

Colorado Valley Homeless Coalition
Rapid Rehousing Program
Bastrop, Fayette, Lee, Austin and Colorado counties

Who are we?

- The Colorado Valley Homeless Coalition was formed under a directive from HUD via the State of Texas, to coordinate and streamline assistance to homeless persons within our service area.
- The CVHC consists of ANY and ALL stakeholders in the Coalition's service area who have an interest in helping homeless persons and families find housing and achieve stabilization. This includes social service agencies, school district liaisons, landlords/realtors, apartment managers, employers, etc.
- Our coalition meets every few months to discuss issues affecting services to the homeless within the Coalition

Lead Agencies

- *Advocacy Outreach*, Elgin (serving Bastrop County) 512-281-4180 – providing Rapid Rehousing and Homelessness Prevention services
- *Combined Community Action*, Giddings (serving Fayette, Lee, Austin and Colorado counties) 979-540-2980 – providing Rapid Rehousing and Homelessness Prevention services
- *Family Crisis Center of Bastrop* (serving all 5 counties) 512-321-7760 – providing shelter and street outreach to homeless persons and victims of domestic violence

What is Rapid Rehousing?

- Rapid Rehousing is a program designed to help people with the initial expenses needed to get in to a new home. It's designed to be flexible, offering varied levels of assistance depending upon a client family's specific needs.
- Rapid Rehousing recipients are regular tenants who sign regular leases with landlords. They are just getting assistance from RR with the initial expenses that homeless clients do not have on hand when they are using whatever limited financial resources they might have, just to survive.
- A typical Rapid Rehousing client is a person or family who has literally fallen on hard times and is most likely in a temporary situation. Most client families DO have a job or at least have income from other sources such as disability or child support. Regaining housing is the first step toward keeping the family safe and getting them back to a normal life.
- Rapid Rehousing is designed to be RAPID. If a landlord agrees to sign a lease with a Rapid Rehousing tenant, there is minimal additional paperwork required. An inspection must be performed to be sure the housing unit is safe, adequate and reasonably priced, and the lease must be a regular lease like any other tenant's. The process can often be completed, with checks written, within a few days or even less.

What Rapid Rehousing ISN'T

- Rapid Rehousing is **NOT a voucher program**. Although the money comes from HUD (like Section 8), Rapid Rehousing money is paid directly by our local agencies to the landlord when a lease is signed.
- Rapid Rehousing is **NOT long-term assistance**. It is by definition short- to medium term (up to 6 months), but in most cases clients are on their own after the first month's rent and deposits are paid.
- Rapid Rehousing DOES NOT REQUIRE any special type of lease or long-term agreement with a landlord.

How Rapid Rehousing works

- Clients apply with the local agencies depending on their county of origin. Persons outside the 5-county area are referred to other providers whenever possible
- Clients who are approved receive case management, instructions on applying for housing, and advocacy with potential landlord, property managers, real estate agents, etc.
- Note: clients may be prioritized by the local agencies, by level of need and length of time they have been homeless. This is a requirement of HUD and the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
- Once a housing unit is found and the client is approved to sign a lease, the local agency inspects the home, assists the landlord in paperwork, and gets a copy of the lease. Payments are made directly from the local agency to the landlord or property manager
- Once a client moves in, they can still receive periodic case management to be sure things are going well and they are fulfilling their obligations as tenants.

- ***Other programs available through the CVHC***

- *Homelessness Prevention (funding assistance for people who are facing eviction)*
 - *CEAP (Utility bill assistance – Combined Community Action)*
 - *Case management and referrals to outside agencies for housing clients*

For more information about Rapid Rehousing or other housing-related services within the 5-county CVHC, contact: