



Santa Barbara County  
Housing and Community Development Department  
Homeless Prevention and Rapid-Rehousing  
Program  
Board of Supervisors Hearing  
May 12, 2009

John McInnes, Director

## American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009

- Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) is a new form of assistance established under the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) program.
- \$829,013 in ESG funding to Santa Barbara Urban County Consortium.
- Consortium partners include the County of Santa Barbara and cities of Lompoc, Santa Barbara, Carpinteria, Buellton, Goleta, Solvang and Guadalupe.
- City of Santa Maria has received its own allocation (\$542,000).

# Target Populations and Primary Goals and Objectives

- Individuals and families who are currently in housing but are at risk of becoming homeless and need temporary rent or utility assistance to prevent them from becoming homeless or assistance to move into another unit (prevention).
- Individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness (residing in emergency or transitional shelters or on the streets) and need temporary assistance in order to obtain housing and retain it (rapid re-housing; "housing first").
- Mortgage payments are not allowed under this program, however, a low-income homeowner at risk of becoming homeless can be provided assistance under the program's other criteria.
- Guiding Principal: "Would this Individual or Family be Homeless *but* for this assistance?"

# Eligible Activities

- Direct Financial Assistance.
- Housing Re-location.
- Data Collection and Evaluation.
- Administrative Costs; 5% allowed for program administration; County must share administrative allocation with subgrantees.
- Assistance should be focused on housing stabilization, linking program participants to community resources and mainstream benefits, and helping them to develop a plan for preventing future housing instability.
- Grantees should ensure that there is a clear process for determining the type, level, and duration for each program participant.

## Direct Financial Assistance

- Short-Term Rental Assistance: Rental Assistance may not exceed rental costs accrued over a period of 3 months.
- Medium-Term Rental Assistance: Rental Assistance may not exceed actual rent costs accrued over a period of 4 to 18 months.
- The grantee determines the amount of short-term and medium-term rental assistance provided, such as “shallow subsidies” (payment of a portion of the rent), payment of 100% of the rent charged, or graduated/declining subsidies.
- No household assisted under HPRP may receive assistance for any period longer than 18 months in duration; this includes rental assistance as well as assistance with utility payments.
- Rental assistance paid cannot exceed the actual rental cost, which must be in compliance with HUD’s standard of “rent reasonableness.”

## Eligible Program Expenses

- Utility Payments: Up to 18 months of utility payments, including up to 6 months of payments in arrears, for each program participant.
- Moving Cost Assistance: Assistance with reasonable moving costs, such as truck rental, hiring a moving company, or short-term storage fees for a maximum of 3 months, or until the program participant is in housing, whichever is shorter.
- Motel/Hotel Vouchers: Assistance with reasonable and appropriate motel and hotel vouchers for up to 30 days if no appropriate shelter beds are available and subsequent rental housing has been identified but is not immediately available for move-in.

# Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services

- Case Management: arrangement, coordination, monitoring and service delivery related to meeting the housing needs of the program participants and helping them to obtain housing stability.

Any individual or household that may receive benefits under HPRP must first meet with a qualified case manager for assessment, qualification and referral for HPRP benefits.

- Outreach and Engagement: Services or assistance designed to publicize the availability of programs to make persons who are homeless or almost homeless aware of these and other available services and programs.

- Housing Search and Placement: Assistance to individuals or families in locating, obtaining, and retaining suitable housing.

Includes tenant counseling, assisting families and individuals to understand leases; securing utilities; making moving arrangements; representative payee services concerning rent and utilities; and mediation and outreach to property owners related to locating or retaining housing.



## Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services, Continued

- Legal Services: Assistance can be provided for legal services to help people to stay in their homes, such as services or activities provided by a lawyer or other person(s) under the supervision of a lawyer to assist program participants with legal advice and representation in administrative court proceedings related to tenant/landlord matters or housing issues.
- Credit Repair: HPRP funds can be used for services that are targeted to assist program participants with critical skills related to household budgeting, money management, accessing a free personal credit report, and resolving personal credit issues.



# Timeline

- March 19<sup>th</sup> – HUD Released Program Notice and Substantial Amendment Form
- April 12-24<sup>th</sup> – Public Review Period for County's Substantial Amendment
- April 22<sup>nd</sup> – Public Outreach meeting – (Santa Barbara)
- April 24<sup>th</sup> – Public Outreach Meeting – (Lompoc)
- May 5<sup>th</sup> – Hearing of Board of Supervisors to Consider Substantial Amendment
- May 17<sup>th</sup> – HUD's Due Date for Completed Substantial Amendment Forms
- May/July – Development and Release of Notice of Funds Available
- August – Applications Submitted and Reviewed
- September – Board of Supervisors' Hearing to Award and Execute Contracts
- September 22 – HUD Deadline for Executed Contracts



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**THANK YOU**

**For More Information Please Contact:**

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**CDBG Human Services/Homeless Programs – Mike Sederholm, 560-1090**

**HOME, Program Analysis, Compliance Oversight – Brooke Welch, 568-3521**

**Annual Action Plan, CAPER, Compliance– Alex Dragos, 568-3522**