

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program



HPRP: Beyond the Basics

Sponsored by:

Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS)
U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development



Presenters

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- Tom Albanese, Abt Associates
- Moderator: Kristy Greenwalt, ICF
- Resource Advisor: Theresa Silla

WEBINAR INFORMATION

Purpose

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- Provide Grantees and Subgrantees with an in-depth exploration of issues related to:
 - Successful targeting of HPRP resources
 - Effective service design and delivery
 - Common monitoring issues
 - Fraud prevention

Format

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- Call will last approximately 90 minutes
- All callers are “muted” due to the high number of participants
- Call will be recorded for future use and made available for viewing/download
- If you are having audio difficulties, use telephone instead of computer

Submitting Questions During the Webinar...

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- Audience members who need clarification on a slide can do so via the “questions” function in the “Go to Webinar” toolbar
- Resource advisor will forward some questions to presenters to answer
- Additional questions: please submit to HUD’s Virtual Help Desk at <http://hudhre.info/HPRP>

Materials and Evaluation

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- Materials referenced during this webinar can be found on HUD's Homelessness Resource Exchange at <http://hudhre.info/HPRP/>
- Evaluation questions to measure the effectiveness of this call will be emailed out following the call to all participants.

Eligibility & Targeting

HUD Eligibility Requirements

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- **Initial Consultation**
 - Required to establish eligibility and appropriate type of assistance
- **Income**
 - Must be at or below 50 percent of AMI
- **Housing Status**
 - Is homeless (for rapid re-housing assistance) **OR** at imminent risk of homelessness (for prevention assistance);
AND:
 - Lacks financial resources and support networks needed to obtain or remain in housing;
 - Has no subsequent housing options.

Eligibility vs. Targeting

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- **Participant eligibility:**

- Whether participants meet HUD's minimum requirements

- **Targeting:**

- Process of determining the target population to serve
- Targeting decisions impact program design and program design decisions impact targeting
- May focus on ...
 - Specific homeless or at-risk sub-populations
 - Households at more imminent risk of homelessness
 - Households served based on program design

Who should be served with HPRP *homelessness prevention* assistance?

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- **Homelessness prevention:**
 - Household will imminently lose current housing and will be *literally* homeless without ("*but for*") HPRP assistance
 - *BUT FOR* = 1) no other housing options AND 2) no resources OR support networks to maintain/obtain housing
- Intent is to assist households who are at the greatest risk of becoming literally homeless and requiring emergency shelter

Case Example 1

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- Anna and her daughter have been living with Anna's sister for the past two months. Anna works part-time waitressing and has no other source of income (income is 15% of AMI). Her sister can no longer house her and said she must leave in seven days. Anna has \$600 in savings and has no other support networks, resources or housing options, except possibly an aunt.

What does an HPRP program need to document in the case file related to eligibility?

Will she be homeless, "but for" HPRP assistance?

Does she have to spend her \$600 before receiving HPRP?

Tips

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- Explore with client all housing options, resources, supports
- Create clear “paper trail” in case file – grantee can provide all subgrantees with standardized forms
- Decisions should be defensible and reasonable
- Have alternative referrals/resources ready when ‘but for’ test not met
- Staff training and supervision

*Questions:
"But For" HPRP*

Who should be served with HPRP *rapid re-housing* assistance?

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■ Homeless Assistance (Rapid Re-Housing):

- Household is presently *literally* homeless:
 - Sleeping in emergency shelter
 - Sleeping in place not meant for human habitation
 - Staying in hospital or institution for up to 180 days, but literally homeless immediately prior to entry
 - Graduating from/timing out of transitional housing
 - Victim of domestic violence
- 1) no other housing options AND 2) no resources OR support networks to obtain housing

Case Example 2

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- John is a disabled veteran who has experienced long-term homelessness. John is staying in the local men's shelter and has no current income, support networks or other financial resources, except \$100 in checking. He is working with the local VA and will likely receive a VASH voucher in the next 2-3 months. John would like to receive treatment for a long-term problem with alcohol abuse.

Is John eligible for HPRP rapid re-housing assistance?

Is HPRP RRH assistance right for John?

How do we know who is most likely to “achieve stable housing”?

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- HPRP Notice: may consider “expected ability of the program participant to achieve stable housing, unsubsidized or subsidized, outside of HPRP”
- Demonstration that applicant has or will have income *is not* a HUD requirement
- Depends on program *targeting* and program *design* (i.e. type/level/duration of HPRP assistance)

Case Example 3

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- Mary and Bill and their three children have been staying in the local family shelter for three weeks. Neither Mary or Bill presently work and both have only inconsistently worked in the past two years. They receive TANF cash benefits, food stamps, SSI for their son, and Medicaid. They would like to find housing and get their life in order, but they don't know where to begin, feel demoralized, and seem to lack motivation.

Is HPRP RRH assistance right for them?

How does an HPRP program determine if this family can achieve stable housing?

*Questions:
HPRP &
“Achieving Housing Stability”*

Service Design & Delivery

Principles: HPRP Service Design & Delivery

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- Prevention and re-housing resources will be most effective when they are targeted directly to resolving a particular household's specific barriers to getting or keeping housing
- "Just enough" -- households should receive the minimum amount of assistance necessary to resolve the immediate crisis and prevent its near-term recurrence
- Linkage to mainstream resources is critical to some households' ability to achieve housing stability and maximizes HPRP resources

Program Design Considerations: HPRP Financial Assistance

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Rental assistance considerations...

- Provide only what is necessary to stabilize housing
- Amount and duration of rental assistance needed may vary
 - Program limitations on amount/duration may impact number that can be served
- Decision may be based on the severity of the client's barriers to retaining housing

Case Example 4

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- Keisha and her son have been in the local family shelter for five days. They have no income, no financial resources, and insufficient support networks to obtain housing. Keisha has some work history and is eligible for public assistance. Keisha may have a substance abuse problem, but staff are unsure. They are on wait list for Public Housing and it is possible that a unit will be available in 6-9 months

What is the appropriate type, level and duration of assistance for this family?

Coordination with Community-Based and Mainstream Services

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- Makes existing services more accessible and effective—avoid duplication
- Establish strong relationships
 - Public assistance agencies
 - Local housing authority
 - Local landlords, landlord networks
 - VA service coordinators
 - Other veterans' service organizations
 - Other homelessness prevention providers

Tips

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- Train staff on other CoC/community resources and programs to ensure best “fit” for participant
- Be clear about what HPRP can do & what it cannot do – with staff and participants
- Maximize HPRP: design flexible program services that can vary in type/level/duration based on need
- Incorporate eligibility recertification (required every 3 months) and other milestones in case plan

Tips

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- If unsure and/or if there are not other resources to refer applicants with greater needs: better to err on side of 'screening in' vs. 'screening out'
- Train staff on other community-based and mainstream resources to ensure needs are met post-HPRP
- Use assessment to identify system gaps
- Staff training and supervision

Questions:
HPRP
Service Design & Delivery

HPRP Challenge:

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Provide the *right resources*
to the *right people* at the
right point in time for the
right amount of time.

Common Issues

Rent Reasonableness & Moving Cost Assistance

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- Rent Reasonableness \neq FMRs
- Rent Reasonableness checks required for Prevention and Rapid Re-housing assistance
- Moving Costs must be reasonable and documented

Documentation, Documentation, Documentation!

- Supporting documents for draws
- 3-month re-certifications
 - Must meet all eligibility criteria
 - Use 2010 AMI:
<http://www.huduser.org/portal/datasets/il/il10/index.html>
- Payment of arrears does not exceed 6 months

Documentation, Documentation, Documentation!

- Hotel/motel vouchers – remember, all 3 criteria must be met
- Habitability standards
- Lead-based paint assessments
 - Must be completed for prevention and rapid re-housing assistance

Challenges in Spending HPRP Funds

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- Staffing challenges
- Programmatic/process bottlenecks
- Targeting/Outreach
- Eligibility criteria

Solutions & Best Practices: Staffing Challenges

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- Hire staff
- Collaborate with other providers to use staff
- Establish central point of entry/screening for HPRP
- Re-examine current processes

Solutions & Best Practices: Programmatic/Process Bottlenecks

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- Document policies and procedures
- Take advantage of existing relationships
- Monitor
- Frequent HPRP team meetings

Solutions & Best Practices: Targeting/Outreach

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- Meet with local officials, landlords, utility companies
- Conduct "in-reach"
- Identify liaisons in other public agencies
- Develop and distribute program materials

Solutions & Best Practices: Eligibility Criteria

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- Develop standardized assessment tools
- Compare current criteria with client data from HMIS
- Re-examine current criteria
- Recognize difference between eligibility vs. targeting

FRAUD PREVENTION

What Constitutes Fraud?

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- Creating false clients
- Falsifying eligibility factors
- Benefitting materially from assistance given
- Providing assistance to family members, business associates or friends

Fraud Prevention

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- What did "Agency A" do right?
 - Internal audit controls in place for check writing
 - Set and followed local policies
 - Put up red flag when policy not followed
 - Addressed issue directly with involved parties
 - HPRP staff met for training and clarification of requirements regularly

Fraud Prevention Tips

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- Internal audit controls for check writing
- Spot check evictions/3-day notices by calling landlord to verify
- Verify entity receiving payments is property owner (check County auditor's website)
- Spot check client files in HMIS against paper files

If Fraud Occurs...

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- Contact local police if appropriate
- Notify local HUD Field Office
- Notify HUD Office of Inspector General:
 - Phone: 1-800-347-3735
 - Email: hotline@hudoig.gov
 - <http://www.hud.gov/offices/oig/hotline/index.cfm>

Resources

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- Submit questions and technical assistance requests to the HUD HRE Virtual Help Desk: <http://www.hudhre.info/helpdesk/index.cfm?do=viewHelpdesk>

Save the Date

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HUD Conference on Homelessness

September 14-17 - Denver

September 27-30 - Atlanta

Covering topics on:

HPRP HEARTH HMIS