

Georgia<sup>®</sup> Department of   
**Community Affairs**

**State Housing Trust Fund for the  
Homeless Commission**



**Annual Report**  
STATE FISCAL YEAR 2015

**2015 Commission Members**  
**State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless**

**Mike Beaudreau, Chair\***

National Accounts Manager, Ricoh Business Solutions, Inc.  
Lawrenceville

**Eve Byrd**

Executive Director, Fuqua Center for Late-Life Depression, Emory Brain Health Center  
Atlanta

**John Ellis**

Deputy Commissioner, Finance & Administration  
Georgia Department of Community Affairs

**Randy Glass**

Chief Development Officer, North American Mission Board  
Alpharetta

**Douglas Hanson**

Board Member, Good News Clinic  
Gainesville

**William C. McGahan**

Board Chairman, Georgia Works!  
Atlanta

**Mara Register**

Leadership Development Program Manager, Carl Vinson Institute of Government  
Athens

**Barry Maurice Slay**

President, Terco, Inc.  
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**Joyce C. Stevens**

Partner, The Stevens Group  
Board Member, Georgia Department of Community Affairs  
Good Hope

**Brian Williamson\***

Deputy Commissioner, Community Development & Finance  
Georgia Department of Community Affairs

**Chris Vaughn**

Fostering Bulloch  
Statesboro

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

**Camila Knowles**

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

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\*Term ended during the 2015 State Fiscal Year

## 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

- Almost 90% of people who participated in Rapid Re-Housing programs in State FY 2015, did not return to homelessness, exceeding national statistics.<sup>1</sup>
- 92% of the individuals and families who were on the verge of losing their housing and becoming homeless and who received prevention assistance were still stably housed one year later.
- 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 twelve 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.

*“Even though it’s been a real struggle, especially in the last 7 years with addictions, mental health, and homelessness, I found that if you reach out and start talking to people you can find there’s hope out there. There are people who want to help. And if you want their help, you have to reach out and accept it.”*

(Quote from a client at a HTF Funded Shelter Plus Care Program)



<sup>1</sup> As Rapid Re-Housing is a relatively new concept, there are limited studies to show the success of the program nationwide. However, in *The Family Options Study*, released in July 2015, it is stated that in an evaluation of the Rapid Re-Housing for Homeless Families Demonstration program, 33% of 127 families who participated in a follow up survey reported being doubled up (just one indication of instability and not independently housed) in the year after exiting from rapid re-housing (*The Family Options Study*, page 24).

# STATE HOUSING TRUST FUND PROGRAMS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Homelessness Prevention

By definition, the prevention of something means to stop it from happening, all together. 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 2015, 750 individuals in 324 households were provided homelessness prevention assistance. One year after receiving this assistance, 92% were still stably housed.

## Rapid Re-Housing

A relatively new concept, Rapid Re-Housing has quickly 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.

1,934 individuals, from 914 households, received assistance from HTF-funded Rapid Re-Housing programs during State Fiscal Year 2015. Of those, almost 90% remained stably housed one year after the assistance ended.



***"If it were not for the program and the stepping stones it provided I would not have been able to make it."***

Quote from a client who was a recipient of Rapid Rehousing funding from an HTF-funded program

## Street Outreach

Street outreach programs are designed to reach out to the unsheltered individuals and families and meet them where they are, geographically, but also emotionally, as these people 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.

967 individuals, from 881 households, received assistance from street outreach programs in State Fiscal Year 2015. 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 Housing Trust Fund 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.

3,129 individuals, from over 2700 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.

1505 people, including 93 veterans, were housed in HTF-funded transitional housing programs, in State Fiscal Year 2015. Of this number, 67% 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.<sup>2</sup>

## Emergency Shelter

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

Over 12,000 people, including over 3400 children and over 650 veterans, stayed in 1,976 emergency shelter beds, funded by the Housing Trust Fund. Of those, 34% left the shelter and moved into permanent housing. This percentage is double that of other communities across the nation.<sup>3</sup>

*"My journey began very, very hard but with support and always encouragement from the Shelter staff and being able to find resources that met vital needs in my life, I was allowed the freedom to begin a new life free from domestic violence and also gained a belief in myself which will enable me to provide for myself and my children, rely on my instincts when entering another relationship and always be thankful that the people who were there for me will always be just a phone call away. My sons and I are so grateful that we are in America and that my children and I have the opportunity to live a life free from the destruction of domestic violence."*

Quote from a survivor of domestic violence who was a resident of a HTF-funded emergency shelter

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.

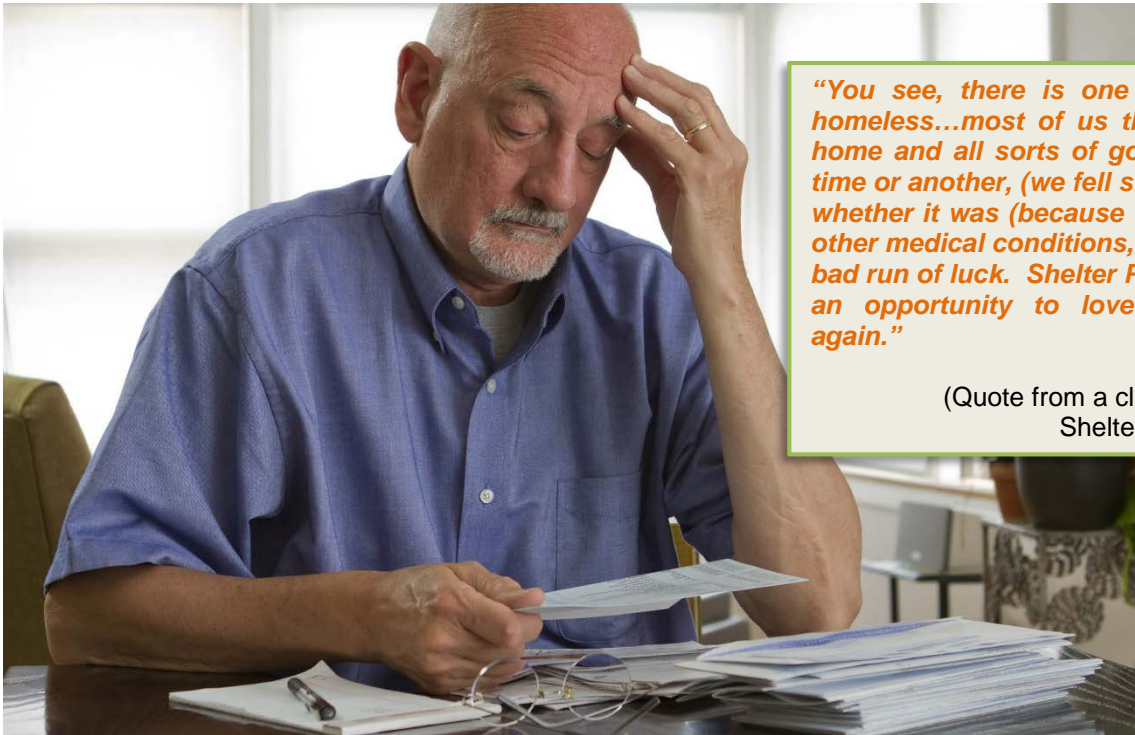


DCA staff and others at the March 2015 Ribbon Cutting for Clover Bridge Apartments, a 28-unit apartment building in Covington, that will be operated as permanent supportive housing for homeless individuals with mental illness.

## 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. Through the support of the Housing Trust Fund, S+C providers are able to wrap client-focused services and other supports with the permanent housing.

In State Fiscal Year 2015, 3415 people, in over 2700 households, were housed in HTF supported S+C programs.



*“You see, there is one thing about being homeless...most of us that are have had a home and all sorts of goods. But, at some time or another, (we fell short) along the way-whether it was (because of) mental health or other medical conditions, loss of job or just a bad run of luck. Shelter Plus care offered me an opportunity to love my surroundings again.”*

(Quote from a client at a HTF-Funded Shelter Plus Care Program)

## 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 2015, 3,092 homeless individuals participated in twelve different Project Homeless connect events, held throughout Georgia.

## Re-Entry Partnership Housing

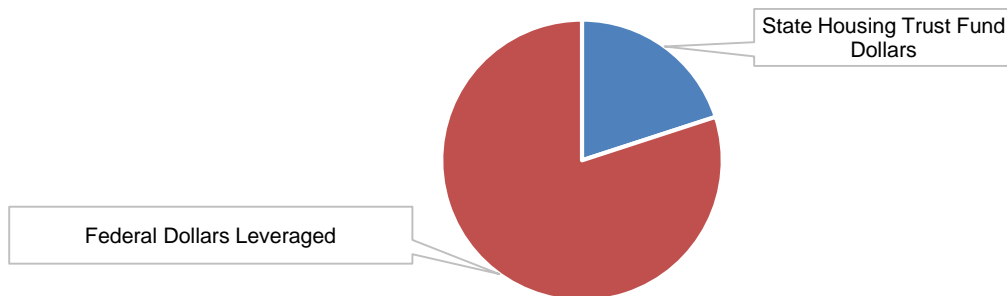
The Re-Entry Partnership Housing (RPH) program is a partnership with the State Board of Pardons and Parole and the Georgia Department of Corrections, which provides short term financial assistance to help stabilize an individual's re-entry process to enhance his or her ability to remain crime free. Through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

## STATE HOUSING TRUST FUND FINANCES

| State Fiscal Year 2015 Expenditures  | State HTF and RPH  | Federal \$ Amount (if applicable) |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) (which include emergency shelter, transitional housing, homeless prevention, supportive services, and Project Homeless Connect) | \$1,711,875        | \$3,488,978                       |
| Shelter Plus Care (S+C)  | \$1,555,729        | \$12,787,737                      |
| Re-Entry Partnership Housing (RPH)   | \$551,550          | 0                                 |
| Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS)   | \$186,672          | \$1,180,537                       |
| Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)   | \$179,974          | 0                                 |
| Balance of State Continuum of Care Planning  | \$10,000           | \$128,693                         |
| Administration   | \$282,998          | \$340,799                         |
| <b>Totals:</b>   | <b>\$4,478,798</b> | <b>\$17,926,744</b>               |

For every \$1.00 committed to Georgia programs by the State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless, \$5.00 is leveraged in federal funding.



*So when you are all having a crazy day and nothing seems to be going right and you start getting discouraged as we all do sometime(s), it is my hope that you will take this letter out. Maybe it will renew and encourage you and help remind you all that the work that you all are doing is so important to the lives of the lucky few that you serve. I forever will be grateful and thank you all so much for believing in me and loving me wants and all!*

Excerpt from a letter written to a HTF-supported S+C program from a former resident.



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