



MOVING ON PROGRAM PROFILE: DETROIT, MI

Background/Program Description

CSH, in collaboration with the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), Detroit's Continuum of Care (CoC), and several supportive housing providers in the region, launched the "Moving Up" initiative in 2014. This initiative was born out of a collective community effort to empower supportive housing tenants to live as independently as possible in the community and to make more efficient use of supportive housing units throughout Detroit. Through this strategy, MSHDA created a preference for up to 100 Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8) for individuals and families who are currently living in Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and continue to need a housing subsidy but no longer need the intensive supports provided in PSH.

Referral agencies for these Housing Choice Vouchers will be Detroit CoC Permanent Supportive Housing providers that are recipients or sub-recipients of funding under the CoC Program (programs formerly called Shelter + Care and the Supportive Housing Program). Detroit CoC PSH providers use a common assessment tool to identify those individuals and families that have reached a level of stability that makes them a good candidate for a successful transition to a Housing Choice Voucher. Those individuals and families are then placed on a separate waiting list for this Moving Up pilot. As the pilot program moves forward, MSHDA may select additional sites across the state of Michigan, and may allocate additional vouchers towards this program as needed.

The program developed a Moving On Review Board made up of representatives from the Detroit CoC and participating supportive housing providers. The committee is responsible for monitoring program operations, troubleshooting barriers to implementation, managing and acquiring resources (e.g., vouchers), facilitating inter-agency coordination and tracking performance. The review board also reviews all tenant applications for Moving Up and provides the final approval for a voucher. Collaborating agencies also developed and signed Memorandums of Understanding in order to formalize partnerships and hold agencies accountable for their respective roles in the initiative.

Identification and Assessment Process

CSH worked with partners to develop a standardized assessment tool that is being used by all participating supportive housing providers to identify tenants who are interested in and ready to move on to more independent housing. Training on the assessment tool was delivered by CSH to participating homeless service providers.

Case managers are responsible for identifying tenants who are interested in moving on. Case managers then administer the standardized assessment and, for tenants that meet certain requirements, send completed applications and assessments to the Moving Up Review Board to make the final determination if someone qualifies for the Moving Up initiative. Those that are approved are then referred to a dedicated Housing Agent from MSHDA who is responsible for administering all Housing Choice Vouchers to people moving up.

Initiative Partners

Michigan State Housing Development Authority
Detroit CoC
Homeless Action Network of Detroit
Several regional supportive housing providers
CSH

Funding Sources

MSHDA provides funding for the housing subsidies. Currently there are no service dollars attached to this initiative for housing providers. Recognizing the value and benefit of the program to tenants, the providers and the community at large, providers have volunteered time and resources to the initiative.

Housing Resources

MSHDA has prioritized up to 100 Housing Choice Vouchers to the initiative for tenants moving on from supportive housing.

Services

Services are individualized to fit the needs of each individual or family moving on from supportive housing. Supportive housing case managers provide transitional support services including assistance with the housing search, moving, voucher paperwork, lease signings and purchasing housing goods. Each provider must also commit to providing up to 12 months of aftercare services for tenants that have moved on, with at least one contact per month for the first 6 months and quarterly contacts for the last 6 months, if necessary.

Backfilling Supportive Housing Units

As supportive housing tenants move to more independent housing through the Move Up initiative, housing providers coordinate with Detroit's Coordinated Entry System – CAM Detroit - to backfill vacated units with high-need, chronically homeless individuals and families.

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