



The Rapid Re-housing For Families Pilot

Interim Evaluation Report

The Rapid Re-housing for Families Pilot is a joint initiative of The Committee to End Homelessness in King County, the City of Seattle, King County, the Seattle Housing Authority, United Way of King County, Building Changes, Solid Ground, YWCA of Seattle, Catholic Community Services, DAWN, and Wellspring Family Services. Employment Navigation Services provided as a joint initiative of Building Changes, Neighborhood House, King County Career Connections, and the YWCA.



Rapid re-housing is an emerging best practice housing model for families experiencing homelessness. Communities across the country are using rapid re-housing approaches to shorten the time families spend homeless and serve more families by providing cost-effective short-term assistance.

Rapid Re-housing for Families Pilot

The Rapid Re-Housing for Families (RRHF) Pilot launched in November 2013. The pilot’s goals are to reduce the length of time families experience homelessness and to expand rapid re-housing, enhancing housing options for homeless families.

Rapid re-housing has shown impressive outcomes nationally and our local pilot is designed to transition families experiencing homelessness into permanent housing quickly by offering:

- Housing Search and Stabilization Services
- Short-Term Rental and Move-In Assistance
- Individualized Employment Assistance

Our local coordinated entry system refers homeless families directly from shelter or unsheltered locations to RRHF. In order to learn the most about rapid re-housing locally, entry criteria were intentionally broad (low screening criteria): more than 90 percent of local families experiencing homelessness were eligible to participate.

Families in RRHF are paired with a housing provider and an Employment Navigator. These teams begin working with families quickly to help them attain housing and employment goals. Housing providers and Employment Navigators provide focused help securing housing and employment, as well as temporary financial assistance.

Financial assistance is flexible and individualized to better assist families in reducing barriers to employment and housing. RRHF providers and Employment Navigators can assist families with moving costs, rent arrears, utility debt, transportation assistance, and training or certification fees. Families receive short-term graduated rental assistance and utilizing a progressive engagement approach can receive additional flexible assistance based on need.

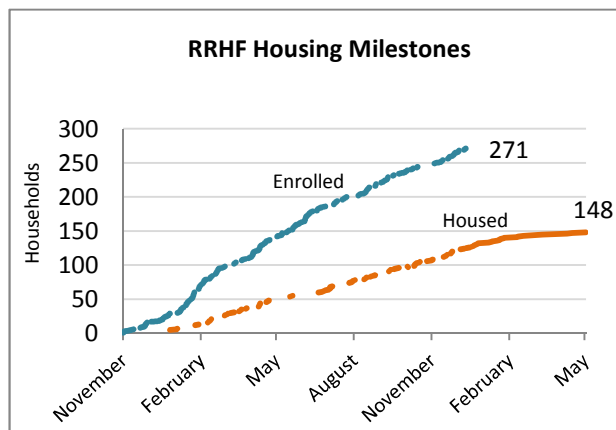
After exiting RRHF, families can contact their housing provider to receive one-time rental assistance within six months. Employment Navigators can remain engaged with families for up to two years.

Interim Results are Encouraging



Nearly 150 homeless families have moved to housing with assistance from RRHF so far. An additional 52 families are currently enrolled in rapid re-housing and looking for housing.

In spite of an expensive rental market, families are finding housing. Forty-six percent of families who have found housing thus far moved in within two months of enrolling. More than 60 percent of families housed moved in to permanent housing within three months of enrolling. By contrast, the average length of stay in Transitional Housing for families in 2014 was over 15 months (482 days).



Families found housing throughout King County. While many families found housing in South King County, others found housing across King County, including within the City of Seattle, in North King County, and in East King County.

Families receive financial assistance for a short time. Families who have completed RRHF received financial support in housing for approximately six months on average.

Agencies were successful at housing a wide spectrum of families. The pilot’s broad inclusion criteria meant that agencies were able to successfully house families with a range of low-to-high barriers to achieving housing stability.

Families maintain their housing at exit. Eighty-seven percent of families who moved to housing were able to maintain permanent housing at program exit.

Still to Come

RRHF will continue to support 109 homeless and formerly homeless families who are still enrolled. This includes 52 families who are currently seeking

housing, and 57 families who are housed and receiving financial support.

Rapid re-housing will continue locally. The City of Seattle, King County, and Seattle Housing Authority continue to work together to fund rapid re-housing for families experiencing homelessness using a similar model to the RRHF pilot. The community has also invested in Rapid Re-housing programs for Single Adults and Domestic Violence victims based on the learnings of the RRHF pilot.

We will continue to assess whether RRHF families maintain housing. The RRHF evaluation will continue to follow participating families in Safe Harbors to track whether they become homeless again.

The impact of RRHF on overall system functioning will be assessed. The next phase of the evaluation will assess changes in system functioning during the RRHF time period. This will include wait times for shelter and other housing models, lengths of stay in shelter, and the total number of families who ended their housing crisis.

Additional Resources:



Committee to End Homelessness – Family Homelessness Rapid Re-housing for Families Pilot monthly dashboards: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/socialservices/Housing/ServicesAndPrograms/Programs/Homeless/HomelessFamilies.aspx>

National Alliance to End Homelessness:

- Adopting Rapid Re-Housing Statewide: The Commonwealth of Virginia: <http://www.endhomelessness.org/library/entry/adopting-rapid-re-housing-statewide-the-commonwealth-of-virginia>
- Findings and Implications of the Family Options Study (a study released by HUD on July 7, 2015), An Analysis by NAEH, July 2015: <http://www.endhomelessness.org/library/entry/findings-and-implications-of-the-family-options-study>

Note: The full evaluation report on the RRHF Pilot will be available at the end of 2015.