

PARTNER Update

Ending Homelessness in the Fairfax-Falls Church Community

Aug. 13, 2009

HOST HIGHLIGHTS

T10 Update

The Training and Change Management Team (T10) has met with the Co-Chairs to receive an updated status of work. These meetings have been informative and revealed the tremendous effort that the teams have made to move this initiative forward. Many teams have drafted materials to support the development of HOST. Integration of these new and/or revised materials will be staggered but will be circulated to the larger group for review in the next few weeks.

Initially, T10 will aggressively focus on efforts that specifically support the development and implementation of HOST. This work is primarily embedded in Intake and Assessment, Prevention and Diversion, Community Case Management and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). The intake and assessment task group has completed the "Prevention, Diversion, Shelter Screening" tool and a "Housing Targeting Tool." The Prevention, Diversion, or Shelter Screening tool will be field tested by Coordinated Services Planning for the next 30 days so that any final changes can be made before countywide implementation. The "Housing Targeting Tool" will be distributed to shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing providers to evaluate all of their current clients in the next few weeks. The information gathered through this process will help to determine the scale on which the appropriate housing intervention is assigned. Recognizing the impending release of federal stimulus funds this fall, it is imperative that processes and policies are in place to support the utilization of these resources. The remaining work is essential for the broader 10-Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. For more information about T10, contact [Michelle Gregory](#) at the Fairfax County Department of Systems Management for Human Services.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Update

During the last 5 months, eight trainings have been conducted to train 38 nonprofits HMIS users. Also, in the last month and a half, four HUD funded programs have been brought into compliance and are now using HMIS. Other exciting HMIS developments include:

- **A new HMIS disclosure and universal consent form has been developed** to support data sharing in the continuum of care system.
- **Domestic violence (DV) programs can now enter non-DV clients in HMIS** to comply with State requirements. One program already has taken advantage of this new HMIS feature.
- Data Quality Reports to support the CoC grant review process and new program implementations have been provided.
- Consensus has been reached on which data elements are going to be shared among providers. This is an important milestone in **becoming truly an OPEN system to facilitate service provision.**
- HPRP data elements and reporting requirements have been evaluated closely with the HMIS vendor. **An HPRP workflow is being designed and a new version of HMIS will be ready late August for implementation.**

Continuum of Care Update

HUD announced a change in the criteria for new project proposals submitted through the Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance grant process this year. For the past few years, the "bonus" project was required to provide permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless single individuals. **This year, the new project application can serve either families or single individuals with a disabling condition in the household.** HUD still has a priority for chronically homeless, but the scoring criteria for these applications have not yet been announced. Additional

information will be sent to current and possible nonprofit applicants later this week. **If your organization is interested in participating and do not receive the notice by Friday, Aug. 14, please contact [Bill Macmillan](#)** at the Fairfax County Department of Systems Management for Human Services. For more information, visit www.hudhre.info/esnaps/.

Federal Stimulus Funding Update

Official notification from the U.S. Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has been received of the award of \$2.4 million over three years for the [Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program \(HPRP\)](#). **HUD signed this agreement on July 22, which officially started the clock for the County's HPRP funding targets.** County Executive Tony Griffin signed the agreement on Aug. 4. Several focused meetings have been convened by HUD to ensure coordination, effective use, implementation and reporting of HPRP funds. **Work continues in preparation of these funds to be used to kick off the HOST process by the end of September:**

- [Department of Housing and Community Development \(HCD\)](#) is the grantee and will receive the HUD funds to support homeless prevention and rapid re-housing. [Office to Prevent and End Homelessness \(OPEH\)](#) will also be accountable for the full and appropriate use of these funds and will be overseeing the day-to-day use of the funds.
- [Department of Administration for Human Services \(DAHS\)](#) will be providing administrative support making payments to third party entities (landlord utility companies, not directly to clients) and reporting on assistance. DAHS also is working with the **Housing Brokerage Group (T7)** and others to develop an abbreviated RFP to go out later this month to support the hiring of two housing locator positions. Efforts also are underway to extend the existing shelter contracts of **Reston Interfaith, New Hope Housing and Shelter House** to support the hiring of community case managers who will each work with a regionally based HOST site.
- [Department of Management and Budget \(DMB\)](#) in partnership with the [Office of the County Executive \(CEX\)](#) and [Department of Finance \(DOF\)](#) are providing internal guidance and training to ensure plans for the use of the funds are in compliance with county's financial and federal stimulus funding guidelines, including reporting.
- Use of **HMIS** also is a critical tool to help reporting on the use of the stimulus funds.

EVENTS

National Conference on Ending Homelessness - July 29-31

The recession and **housing crisis** have changed everyone's world. Some communities have already witnessed significant increases in homelessness, and the National Alliance to End Homelessness anticipates even greater increases in the future – if nothing is done. On July 29-31, **homeless advocates gathered in Washington, D.C., to work together to face this crisis with solutions.** To read more about the conference, visit the [official conference Web site](#).

Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 561, Fairfax, VA 22035. For more information or to request this information in an alternate format, call 703-324-9492, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless. This is a Fairfax County, Va., publication.