



SACRAMENTO REGION
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Preventing Homelessness Strategic Initiative Brief

Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program¹: What Is It?

- ◆ \$1.5 billion at the national level allocated by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
- ◆ Signals an important shift in the federal focus to spare families upheaval and hardship of becoming homeless or spending weeks in shelter or on streets.
- ◆ Rapidly transitions families and individuals to permanent housing—either by
 - Helping folks about to become homeless
 - Shortening the amount of time they are homeless
- ◆ Provides temporary financial assistance and services focused on housing location and stabilization
- ◆ HUD expects funds will be targeted to:
 - Those most in need
 - In prevention this means to those who would be homeless *but for* this assistance
 - Those who are likely to achieve housing stability after the short term assistance ends
 - Generally not intended for the chronically homeless who need long term support
- ◆ Sacramento County can maximize its HPRP program and serve more families by raising an additional \$400,000 in match dollars to leverage \$1.6 million in emergency stimulus dollars from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families-Emergency Contingency Fund (TANF-ECF)². This will allow up to 4000 eligible families and individuals to be served by HPRP in Sacramento County.
- ◆ This leveraged opportunity only exists through September 2010.

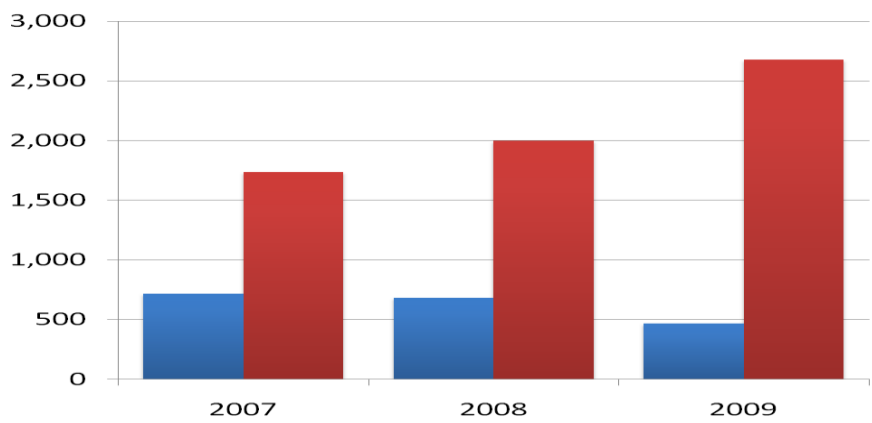
¹For more information, please visit <http://www.hudhre.info/HPRP/>.

² Through the stimulus, the federal government created the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Emergency Contingency Fund (TANF-ECF). TANF-ECF is used for a variety of programs, including homeless prevention and rapid rehousing. TANF-ECF provides 80% federal funding for qualified expenses; the locality must provide the remaining 20% match from non-federal resources. Sacramento County has dedicated \$2 million of their TANF-ECF to the HPRP program. For more information, please visit <http://emergencycontingencyfunds.wikispaces.com/> prepared by the California Welfare Directors Association.

Key Facts and Trends on *Homelessness*

- ◆ On any given night, more than 2,800 people are homeless³
 - 57% sheltered, 43% unsheltered
 - 16.7% chronically homeless
 - 20% families, including couples
- ◆ Over the course of a year up to 4,257 people experience homelessness
- ◆ *Chronic homelessness* is defined by the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as an unaccompanied individual with a disability condition who has been homeless at least for a year or more, or those who have experienced at least four episodes of homelessness within three years. It is often associated with
 - Release from correctional institutions
 - Discharge from hospitals and mental health facilities
 - Substance abuse and mental health problems
 - Escaping trauma (runaway youth, battered spouses, PTSD veterans)
- ◆ The economic crisis has produced a *new face of the homeless*: families and individuals displaced by job loss and the rise in foreclosures. These are people new to the social services system, do not know how to navigate this system, and eligible for the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRP).
- ◆ “Housing First⁴” is a cost-effective strategy to reduce the chronically homeless. Taking this approach, through HPRP, its goals are to prevent the near-homeless from becoming homeless and shorten the time homeless families and individuals displaced by the economy are in shelters.

**Need: Sacramento Homeless Population,
2007-2009**



From 2007-2009

35% decline in chronic homelessness

14% increase in overall homelessness

■ Chronic Homeless
■ Other Homeless

³ 2009 Homeless Point in Time Count

⁴ “Housing First” is a strategy that employs the following tenets: 1) Re-house quickly – reduce time people are homeless, 2) Place into permanent housing with wrap-around services; 3) Link to services from stable location rather than street; 4) Rebuild lives in permanent housing as members of neighborhoods/communities

Key Facts and Trends on *Homelessness Prevention*

- ◆ It is estimated that 5,000 households will experience homelessness in Sacramento County over the two-year period of the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program (2009 and 2010).
- ◆ About ½ of these households, or 2,400, are appropriate for a rapid re-housing solution (can get to housing stability with short-term supports).
- ◆ About 400 of these households are families with children.
- ◆ Another 2,000 families with children are at risk of homelessness and can benefit from prevention services.
- ◆ Temporary financial assistance is cost effective, estimated at \$3,500 to stabilize a family in housing.
- ◆ A private match is required to leverage additional stimulus funds to allow HPRP to serve more families.

Our Region's Opportunity

- ◆ SRCF is taking the lead to leverage the additional \$1.6 M with private matching dollars of \$400K, for a specific time period, with measurable results for a built-in homelessness prevention strategy. This will prevent almost 4,000 individuals and families from becoming homeless.
- ◆ Thanks to this leveraged investment opportunity, our gift of what amounts to just \$100 per person will prevent 4,000 people from becoming homeless. This is an incredible opportunity, available for a limited time – available to us right now.
- ◆ This represents both an emerging and innovative best practice for how people come together to solve community issues and leverage other dollars – a unique public-private partnership where government program dollars are combined with private citizen contributions. This increased, personal buy-in from residents to help other residents is what makes it possible to attract additional public money - \$2 M more.
- ◆ Our participation in this opportunity provides Sacramento visibility at the state and national level. Doing so supports the SRCF's mission to enhance the quality of life and resident participation in philanthropy – all to be leveraged for future financial opportunities.
- ◆ The Foundation is seeking both individual donors and institutional partners to help leverage these dollars.

Frequently Asked Questions⁵

Q: Why is the Foundation raising this money?

A: The Foundation is supporting an existing city and county partnership on homelessness prevention. An opportunity exists to pull in an additional \$2M for homelessness prevention efforts.

A: SRCF is fulfilling its philanthropic mission by raising \$400,000 to generate \$2 million in impact.

A: It's an opportunity to position Sacramento for additional federal investment that we otherwise wouldn't qualify for, and it helps reduce the need for more Foundation resources – or another chance to leverage

Q: What is HPRP?

A: Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Project (HPRP) is a program that prevents homelessness and is aligned with the success already experienced in the 10 year plan. It has four components and built-in measurable outcomes:

■ Four HPRP components:

1. Screening and Assessment
2. Financial Assistance
3. Housing Locator Services
4. Stabilization Services

■ Measurable Outcomes:

1. Stable in housing: 85% at 6 mos after program exit.
2. 80% do not return to homelessness
3. 80% stay in shelters less than 30 days
4. 80% of mental health clients are linked to services

Q: How were the three HPRP providers chosen (Salvation Army, Lutheran Social Services, and Volunteers of America)?

A: They were chosen through a competitive RFP process and were selected by a panel of experts.

A: These providers are well-established organizations already known to the consumer base, with built-in competencies that demonstrate their strength as homelessness prevention providers. They have the ability to remove barriers to employment, to housing, and to increase access to medical care and mental health services, rapidly. They're proven to be successful at their work; therefore, our investment in them is prudent.

Q: It seems the Foundation is raising the money for these providers. Why?

A: The opportunity to leverage new money is very time sensitive and exists only through Sept 2010. The Foundation has the ability to work with its donor community and other institutional funding partners to expedite this opportunity.

Q: Will you give the match money to the county?

A: No, the Foundation will commission grants to the three agencies, which is a standard practice among many foundations.

⁵ For more information, please contact Jay Cohen on fund development jay@sacregcf.org, or Priscilla Enriquez on HPRP Priscilla@sacregcf.org or 916.921.7723