



Building Stability Through Community: Enhancing Housing Transitions with Strategic Partnerships

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Rapid Rehousing & Permanent Supportive Housing Stabilization

- Emphasis is often on housing placement
- Stabilization is often an after thought or isn't a separate function
- Caseload sizes are often standardized and too high
- “Progressive engagement” isn't really progressive
- Subsidies come to an end and participants aren't stabilized
- Move on strategies are non-existent in many of our communities
- Landlords are no longer raising their hands to participate
- And rents are too dang high



Up-Streaming and Down-Streaming

- How can we move households into housing with more urgency?
- What the average timeline to identify and move households into housing?
- Should we leave those prioritized for PSH outside or in shelter while PSH is identified?
- What happens to households that fail in rapid rehousing?
- How do we transition households in PSH on when they are no longer in need of PSH?

The Haven's Rapid Re- Housing Program



- Designed to help households quickly exit homelessness by providing safe, stable permanent housing
- Offered without preconditions and removes barriers to accessing housing
- Prioritizes individualized support services to address underlying issues that may have contributed to the participant's homelessness
- Removes barriers to securing and accessing housing

Key Components

Housing Navigation

- Assist participant with unit location/selection to meet their needs
- Building relationships with landlords and property managers
- Connection to long-term rental subsidies when available

Financial Assistance

- Flexible Funding Model - Descending/Ascending Subsidy
- Move-in Cost: application fee(s), deposits, short-term rental assistance
- 12-24 months

Case Management

- Continuous Engagement
- Goal Setting
- Connection/Reconnection to supportive services
- Holistic Support
- Person-Centered Approach



Rapid Re-Housing Program Flow

Enrollment and Introduction	Housing Stabilization Planning	Housing Navigation and Leasing Up	Participant Touchpoint Schedule	Exiting Rapid Re-Housing
● By-Name-List ● Community Case Review Discussion and Agreement ● Participant contacted, meets with Director of Housing Programs and Rapid Re-Housing Advocate	Participants meet with their Rapid Re-Housing Advocate to identify: ● Goals (1-3) ● Support Services and Networks ● Barriers ● Unit Choice	● Unit identification ● Participant choice ● Long-term subsidy ● Lease Agreement and VRLTA Review	● Initially meets weekly; more frequently for goal/task follow-up ● Meets monthly after being housed; more frequently based on participants needs	● Long-term subsidy obtained ● Participant has reached a level of self-sufficiency ● Providing list of support services providers

Benefits, Challenges and Strategies

Benefits

- Shortens the durations humans spend experiencing homelessness
- Prevents recurring homelessness
- Cost-effective

Challenges

- Landlord resistance
- High housing cost
- Barriers
- Societal imposed stereotypes about homelessness

Strategies

- Community-wide education on homelessness
- Landlord/tenant support
- Partner with service providers to pool resources
- Identify/address early signs of instability



**BUILDING STABILITY
THROUGH COMMUNITY
ARLINGTON COUNTY
(VIRGINIA)
PERMANENT
SUPPORTIVE HOUSING
PROGRAM**

ORIGIN STORY

- Realization by community and Human Services that people with disabilities were unhoused or unstably housed and sought best practices
- 2005 - Study on permanent supportive housing was commissioned and published by technical assistance that launched program
- Began as a CoC-funded project with 9 units; with community buy-in, local general funds expanded program to include program staffing, rental assistance, and a 10% set-aside of County-funded affordable housing units for our PSH program
- Operated as a scattered-site, project-based program

TODAY

- Serves 350 individuals and families who are actively in housing
- Growing team of 13 comprised of Housing Support Specialists (7.1), Housing Navigator (1), Rent Subsidy Coordinators (2), and Admissions Coordinator (1).
- 94% housing retention rate in 2024 and 2025
- Unit mix: Majority of participants in locally-funded program; growing amount in state-funded “PSH for SMI” program; and 8 units of project-based vouchers
- Participants live in 44 housing communities with 14 participating owners / property managers including non-profit and for-profit developers
- High case loads of over 50:1 per Housing Support Specialist (have reached as high as low 70s with staff turnover)

TOMORROW / FUTURE STATE

- Team is growing with state funding support; process of adding a Peer Housing Support Specialist this year
- Case loads are becoming more manageable; our near-term goal of 45 will be achieved this year, and have mid-term goal of 30:1
- Building program that is “structured and flexible.” A few examples include:
 - Graded Level of Support to support our “PSH graduation” work
 - Evaluation of Affordable Homes informs who we partner with
 - Use our annual survey of participants as well as ongoing feedback to improve our program



**THANK
YOU**

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