

Heartland Family Service

Rapid Re-Housing

A Guide for Service Providers

The purpose of the Rapid Re-Housing Program is to provide assistance to rapidly re-house persons who are homeless. It will provide temporary financial assistance (1-18 months) and housing relocation and stabilization services to individuals and families who are homeless (residing in emergency or transitional shelters or on the street) and who need temporary assistance in order to obtain housing and retain it.

What services does the program offer?

Financial Assistance. Funding is available for rental assistance, security deposits, utility deposits, utility payments, moving cost assistance, and motel and hotel vouchers. All financial assistance is “needs-based”. Upon intake staff determine the minimum amount of financial assistance needed to move the individual out of homelessness and prevent them from returning to homelessness. Program participants may only be certified for up to 3 months of assistance at a time and must re-certify in order to continue to remain eligible.

Housing search and placement. Once accepted, staff will assist individuals/families in locating, obtaining, and retaining suitable housing in the community. Once located, housing must pass a habitability inspection and be in accordance with lead-based paint regulations.

Case management. Staff will assist with the arrangement, coordination, monitoring, and delivery of services related to meeting the housing needs of program participants and helping them obtain housing stability. Staff will also assist program participants with critical skills related to household budgeting, money management, accessing a free personal credit report, and resolving personal credit issues.

Who is eligible?

In order to be eligible for the program an individual must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Resides in Douglas or Sarpy counties
2. Must be homeless, according to one of the following definitions:
 - a. Sleeping in an emergency shelter
 - b. Sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (cars, parks, streets)
 - c. Staying in a hospital or other institution (up to 180 days), but was homeless immediately prior to entry
 - d. Graduating from, or timing out of a transitional housing program
 - e. Victim of domestic violence

3. Must have no appropriate subsequent housing options AND lack the financial resources and support network needed to obtain immediate housing
4. Must be at or below 50% of Area Median Income (AMI)

Family Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
50% AMI	24,450	27,950	31,450	34,950	37,750	40,505	43,350	46,150	48,950	51,750

What is the referral process?

Resources will be targeted and prioritized to serve households that are most in need of this temporary assistance and are most likely to achieve stable housing. In order to make this determination staff will assess not only for eligibility, but also for barriers to housing retention which will help determine appropriateness for the program. The program is not intended to provide long-term support, nor will it address all of the financial needs that may affect housing stability. Therefore, if it is determined that an applicant needs more intensive supportive services or long-term assistance, staff will make a referral to a more appropriate program.

Providers are asked to assist in identifying clients that may be appropriate for the program and to complete a referral form which may be faxed to program staff. RRH Staff will also maintain a consistent schedule in each of the shelters to conduct outreach and screen clients. Clients may speak directly with RRH staff during these scheduled times or call the referral line directly. ***Please note that due to a limited number of openings in the program, clients residing in shelters, as well as those who receive a referral to the program from a current provider, will be given priority on the waitlist.*** Clients will be called to schedule an assessment once their name has reached to the top of the waitlist. After staff have completed an assessment, an acceptance decision can be expected to be made within 5 business days. Once accepted into the program, clients will meet with a RRH Housing Specialist who will assist in developing a plan to locate housing in the community and address any barriers to housing.

**North Omaha Office
6720 N. 30th Street
Omaha, NE 68112**

**Referral Line: (402) 457-7770
Fax: (402) 457-7791**

Heartland Family Service operates in accordance with the Fair Housing Act