



Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) Frequently Asked Questions 10.5.09

What is HPRP?

HPRP is the American Re-Investment and Recovery Act funding for Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing.

How much money is available?

The joint allocation is for a total of \$1,150,859. Ninety three percent of the funds will provide financial assistance and services to prevent homelessness or help those who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized. A breakdown of the allocation can be seen below:

City of Kalamazoo Allocation:	\$758,089
AHP Allocation:	<u>\$392,770</u>
Total Combined Allocation:	\$1,150,859

What is the AHP?

The AHP is a collaborative body of agencies that serve as the local Continuum of Care (CoC) for Kalamazoo County. The CoC model was established by governmental entities to create a streamline process for funding for homeless initiatives such as MSHDA's Emergency Shelter Grant program. Since MSHDA already uses the CoC model for funding locally, they chose to use this same network to allocate HPRP funding.

More information on the AHP is available at www.kalamazooahp.org

What is the intent of the funding?

HPRP funds are intended to serve those individuals and families that are most in need and most likely to succeed.

Specifically, individuals and families that will be served with these funds are those that do not need long-term assistance and with limited assistance can recover from their current housing crisis. This funding is NOT intended for individuals and families that will need long-term assistance.

How is "most in need and most likely to succeed" defined?

Most in need is defined as persons either facing a court summons for an eviction or persons living in shelters or on the street.

Most likely to succeed is defined as persons who will be able to afford a rental payment without assistance within a short time frame. Most likely these families have experienced a recent loss of employment but are expected to secure a new job within several months.

What CAN the money be used for?

- Short to medium term leasing assistance
- Rental arrearages
- Security deposits
- Utility deposits
- Utility payments/arrearages
- Housing inspections
- Housing Resource Specialists/housing case management services
- Development of individualized Housing Plans for each program participant
- Housing search and placement activities
- Credit counseling
- Housing Quality Standard (HQS) inspections
- Mediation and outreach to property owners

What CAN'T the money be used for?

- Shelter operations
- To expand the number of beds in an existing shelter
- To supplant existing mainstream resources Shelter focused case management
- Mortgage payments or mortgage refinancing
- Targeting resources to specific homeless populations
- Moving expenses
- Motel/hotel vouchers
- Furniture
- Pet care
- Construction or rehabilitation
- Credit card bills/other consumer debt
- Car repair/transportation
- Travel costs
- Food
- Medical or dental care and medicines
- Clothing and grooming
- Entertainment activities
- Work or education related materials
- Cash assistance to program participants
- Development of discharge planning programs in mainstream institutions
- Payment of licenses, certifications, and general classes

How do I find out if I'm eligible for services?

For persons who have a Court Summons for Eviction and are seeking Homeless Prevention assistance, they can call 2-1-1 for an eligibility screening on a "first come, first serve" basis.

For persons who are current residents of one of the following shelters and are seeking Rapid Re-Housing assistance, they can ask the shelter staff to go through the eligibility screening process on a "first come, first serve" basis.

- Kalamazoo Gospel Mission
- HRI Family Shelter
- The Ark
- YWCA
- The Oakland House (formerly known as the Kalamazoo County Overnight Shelter)
- Open Door
- Next Door

In addition, the following daytime shelters will work with their members or persons living on the street to complete eligibility screenings for Rapid Re-Housing assistance on a "first come, first serve" basis:

- Ministry with Community
- Keystone Shelter

Finally, for persons not using either daytime or nighttime shelter systems, or persons that are for any reason unable to receive a screening via one of the above establishments, eligibility screenings will be held in several outreach locations on a periodic basis as announced, including the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission 10pm to 6am program.

A copy of the MSHDA intake form is available on the AHP website. If you do not have access to the internet, you can contact Michelle Schneider at 269-343-5472 x 6 to request a paper copy.

How will "First Come, First Ready" be monitored?

The initial screening points will be required to fax the applications to Housing Resources, Inc (the lead agency) to ensure that all of the applications are time stamped.

What is the timeline for a response after the initial screening?

HRI will contact all persons passing the initial screening within two business days to set up an appointment.

Once the household has been approved into the program, how will they get into housing?

The lead agency will work through their Landlord Liaison to assist with housing searches and to assist households in securing safe and affordable housing. They will also work with households to ensure that following the HPRP, they will have the resources to continue to afford their unit.

How will the HPRP funds be administered?

Initially the HPRP Oversight Committee considered a joint Request For Proposal (RFP) and application review process to award HPRP funding. However, Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) advised against a RFP process due to the swift turnaround of funds and their intent for a single "Lead Agency" to oversee the entire program.

What is the Oversight Committee?

The Oversight Committee is a group brought together to oversee the HPRP funds. Members of this committee include representatives from the following:

- City of Kalamazoo
- City of Portage
- Kalamazoo County
- Housing Resources, Inc
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation Affordable Housing Partnership (AHP)
- YWCA of Kalamazoo
- Catholic Family Services
- Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
- Greater Kalamazoo United Way
- People United to Secure Housing

Will there be poor and homeless representation on the Oversight Committee?

Representation on the Oversight Committee includes a member of People United to Secure Housing (PUSH). The representative serving on the team is formerly homeless.

Will changes to the program be possible?

The Oversight Committee will meet quarterly to review the progress of the program. Persons who wish to have concerns brought to the Oversight Committee can send comments to mschneider@lisc.org or mail to 119 N Church Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007.

What is the plan for communicating information about HPRP to the community?

Initial meetings have been held with homeless service providers, media, and advocacy groups. Presentations have also been made at the Kalamazoo City Commission meeting and the Kalamazoo County Commission meeting. Communication will continue in the form of emails to distribution lists, outreach by advocacy groups, website posting on www.kalamazooahp.org, periodic forums at Ministry with Community or the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission, and information provided to clients via service provider networks.