

Rapid Re-Housing Manual

For

Providers

Executive Summary

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Dedicated to:

God, my parents and family, Elim Transitional Housing Staff and Board of Directors,

Hennepin County Staff and FHPAP, and

people at risk and/or experiencing homelessness.

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Introduction

This Executive Summary is designed to help you think through the key building blocks of a Rapid Re-Housing and Prevention Program. Please use it as a guide. You will need to adjust it to your program's philosophy and community's resources. **Complete Manual will be available April 15, 2009.**

Please remember, that we all need a home and that we all utilize community services. We should not design programs that create separate housing and/or services for people at risk or experiencing homelessness but rather to reintegrate people back into our communities.

Rapid Re-Housing and Prevention is the outgrowth of the work many providers having been doing for three decades to assist people at risk or experiencing homelessness and to obtain housing in the community.

Elim Transitional Housing (ETH) began as a church based shelter at Elim Baptist Church in 1982-1983. We assisted people to move out of the shelter into housing. In 1983, we began the first transitional housing program in Minnesota utilizing a scattered site, independent housing model to **rapidly move people out of shelters and to prevent people from coming into shelters** or becoming homeless.

ETH became the model for the Minnesota Temporary Housing Bill (now called Transitional Housing) passed in 1984. The original bill provided rental assistance and services for 6 months. (The bill was later amended to bring it into conformity with Federal legislation-(originally 18 months) now 24 months.)

ETH also became the model for Hennepin County's Transitional Housing utilized in 1984, to assist people to move out shelters and limit the need for additional shelters by preventing people from becoming homeless.

In 1986, ETH provided assistance in writing the original McKinney Vento Act (Homeless Survival Act) which included Prevention and aspects of the Rapid Re- Housing Models (not enacted). In 1987, ETH provided technical assistance to HUD in the development of the transitional housing portion of the Act. While HUD did not initially embrace the scattered site, rent subsidy, turn -key model (where people continue to live in the same place), HUD has now finally fully embraced this model in the Rapid Re-Housing Models.

Rapid Re- Housing has been described in many ways: Transitional Housing, Relocation Assistance, Housing First, Rapid Exit (one of the national model's for Rapid Re-Housing - ETH developed with Hennepin County in 1993, utilizing initially Minnesota Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance funding and then adding McKinney Vento Supportive Housing Program- Services Only Funding).

The goal is the same: To assist people at risk or experiencing homelessness to re-integrate into our communities by obtaining /maintaining housing and to utilize the community based services they want and/or need.

Rapid Re- Housing

To assist people (families, individuals, and/or youth) to rapidly exit out of homelessness and to move back into housing in the community.

Services may include but not limited to:

1. Housing location, application/credit check fees, first month's rent and/or damage deposit, furniture and moving assistance, landlord tenant mediation.
2. Brokering appropriate other services in the community- employment, education and/or training, physical, mental, and/or chemical health services, child care, transportation assistance, legal services.
3. Rent Subsidies: Shallow rent subsidies.

Prevention

Assist people to maintain rental housing, for themselves, in the community.

Services may include but not limited to:

1. Payment for rent for past due rent.
2. Housing Relocation assistance, application/credit check fees, first month's rent and/or damage deposit, furniture and moving assistance, landlord tenant mediation.
3. Rent Subsidies: Shallow rent subsidies. Short Term: 1-3 months. Medium 4-18 months.
4. Brokering appropriate other services in the community- employment, education and/or training, physical, mental, and/or chemical health services, child care, transportation assistance, legal services.

Screening

A tool to obtain additional background information to assist in connecting people to appropriate community based resources and/or to make appropriate referral (s) for professional assessments (as needed).

1. Screening Tool (Appendix C)
2. Screening may be completed by agency staff, central intake location, travelling screener, etc.

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Philosophical and Theoretical Basis

Faith: How we treat others is how we treat God. Love and treat others the way you would want to be treated if you were in the same situation.

Social Justice: Housing is a Human Right!

Theoretical Basis:

1. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs:
 - a. The basic needs of Housing, Food and Water, Safety must be met first.
 - b. Higher level needs such as employment, education, health issues may be addressed more appropriately and effectively after basic needs are met.
2. Reality Therapy:
 - a. Each person is responsible for their own lives and to be a responsible member of the community. (Self Reliance).
 - b. Change only occurs in the Here and Now. You cannot change your past, you can only change your future by what you do today.
 - c. Staff will utilize a guided discovery teaching model. Their role is to teach/ mentor people to access resources so they may address their needs.
3. Dream/ Strength Model- Each person is a unique creation of God, with their own special talents and abilities. (Appendix D)
 - a. Identify person's dreams. Dreams are powerful motivators
 - b. Identify their strengths which will help them be successful.
 - c. Identify barriers/ problems which create instability in their housing and life.
 - d. Identify realistic and measurable short and long term goals.