

Nassau County Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRP)

Guidelines

This program has been designed to address homelessness in the community by proactively working with families with children who are most at risk of becoming homeless. The goal of the program is to help people obtain long term sustainable housing. Three key elements of the program are **Prevention, Diversion, and Rapid Re-housing**. Funds available in this program are intended to enhance existing assistance, and shift the focus from providing shelter to preventing homelessness and quickly re-housing those who do become homeless.

Prevention: Entails providing the necessary resources and support to prevent people from becoming homeless. Those at risk of homelessness are identified and assessed. Appropriate preventive measures such as financial assistance, case management, and housing stabilization are taken.

Diversion: The intent is to prevent homelessness for those who are applying for shelter. Diversion techniques include, but are not limited to: helping people return to housing they have just left; using financial incentives or mediation to allow moving in with friends or relatives; location of other housing if no other alternatives exist.

Rapid Re-housing: The targeted population for rapid re-housing services includes those people who are already homeless. People who become homeless are rapidly re-housed using any combination of financial assistance, case management, housing location and stabilization services.

The Nassau County Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) offers financial assistance and case management services.

Eligible Financial Assistance includes:

- Rental Assistance (up to 18 months) Average monthly assistance, approximately \$750
- Rent arrears (up to 6 months) This counts towards the maximum allowed assistance of 18 months.
- Security/utility deposits (up to 6 months arrears)
- Moving Costs
- Storage (up to 3 months)
- Motel/hotel vouchers (no more than 30 days)

Financial assistance will be considered either short or medium term in nature. Short term financial assistance lasts approximately 3 months. Medium term assistance lasts anywhere from 4 to 18 months maximum. Recertification is done every 3 months to verify continued need for assistance.

All financial assistance provided is payable directly to third party vendors. No cash assistance will be given to program participants.

Eligible Services:

- Housing search and placement
- Housing service plans
- Case management and housing stabilization

Ineligible Activities/Services Include:

- Double-dipping with other Recovery Act Programs
- Construction or rehabilitation
- Mortgage costs
- Credit card bills
- Car repair or transportation
- Childcare
- Travel
- Food
- Medical
- Clothing
- Home furnishings
- Entertainment
- Pet Care
- Education related materials
- Certification, licenses, or general training

Eligible Recipients: Include

- Families with children who have incomes at or below 50% of the area medium income. The area median income for Nassau County as of April 1, 2009 is \$101,800 (for a family of 4).
- Maximum HUD Nassau County Income Limits (as of April 1, 2009)

Household Size							
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
\$ 35,650	\$ 40,700	\$ 45,800	\$ 50,900	\$ 54,950	\$ 59,050	\$ 63,100	\$ 67,200

- Those who have no appropriate housing options identified.
- Those who lack sufficient resources and support networks to obtain housing.
- Future affordability is a key component of eligibility for HPRP funds. Chronically homeless may not be eligible for these funds.
- Client must be financially independent (able to maintain) their residence within the 18 month time frame allowed by the program.
- Must be United States Citizens or grantees of asylum

Documentation accepted to determine eligibility for services

- Birth certificate
- Social Security card
- Driver's license, permit or NYS Non-Driver's Identification card (Photo ID), Passport
- Bank Statements
- W-2's
- Verification of household income