

State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless Commission



Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2014

 Georgia[®] Department of 
Community Affairs



2014 COMMISSION MEMBERS STATE HOUSING TRUST FUND FOR THE HOMELESS

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The resources and activities of the State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless Commission are administered by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the Georgia Housing Finance Authority.

Gretchen Corbin

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STATE HOUSING TRUST FUND FOR THE HOMELESS MISSION

The mission of the State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless (HTF) is to support the efforts of organizations that provide housing and essential services for individuals and families striving to end their state of homelessness. These groups include:

- Nonprofits;
- Faith-Based Organizations;
- Community Homeless Provider Networks; and
- Local Governments and other public entities.

The mission of the State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless will be accomplished by:

- Providing resources for the groups listed above;
- Supporting organizations that promote self-sufficiency; and
- Forming partnerships with organization that embrace the goal of ending homelessness in Georgia.

YEAR AT A GLANCE

- Over 92% of people who participated in Rapid Re-Housing programs in State FY 2014, did not return to homelessness, exceeding national statistics.¹
- Almost 95% of the individuals and families who were on the verge of losing their housing and becoming homeless and who received prevention assistance were able to maintain stable housing.
- The Re-Entry Partnership Housing (RPH), a partnership with the State Board of Pardons and Parole and the Georgia Department of Corrections, had a gross cost savings for the State of Georgia of over \$3 million during State FY2014.
- Over 3,000 people who were homeless participated in nine different one-day events, held throughout the state, in which they were provided health care, legal aid, housing assistance, employment, and benefit enrollment opportunities as well as quality of life resources to help achieve self-sufficiency and permanent housing.

“I was on the streets and under the bridge. The folks at the location welcomed me with open arms. I had my own bed!”

(Gloria, GRO)



¹ As Rapid Re-Housing is a relatively new concept, there are limited studies to show the success of the program nationwide. However, after a two-year pilot program, HUD reported that about 15% of Rapid Re-Housing participants did not exit to permanent housing. Rapid Re-Housing: A History and Core Components, National Alliance to End Homelessness, April 22, 2014.

STATE HOUSING TRUST FUND PROGRAMS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Homelessness Prevention

By definition, the prevention of something means to stop it from happening, altogether. The Commission supports programs that provide assistance to individuals and families who are facing imminent homelessness. Providing this support on the front end works to stop the movement towards a loss of housing. Homelessness prevention includes financial assistance with utility bills, rent arrears, and moving costs, as well as case management.

In State Fiscal Year 2014, 670 individuals in 289 households were provided homelessness prevention assistance. 90 days after receiving this assistance, 95% were still stably housed.

Rapid Re-Housing

A relatively new concept, Rapid Re-Housing has become a core program in Georgia's work in addressing homelessness. These programs work to quickly move individuals, often families, back into permanent housing, as opposed to having them spend extended periods of time in the homeless system. Rapid Re-Housing assistance includes funding for utility bills, rental assistance, and case management.

1,727 individuals from 745 households received assistance from HTF-funded Rapid Re-Housing programs during State Fiscal Year 2014. Of those, more than 92% remained stably housed after the assistance ended.

Street Outreach

Street outreach programs are designed to reach out to the unsheltered individuals and families and meet them where they are, geographically as well as emotionally, as they are often the most reluctant to enter programs or accept assistance. Providing funding for street outreach enables programs with specially trained staff to work to build relationships and trust with these individuals.

Over 670 individuals, from 580 households, received assistance from street outreach programs in State Fiscal Year 2014. Of those, almost 40% subsequently entered into some type of homeless assistance program, becoming one step closer to ending their homelessness.



Supportive Services

Supportive services available through HTF-funded provider programs included housing support services, outreach, case management, childcare, employment training, financial counseling, legal aid, mental health counseling, health care, and substance abuse therapy.

3712 individuals from 3438 households received assistance from HTF funded supportive services programs.

Transitional Housing

Offering housing and supportive services for up to 24 months, transitional housing programs provide a crucial piece in the continuum of housing services. Although not a necessary step for everyone, for some people, transitional housing provides the structure and support needed to help them move up and out of homelessness.

2,618 people, including 113 veterans, were housed in HTF-funded transitional housing programs, in State Fiscal Year 2014. Of this number, 69% left the programs and moved into permanent housing, which is over one and a half times the average of people in other communities leaving transitional housing and moving into permanent housing.²

Emergency Shelter

Emergency shelter offers immediate accommodations for individuals and families who are homeless and provides a short-term program that works to connect people with more permanent housing and services.

Over 13,000 people, including over 4,000 children and over 650 veterans, stayed in 1,997 emergency shelter beds funded by the Commission. Of those, 32% left the shelter and moved into permanent housing. This percentage is double that of other communities across the nation.³

Shelter Plus Care

Under the premise that housing and services need to be connected in order to ensure the stability of housing for homeless people with disabilities and their families, the Shelter Plus Care (S+C) program provides permanent housing in connection with supportive services. The program provides rental assistance for a variety of housing choices, accompanied by a range of supportive services funded by other sources.

In State Fiscal Year 2014, 1871 people, in 1515 households, were housed in HTF supported S+C programs.

“The Shelter Plus Care Program has opened the door to a life of possibilities for me. ... Through the help of my Case Manager and staff at DeKalb CSB, I have been able to gain the self-respect, self-worth, dignity, and self-esteem necessary to succeed. ... I now plan to finish my degree in Social Services and, I will be taking the Peer Specialist Certification Training to work with others (with behavioral health diseases). I am a living testimony that when people care and extend their open arms, every human being has the potential to overcome barriers that life may bring.”
(Donald, Dekalb CSB)

² In 2012, a 7-state study indicated a 42% average for transitional housing programs. *Rapid Re-Housing: A History and Core Components*, National Alliance to End Homelessness, April 22, 2014.

³ In 2012, a 7-state study which indicated a 16% average. *Rapid Re-Housing: A History and Core Components*, National Alliance to End Homelessness, April 22, 2014.

Permanent Supportive Housing

Permanent Supportive Housing combines federal and state HTF financial resources to finance development of affordable rental housing that will have supportive services for eligible tenants with a disability.

In State Fiscal Year 2014, the Permanent Supportive Housing program funded two new construction projects that will create 59 apartments units of affordable housing for low income homeless individuals with chronic mental illness living in Georgia.



Bridgeway Village located in Lawrenceville, one of the two new construction supportive housing developments funded by Commission resources.

Project Homeless Connect

Project Homeless Connect is a one-day, one-stop event designed to connect people who are homeless with services in their areas. Services include hot meals, personal hygiene, transportation, healthcare, HIV/AIDS testing, and some permanent housing.

In State Fiscal Year 2014, 3,092 homeless individuals participated in nine different Project Homeless Connect events held throughout Georgia.

Re-Entry Partnership Housing

The Re-Entry Partnership Housing (RPH) program is a partnership with the State Board of Pardons and Parole and the Georgia Department of Corrections and provides short term financial assistance to help stabilize an individual's re-entry process to enhance his or her ability to remain crime free. Through the Commission, DCA provides support for contracting and payment with housing providers.

385 people received housing through the RPH program in State Fiscal Year 2014. This program had a gross cost-savings of \$3,101,682.34 for the year for the citizens of Georgia.⁴

"The Circle of Hope has helped my kids and I overcome daily, as well as, long term issues. They have helped us find a place to live, as well as, combat the issues with my abuser and his family that is currently on-going. Circle of Hope has assisted us with housing, clothes, food, transportation, counseling, as well as helping advocate and redirect our lives. I would like to thank the Circle of Hope and funders for all they have done, are doing, and continue to do for our family and others in our situation. It's been a long hard road and it wouldn't be possible without help from this program and its funders."

("Debra," Circle of Hope)

⁴ Net cost avoided calculated from RPH release date to max out date minus total cost spent to incarcerate past tentative parole month to release date."

STATE HOUSING TRUST FUND FINANCES

State Fiscal Year 2014 Expenditures	State HTF and RPH	Federal \$ Amount (if applicable)
Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) - includes emergency shelter, transitional housing, homeless prevention, supportive services, and Project Homeless Connect	\$1,260,473	\$4,348,448
Shelter Plus Care (S+C)	\$1,488,083	\$11,302,207
Re-Entry Partnership Housing (RPH)	\$654,825	0
Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS)	\$137,918	\$512,718
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	\$220,946	0
Administration	\$238,964	\$1,430,295
Totals:	\$4,001,209	\$17,593,668

For every \$1.00 committed to Georgia programs by the State Housing Fund for the Homeless, \$5.25 is leveraged in federal funding.



"I honestly feel that I would not be here today without the assistance of (the HTF-funded program). The staff has given me the tools I need to achieve independent living on my own. I so look forward to residing on my own very soon! I am ready! Thank you!"

(Melissa, GRO)



Camila Knowles

Commissioner, Department of Community Affairs
Executive Director, Georgia Housing and Finance Authority

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