



BECOMING A HOMELESS SERVICE PROVIDER

March 2011

Overview



- This session will include
 - ▣ A description of Homeward and what we do
 - ▣ A brief overview of the Ten Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in the Richmond Area
 - ▣ The HUD definition of homelessness
 - ▣ A discussion of data on those experiencing homelessness in the community
 - ▣ Examples of ways to get involved with the homeless services system

What is Homeward?



Homeward is a planning and coordinating organization for homeless services in the Richmond region, fulfilling its mission by focusing on three core areas:

1. Educating The Community For System Change
2. Serving As A Community Catalyst For Change In Service Delivery
3. Identifying Needs And Trends

Our Community has a Plan to End Homelessness

Five goals drive the priorities of the *Ten Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in the Richmond Region*

- 1. Transform the homeless services delivery system to focus on housing stability.**
- 2. Ensure access to permanent housing.**
- 3. Prevent individuals and families from falling into homelessness.**
- 4. Educate and advocate for change.**
- 5. Provide regional data and research on homelessness.**

Who is Homeless by Definition

Who is homeless?

- According to HUD, a person is considered homeless only when he/she lives on the street,
 - in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g. cars, campsites, and abandoned buildings),
 - in an emergency shelter,
 - in transitional or supportive housing (for people coming from streets or shelter), or
 - in any of the above places prior to entering a hospital/institution for short-term (30 days or less).
- A person is also considered homeless if he/she is being
 - evicted within a week from a private dwelling, or
 - discharged within a week from an institution where they stayed long term, 31 days or more, and a housing plan is not provided as part of discharge planning.

Who is chronically homeless?

- A Chronically Homeless Person is an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more, OR has had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years. A disabling condition is defined as a diagnosable substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, or chronic physical illness or disability, including the co-occurrence of two or more of these conditions. In defining the chronically homeless, the term “homeless” means a person sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g., living on the streets) or in an emergency homeless shelter.

How Many People Experience Homelessness in Our Community?



- On any given day, there are approximately 1,100 individuals who are homeless in our community. This number includes those living in shelter and those who are unsheltered. It includes single adults and families with minor children.

2011 Winter Point in Time Data

OVERALL POPULATION	
Total point-in-time	1,102
<i>Total children in Point-in-time count</i>	<i>159</i>
UNSHELTERED POPULATION	
Unsheltered	166
SHELTERED POPULATION	
Emergency Shelter: unaccompanied adults	262
Emergency Shelter: persons in families (incl. children)	94
Transitional Shelter: unaccompanied adults	428
Transitional Shelter: persons in families (incl. children)	153



Our Community's Homeless Service Providers



Ways to Get Involved With the Continuum of Care

Housing and Community Services in the Richmond Region

A Map of the Homeless Services System in the
Richmond Region

I am interested in addressing homelessness in our community.



I've volunteered for a while, and I want to go deeper.



I want to start a non-profit but don't have my non-profit status.



I already have my non-profit status.

- Learn more from the Homeward website at www.homewardva.org.
- Volunteer with an agency that provides services to those experiencing homelessness. You can contact HandsOnGreater Richmond for volunteer opportunities.
- 211 also keeps listings of local volunteer opportunities

- Get trained.
- Checkout Embrace Richmond for training on how to assist the homeless services system.
- The Community Foundation provides training on those interested in serving on boards
- For educational opportunities, look for classes offered by Non-profit Learning Point and through Connect Richmond.
- Consider employment with a non-profit agency.

- Interview non-profits to find out what it is like to run a non-profit.
- Contact Melba Gibbs at mgibbs@FreedomHouseRichmond.org to discuss joining the Executive Director's Network.
- Complete all the necessary non-profit paperwork.
- Contact the Virginia Tax Law Center for assistance with completing non-profit paperwork.

- Join the Executive Director's Network. Contact Melba Gibbs at mgibbs@FreedomHouseRichmond.org to discuss joining the Executive Director's Network.
- Consider applying for funding.
- Attend a Homeward Solution Provider's Training.
- List your agency with 2-1-1 so that they can refer clients to you.

Special Considerations for Starting a Shelter



- Local Zoning Regulations and Special Use Permits
 - Check the limits for the number of unrelated individuals who can live in the same residence
 - Check with local Planning Department for more information

For Those Without A Non-Profit Determination



ConnectRichmond Workshop:

“When and How to Start a Nonprofit”

<http://pnerichmond.org/news/2011/02/connectrichmond-workshop-when-and-how-to-start-a-nonprofit/>



Funding

The CoC Process

- The CoC is used to refer to two things- funding and community planning.

Name	When does this happen?	How do I participate?	How do I get more information on this?
The HUD Supportive Housing Program (SHP) Funding process	Funding is contingent upon when HUD announces the availability of funds. This usually happens in the early to late fall.	An agency that is interested in getting funding would submit an application to the community lead agency. Applications are reviewed by a local committee and are ranked based on the ability to meet the community need and strength of the application.	Sign up for Homeward's Housing and Homeless Listserv. Each year, Homeward send out an announcement letting interested agencies know that the competition has opened.
The group of local homeless, housing, and supportive services providers that participate in local planning to meet the needs of those who are homeless and/or are at risk-of homelessness	On-going; year-round	Participate in the Executive Director's Network	Contact Melba Gibbs at mgibbs@FreedomHouseRichmond.org

SHP Funding- A Few Details on Eligibility

Who can apply for these funds?


- Eligible applicants include States, local governments, other government agencies (such as public housing agencies), private nonprofit organizations, and community mental health associations that are public nonprofit organizations.

Can CoC funds be used by faith-based agencies?

- CoC funds are open to faith-based agencies that have IRS 501(c)3 non-profit status, however, funds can not be used to fund any program that requires religious attendance or adherence as part of the program.

What kinds of programs are eligible under this grant application?

- **Permanent Housing for Persons with Disabilities:** This component provides long-term housing with supportive services for homeless persons with disabilities. This type of supportive housing enables special needs populations to live as independently as possible in a permanent setting.
- The **Transitional Housing** component facilitates the movement of homeless individuals and families to permanent housing. Homeless persons may live in transitional housing for up to 24 months and receive supportive services such as childcare, job training, and home furnishings that help them live more independently.
- **Supportive Services Only (SSO)** projects address the service needs of homeless persons. Projects are classified as this component only if the project sponsor is not also providing housing to the same persons receiving the services. SSO projects may be in a structure or operated independently of a structure, such as street outreach or mobile vans for health care.
- **Safe Haven** is a form of supportive housing that serves hard-to-reach homeless persons with severe mental illness and other debilitating behavioral conditions who are on the street and have been unable or unwilling to participate in housing or supportive services. A Safe Haven project that has the characteristics of permanent supportive housing and requires clients to sign a lease may also be classified as permanent housing when applying for HUD funds. It is expected that clients will be re-engaged with treatment services as they become stabilized and learn to trust service providers.

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- **Shelter Plus Care (S+C)** This program provides rental assistance for homeless people with disabilities that together with other social services will provide permanent supportive housing. Eligible applicants include units of general local government and public housing authorities. There are four components: TRA (tenant based rental assistance), SRA (sponsor based rental assistance), PRA (project based rental assistance) and SRO (single room occupancy dwellings).
 - **Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Single Room Occupancy for Homeless Individuals (SRO)** Under the SRO program, public housing authorities and private non-profit organizations are allowed to apply for rental subsidies for homeless individuals. There is no disability requirement.

Who can be served by these grant funds?



This program serves the needs of the homeless and chronically homeless as defined by HUD. Note that this definition may differ from the definition used by other agencies, mostly notably that of the Department of Education. The definition used by HUD specifically excludes people who are "doubled up" (living in shared accommodations) and those at risk of becoming homeless.

Where to Go for Additional Information on Government Funding

HUD Homelessness Exchange	http://hudhre.info	This is the website where you can find information on federal funding for homelessness and prevention.
Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development	http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/HomelessnessToHomeownership/default.htm	State resources on homelessness and funding information on homeless services



Resources

Useful Links

Homeward	Learn more about our work and how we coordinate providers, regional governments, and community stakeholder in addressing homelessness	www.homewardva.org
The Community Foundation	Information on Richmond Area Non-profits	http://www.tcfichmond.org/
Partnership for Non-profit Excellence	Information on becoming a board member and starting a non-profit	http://pnerichmond.org/
Non-profit Learning Point	Educational classes for those working in non-profits	http://www.community.vcu.edu/programs/nonprofit/index.html
Give Richmond	Information on how to give to local non-profits	http://www.tcfichmond.org/learn/community-partnerships/giverichmond/
United Way of Greater Richmond-Petersburg	Information on volunteering and donating to local non-profits	http://www.yourunitedway.org/
Embrace Richmond	Information for those interested in addressing homelessness from a faith perspective	http://embracerichmond.wordpress.com/
Housing and Homelessness Listserv	Information from housing and homelessness service providers in the Richmond area	http://connectnetwork.org/mailman/listinfo/housingandhomelessness_connectnetwork.org
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Federal resources on homelessness and federal funding information on homeless services	http://hudhre.info
Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development	State resources on homelessness and funding information on homeless services	http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/HomelessnessToHomeownership/default.htm

Questions and Answers



THANK YOU

For more information

visit us on-line at

www.homewardva.org