

City of Portland Strategy

Housing Access & Stabilization:

Supportive Housing & Extended Rent Assistance

Goal: The goal of this program is to provide individuals and families experiencing chronic homelessness with permanent housing and individualized services.

Need for Supportive Housing & Extended Rent Assistance:

Research shows that individuals with serious mental and/or physical disabilities and households headed by a person with such disabilities, who have been homeless for more than a year or have had intermittent episodes of homelessness over a longer period, can make a successful transition into permanent housing if they are offered both housing (or financial assistance with housing costs), and individualized services.

Supportive Housing & Extended Rent Assistance Program Description

The Supportive Housing and Extended Rent Assistance Program provides individuals with serious mental and/or physical disabilities, who have been homeless for an extended period, with housing, or extended rent assistance, as well as services to support housing retention. The program also serves families that have experienced chronic homelessness.

Program participants receive support to leave the street, qualify for benefits, stabilize and improve their health and retain their housing. Participants may receive other services, including employment services, through the Housing Access & Stabilization Program.

Program Tools

- Street outreach
- Initial assessment
- Meals
- Housing placement assistance
- Benefits eligibility counseling and advocacy
- Up to 24 months of rent assistance for individuals and families experiencing chronic homelessness (the Key Not A Card program)
- Access to permanent supportive housing units at the Bud Clark Commons
- Supportive services to support housing retention
- Access to other services offered at the Bud Clark Commons through the Access & Stabilization Program
- Bridgeview transitional program for homeless persons with serious and persistent mental illnesses.

Project Selection

The City of Portland generally selects providers through a competitive RFP process. Home Forward was selected to run the Bud Clark Commons, including the 130 units of permanent supportive housing, through an RFP process. Transition Projects was selected to provide services at the Bud Clark Commons in a sole source agreement because it was relocating its shelter to the new building and was well-positioned to expand its services to Center clients. The City will renew contracts provided that the

contractual obligations have been met and that outcomes have been successful. The City may choose to reduce or eliminate funding to an agency that does not meet contractual obligations, or that administers a program that fails to meet outcome goals. If a program does not fit within the Bureau's objectives, the agency may be asked to change its program design. The City may also choose to conduct a new RFP for services at the end of the contract term.

Program Eligibility

Unaccompanied adults and families meeting the HUD/HEARTH Act definition of "chronically homeless" are eligible for Supportive Housing & Extended Rent Assistance.

Potential Barriers

Cuts to funding streams for treatment, case management, and services that support formerly homeless people to retain their housing would jeopardize the success of this program.

Partner Agencies and Organizations

Home Forward (formerly Housing Authority of Portland) administers 130 units of permanent supportive housing at the Apartments at Bud Clark Commons. Transition Projects provides meals and services at the Bud Clark Commons.

Complementary Local, Regional, and National Efforts

Supportive housing is the best practice to end chronic homelessness for individuals and families with disabilities. It has been endorsed by the National Alliance to End Homelessness and the Interagency Council on Homelessness, and figures prominently in the joint City of Portland-Multnomah County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness.

Geographic service Areas

(Including areas of low-income families and/or racial minority concentration)

This program is available to participants from throughout Multnomah County.

Monitoring

A description of PHB's Monitoring Program is in Section One.

