MOVING ON PROGRAM PROFILE: BOSTON, MA

Background and Program Description:

Boston Mayor Walsh's Action Plan to End Veteran and Chronic Homelessness in Boston: 2015-2018 calls for 950 units of permanent supportive housing (PSH) targeted to persons experiencing chronic homelessness over the next three years in order to end chronic homelessness, citywide. Two-hundred of these units will be created via development, the balance made available by targeting vacancies in existing PSH to those assessed as most vulnerable. Boston Department of Neighborhood Development (DND) and CSH are working together to implement a Moving On Pilot initiative to empower existing tenants of supportive housing who are ready and eager to move to housing that is more independent. The units that become available as a result of the Moving On Pilot will be targeted to persons experiencing chronic homelessness and free up "bottlenecks" in the supply of PSH units in Boston.

The Boston Housing Authority (BHA) has met the Mayor's call to action and has made a commitment to contribute subsidies to the Pilot. The goal of the pilot is offer 50 housing subsidies to stable tenants who are able to exit their PSH program and access community services in order to remain stably housed and increase their quality of life. DND is forming partnerships with several experienced service providers to deliver outreach, assessment, transition, and aftercare services and supports to successfully transition residents to the housing of their choice. DND, CSH, and the team of service providers are working together to develop a model of transitional services and support to tenants. DND and CSH are actively seeking philanthropic investment to support limited transition and aftercare services, as well as the costs involved in locating and securing housing in the private market i.e., rental deposits, moving costs, furniture, and emergency landlord reserve funds.

Identification and Assessment Process

A draft Moving On Assessment adapted from the evidence based Phase of Care Assessment Tool is planned as the screening and assessment tool for the Pilot. Partnering providers are reviewing the tool and discussing processes for implementation. Providers plan to work collaboratively to select 50 individuals from across their agencies that have demonstrated consistently low service needs and have an interest in moving on from PSH with limited follow-up support services.

Initiative Partners

City of Boston Department of Neighborhood Development
Boston Housing Authority

Funding Sources

BHA will fund 50 housing vouchers. DND and CSH are exploring funding sources to support services and participant assistance costs.

Housing Resources

BHA has access to a variety of housing subsidies and is considering which mix of subsidies will best fit the needs of tenants who may be interested in participating in the Moving On Pilot.

Services

DND, CSH and a team of service providers are currently reviewing options for providing Moving On transition services, but there is a tentative model of aftercare services for at least six months and up to 12 months with a minimum of one monthly contact with the Moving On participant. Each tenant will have a customized transition plan which outlines case management required to support transition including but not limited to: assistance building linkages to community supports and services such as mental and physical health services; peer support specialists; substance use treatment; resources for basic needs; recreational activities; public transportation options; and support with landlord negotiations. Additional transition services may include funds to cover moving services, utility deposits/arrears and furniture/household items, etc. Tenants will also receive pre-transition services including: connection to employers; job/skills training opportunities; financial literacy education/assistance; credit rating assessment/improvement; subsidy application and identifying apartments in the community.

Backfilling Supportive Housing Units

Providers will work with Department of Neighborhood Development/Boston Coordinated Access System to refill the newly vacant supportive housing unit with a prioritized person experiencing chronic homelessness.

Contact Information

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