTOTAL Support Services and Direct Expense	206,776	186,283	393,058	786,117
Data Collection and Evaluation 2%	4,447	4,006	8,453	16,906
Administration 2%	4,447	4,006	8,453	16,906
TOTAL EXPENSE:	215,669	194,295	409,964	819,928
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	0	0	0	0