



PHA Profile: Housing Authority of the City of Pawtucket Set-asides for Chronically Homeless Households Public Housing Program

Basic PHA Stats

Location: Pawtucket, Rhode Island
Housing Choice Vouchers: 761
Public Housing Apartments: 1,079

Program Description

The Housing Authority of the City of Pawtucket is participating in a pilot program to help chronically homeless people. The Authority has established a separate waiting list for this pilot program and will allocate ten units in its family developments (560 Prospect Street, Galego Court) and mixed elderly/disabled developments (Kennedy Manor and St. Germain Manor) for participants. One out of every four unit turnovers will be used for this pilot program until ten slots have been filled. Once an apartment has been utilized for this pilot program it will continue to be used to house chronically homeless families for the duration of the pilot.

Motivation

Homelessness is very visible in the City of Pawtucket. The Housing Authority of the City of Pawtucket felt this would help their community and hopefully influence others to do the same.

Resources Required

This program did not require MTW status, nor did the PHA need additional resources to implement this program.

Challenges

It was challenging to verify if some applicants were chronically homeless. Pawtucket found that homeless people tend bounce from place to place and some could not provide sufficient documentation proving they were homeless under the PHA's policy. It was also difficult to communicate with applicants who did not have a phone or specific address. This led to missed appointments, which prolonged the application process.

Rewards

The PHA has found it very rewarding to provide a homeless individual or family with a place they can call home. After working with a client diligently and becoming familiar with that person, the joy and appreciation that they express once housed is priceless.

Partners

Pawtucket PHA is currently developing written agreements with its service providers.

Partner Name	Type of Organization/ Role in Program
Access Rhode Island	Services include intensive case management, street outreach, psychiatric services, and coordinated linkages to a variety of services including medical care, legal assistance and substance abuse services. All applicants who are admitted under the Pilot Homeless Program will be tracked for their performance and must continue to receive supportive services from these agencies.
Gateway Healthcare Inc.	

Documentation Changes Made

Documents	Access the Document
Annual Plan and ACOP	See "Pawtucket Housing Authority ACOP Excerpt"

Words of Wisdom from Pawtucket

"Overall we feel that the program is working well. Since implemented in December 2011, we housed two families and a single applicant. We are in the process of housing another. Homelessness is becoming a national epidemic that is only getting worse. If PHA's would replicate this program it would be one step in providing support to these individuals who really need an opportunity to get back on their feet and give them a chance to succeed."

Contact Person for PHAs Interested in Implementing a Similar Program

Name	Title	Phone	Email
Stephen A. Vadnais	Executive Director	(401) 725-9113	Svadnais@pawthousing.org

Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP)

Pilot Chronic Homeless Program

Resolution #999

December 2011

The Housing Authority of the City of Pawtucket, Rhode Island is participating in a pilot program to help the chronically homeless in participation with the Center for Supportive Housing and Access, Rhode Island. The Authority has established a separate waiting list for this pilot program and will allocate ten units in its Family Developments (560 Prospect Street, Galego Court) and Mixed Elderly/Disabled Developments (Kennedy Manor and St. Germain Manor) for this pilot program. Applicants will be assigned their placement on the Pilot Homeless Waiting List based on their application date, verification of being chronically homeless from a homeless shelter, verification of placement on the Homeless Management Information System data base (HMIS) and preference category as listed below:

Local Preference – The following local preferences will be aggregated using the following system. Two preferences outweigh one. Three outweighs two, etc..

- 1 If any member of an applicant family is employed
- 2 All disabled veterans and those who served prior to and including World War II
- 3 Residents of the City of Pawtucket.

In order to be eligible for this pilot homeless program applicants must be verified as being chronically homeless(Chronic homeless means a family of one or more persons experiencing 4 episodes of homelessness within three years or homeless for 12 continuous months.) The applicant must be receiving supportive service from a licensed social services or mental health agency at the time of application or at the time of admission to the assisted housing unit.

All applicants who are admitted under the Pilot Homeless Program will be tracked for their performance and must continue to receive supportive services while a participant under this Pilot Program.

One unit in every four unit turnovers will be used for this pilot program until ten units have been utilized. Once a unit has been utilized for this pilot program it will continue to be used to house chronic homeless family during the duration of this pilot program.