



Summary:

Through a new contract with the Portland Housing Bureau, the Urban League of Portland will offer **rapid housing services for 50 households** served by our agency who are homeless or in unstable housing. The majority of households have already been identified and will be housed by the end of November.

Homelessness and the risk thereof affect our service delivery at almost every level, and this rapid response will be an important first step for the households it serves. It's not enough, though, to reverse the skyrocketing levels of homelessness in our community. We'll quickly pivot to showing how our early successes can be expanded to include other partners and other approaches to more fully meet the needs we see every day.

Specific activities:

The Urban League will reduce homelessness in the community we serve by:

- **Dedicating a full time Community Health Worker to the work of housing placement and retention.**
- The Community Health Worker:
 - is a trusted community member who promotes health in their own communities
 - provides information and referral services, housing case planning and advocacy
- **Providing assisted households with more than \$250,000 in direct financial assistance with housing costs**, including:
 - access to rental assistance
 - permanent housing search and placement
 - eviction prevention
 - transportation, food, identification, and other services that contribute to the success of housing case plans
 - basic furniture packages, bedding kits, kitchen starter kits and moving services to clients placed in housing as appropriate and available
- Through Portland African-American Leadership Forum (PAALF), **convening a community-wide advisory board** to lead program evaluation, recommend programmatic changes, and develop opportunities for collaboration and future program scale-up.

Leveraging other services at the Urban League and other partners serving our community, like our community education workers, our summer youth employment program, employment services, and services to our elders.

For more information

Contact: Bisi Carter
Bcarter@ulpdx.org
503-280-2600 ext: 609