

## **Program Requirements – Targeted Prevention**

Targeted Prevention Programs funded through this RFA will prioritize: 1) Persons who have a history of homelessness (to include currently staying with friends/family, or “couch surfing”), 2) Persons who have previously been evicted, 3) persons exiting jail or are engaged in the court system, 4) youth exiting foster care, and 5) families receiving child welfare services.

Performance measures used for Targeted Prevention programs funded through this RFA will be: 1) percentage of persons served who are part of the prioritized population indicated above (higher rate is better); 2) number of households that fall into homelessness after program exit after 6 months, and after 1 year (lower rates are better).

Targeted Prevention programs funded under this RFA must:

### **1. Promote Dignity and Respect**

- a. Consistently implement practices to meet people where they are and provide person-centered care that focuses on personal strengths.
- b. Establish formal policies and value statements that convey clear expectations that persons will be treated with dignity and respect in every interaction. Monitor adherence to expectations. Provide people served with the grievance process.
- c. Have expectations of program participants clearly communicated and easily accessible for review.
- d. Practice cultural competency and practice equity to effectively serve program participants across demographic differences.
- e. Set only minimal and reasonable requirements for housing assistance, and enforce requirements in a fair and transparent way. Programs should limit eligibility criteria to those required by funders and/or facility structure (for example, funding for veterans or unit size suitable for families with children).

### **2. Adopt a Housing First Approach and Create Low-Barrier Access to Housing**

- a. Have minimal expectations or requirements of people seeking assistance. Programs must not terminate or deny services to households based on refusal to participate in supportive services. Supportive services are helping or educational resources that include support groups, mental health services, alcohol and substance abuse services, life skills or independent living skills services, vocational services and social activities. Supportive services do not include housing stability planning or case management.
- b. Actively participate in the local Continuum of Care.

- c. Formally collaborate with Coordinated Entry to help persons access the assistance needed in the shortest timeframe possible.
- d. Use data routinely to detect trends, monitor housing success and other performance measures.
- e. Be staffed by employees who are suitably trained to effectively utilize HMIS, utilize motivational interviewing techniques, provide basic diversion, as well as trauma informed, housing-focused services to a population with barriers to housing stability. Staff should also provide great customer service and ensure the program offers services in a culturally aware and appropriate manner to each program participant.

### **3. Facilitate Housing Retention and provide Stability Support Services**

- a. Provide basic Diversion services to households facing imminent eviction.
- b. Help program participants work with landlords to retain housing and address landlord concerns leading to risk of housing loss.
- c. Educate landlords regarding the WA Dept of Commerce Landlord Mitigation program and other incentives available.
- d. Help individuals and families address issues that are causing housing instability and risk of imminent eviction.).
- e. Help individuals and families negotiate manageable and appropriate lease agreements with landlords.
- f. Monitor participants' housing stability and be available to resolve crises.
- g. Provide or assist the household with connections to other community resources and people supports that help them improve their safety and well-being and achieve their long-term goals.
- h. Ensure that services provided are client-directed, respectful of individuals' right to self-determination, and voluntary.

### **4. Provide Rent Assistance**

- a. Provide assistance to cover limited arrears, and the time-limited rental and/or utility assistance (typically six months or less) necessary to allow individuals and families to retain housing, as per CHG Guidelines.