

## HSP/LHOT Program Overview

The programs discussed combine elements of existing programs. The terms HSP (Housing Stabilization Program) and LHOT (Local Housing Options Team) are used here for the purposes of discussion.

**HSP** refers to an organization that focuses on the housing and housing-stabilization of homeless, near-homeless, and formerly homeless individuals and families in permanent housing.

**LHOT** refers to an interdisciplinary team of stakeholders convened by the HSP that meets monthly.

## HSP - The Housing Stabilization Program

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The HSP is an organization that focuses on the housing placement and housing-stabilization of homeless, near-homeless, and formerly homeless individuals and families. Placement efforts of the HSP are guided by a market driven orientation, and are marketed to landlords and/or property management companies. Activities undertaken by the HSP would include, but not be limited to:

### What the HSP offers landlords:

- Tenant search assistance
- Reliable and quick tenant referrals
- Tenant education
- Landlord support “hotline”
- Tenant/landlord mediation

### What the HSP offers clients:

- Housing search assistance
  - Individually tailored supportive services including information, guidance and referral, development of a self-sufficiency plan to prevent future homelessness.
  - A “Ready to Rent” folder including credit report, sample completed rent application, certification of training completion
  - Financial assistance for security deposit, first month’s rent or a two-month stabilization period.
- Home-base case management
  - Level 1: Information & Referral
  - Level 2: Intensive Case Management Housing stabilization referrals
- Pre-eviction intervention that specifically includes doubled up families
- Housing stabilization services to break the cycle of homelessness, especially home visiting and budget management. If resources are available, services might include a mental health specialist or psychiatrist.
  - Time-limited subsidies to stabilize emergencies.
  - Payee services for individuals with disabilities whose disabilities interfere with their ability to manage their money

## **What the HSP does not do**

- Sign leases
- Guarantee the stability or placement of any one client or family

## **Enrollment and Participation**

Clients are referred from an existing shelter or housing program. The HSP completes a housing assessment with each client before enrollment. Homeless individuals or families who are referred must have some source of income, such as SSI/SSDI, employment or TANF and must be able to maintain their housing. After housing placement, continued participation in the program is dependent on compliance with the lease and acceptance of home visits by Case Managers.

The HSP can provide a lease addendum stating that the unit is being leased based on participation in the HSP program, and that leaving the HSP program may be reason to terminate the lease.

## **LHOT - The Local Housing Options Team**

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LHOTs engage in a wide range of activities including the following:

- Networking among local agencies
- Conducting needs assessments
- Educating other members and sharing information
- Troubleshooting/problem solving (often using individual case studies)
- Developing housing strategies
- Creating partnerships to address problems
- Planning and financing specific housing programs or projects

All agencies and individuals who are key stakeholders in the disability, housing and human service sectors can participate in the LHOT. Examples include:

- Locality mental health/mental retardation departments and other public offices including housing/community/economic/business development; human services; children and youth services; aging and adult services; drug and alcohol programs; adult probation and parole; prison
- Service providers
- Local housing authorities
- Housing providers
- Disability organizations
- Community action agencies
- Housing developers; lenders; builders; realtors
- PATH (Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness) program
- Federal agencies such as the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development; Veterans Administration
- Health center/behavioral health services
- Employment and training agencies
- Fair housing councils and legal services