



Report on the HOMELESS PREVENTION PROJECT

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The Homeless Prevention Project (HPP) was designed to offer institutional discharge planning on a voluntary basis to persons exiting state operated prisons, mental health facilities and the foster care system. The project began in June 2005, as legislated by KY Acts 194A.735.

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services/Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities, in collaboration with The Coalition for the Homeless of Louisville; Family Children First; and the Lake Cumberland MHMR Board, Inc. (Adanta) developed project guidelines and began enrolling clients in 2006. Client referrals came from the prison facilities, mental health hospitals and foster care providers in each project region. The primary goal is to prevent participants exiting state run institutions from becoming homeless. Case Managers provide information, referral, advocacy, support, and assistance in finding housing to help ease the transition back into the community. The project hopes to demonstrate a decrease in the number of people who become homeless after being discharged from state institutions; and that with continued support while in the community, long-term stability is achieved.

Project goals:

- Offer discharge planning services in one rural area and one urban area of the state.
- Provide access to housing and community services through a single service agency in each area.
- To prevent 88% of the clients served from becoming homeless.

Project results

1/ Number of clients served

The HPP target has been to serve 100 clients a year, with 50 clients in each region. New clients would be added as space became available. The number of new clients flowing into the program during 2010 has decreased in the urban region but held steady in the rural region. The project length of stay has been slowly increasing from the project beginning. HPPP initial goal was to keep clients engaged for a 6 month period.

Number of client served	Rural area	Urban area	Total served
Clients served in 2010	65	18	83
Avg length of stay in 2010	206 days	705 days	-
Clients served since 2006	148	84	232
Avg length of stay since 2006	223 days	378 days	-

Client referrals in 2010	Rural area	Urban area	Total by referral
Prison/ jail	20	0	20
Mental health institution	17	1	18
Foster care	1	3	4
Total new clients	38	4	42

2/ Homeless prevention

The goal of keeping clients from becoming homeless has been met. 54 clients left the HPPP program during 2010. Only 1 client became homeless, 3 clients returned to prison, and 38 clients found housing.

Housing status at program exit in 2010	Rural area	Urban area	Total
Rental (no subsidy)	20	4	24
Rental (subsidized)	4	0	4
Staying with friends or family	9	1	10
Mental hospital	0	0	0
Prison/ jail	3	0	3
Homeless shelter	1	0	1
Other destination	6	0	6
Unknown/ disappeared	5	3	8
No. of adult clients who left project in 2010	48	8	54

3/ Linking clients to community resources

Each client in the HPPP program receives case management, support services and links to other community resources. One of the outcomes of this project is that client's realize an increase in employment and/or income by program exit.

Income and Employment at exit	Rural area	Urban area	Total
No. of clients who left program in 2010	48	8	20
Clients who increased their income	10	7	17 (31%)
Clients who found employment	7	1	8 (15%)

4/ Project cost effectiveness

The potential savings generated by this project come primarily from helping clients avoid becoming homeless and keeping clients from returning to the state institutions. This project saved over \$370,800 in 2010 (see notes), more than a 284% return on investment.

Conclusion:

The Homeless Prevention Project demonstrates that homelessness prevention works. When clients are engaged in the community and are offered supportive services, their recidivism rate drops and the majority find stable housing. Participants are offered hope; and the Commonwealth saves money. The project has become popular and requests for participation now exceed project capacity. The project appears to work just as well in a rural community as it does in an urban area.

NOTE:

KY state prison recidivism rate 40%, daily cost for 1 person = \$52 (from the Report of Task Force on Penal Reform, Feb 2011). HPP kept 5 clients from returning to prison, creating \$46,800 in savings for the Dept. of Corrections.

KY mental health hospital 90-day readmission rate 20.5%, daily cost per bed estimated at \$600 (Cabinet for Health and Family services, data for the Eastern State hospital in 2010). HPP kept 3 clients from returning to the hospital, saving the Cabinet \$324,000 annually.