

Special Needs Housing

FUNCTION

The mission of Special Needs Housing (SNH) is to provide oversight and leadership to the County's efforts to develop new and innovative housing models to serve special needs and homeless populations and maintain housing stability for vulnerable households. SNH is responsible for collaborating with public and private agencies to develop and implement strategies, to address the County's plan to remedy and prevent homelessness, and to increase the development of supportive, accessible, and affordable housing for special needs populations. Special needs populations include homeless individuals and families, persons with mental health and substance abuse issues, individuals with developmental disabilities, transitioning youth, and seniors with disabilities.

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Contact Nadim Khan of the HHS - Special Needs Housing at 240.777.1179 or Pofen Salem of the Office of Management and Budget at 240.777.2773 for more information regarding this service area's operating budget.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Rental & Energy Assistance Program

The Maryland Energy Assistance Program and Electric Universal Services Program provide financial assistance for eligible low-income households to pay home heating and energy costs. The Rental Assistance and Handicapped Rental Assistance Programs provide subsidies to low-income renters, handicapped persons, and families with dependent children. The Housing Initiative Program provides housing and service coordination to special needs families/individuals and also provides funding for the Partnership for Permanent Housing program.

Program Performance Measures	Actual FY12	Actual FY13	Estimated FY14	Target FY15	Target FY16
Average number of households receiving a rental subsidy each month ¹	1,434	1600	1700	1700	1700

¹ All rental subsidy funds are budgeted in DHCA, except for \$400,000, which remains in the DHHS budget for \$200/month Rental Assistance Program subsidy.

FY15 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY14 Approved	5,098,256	13.00
Replace: Emergency Solutions Grant Shortfall	125,044	0.00
Multi-program adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting multiple programs.	2,637	0.00
FY15 CE Recommended	5,225,937	13.00

Shelter Services

Shelter Services provides emergency and transitional shelters to homeless families and single adults. Shelter Services include community outreach and engagement, comprehensive needs assessments, and case management services to link homeless persons to behavioral health, and financial and legal programs that address housing barriers. The goal is to place single adult and families in stable and permanent housing as rapidly as possible.

Program Performance Measures	Actual FY12	Actual FY13	Estimated FY14	Target FY15	Target FY16
Average length of stay by homeless families in emergency shelter ¹	116	108	120	120	120
Number of families placed in emergency shelters	99	111	90	90	90

¹ Under the Housing First Initiative, the goal is to have families in a shelter for a maximum of 30 days. Due to the large number of families with housing needs, the Department does not believe that goal is attainable in the next few years.

FY15 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY14 Approved	6,661,362	3.00
Shift: Transitional Shelters to A Leased Facility and Paid Through the Leases Non-Departmental Account	-71,528	0.00
Multi-program adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting multiple programs.	44,579	0.00
FY15 CE Recommended	6,634,413	3.00

Permanent Supportive Housing Services

Permanent Supportive Housing Services provides permanent housing to single adults and families. The single adult or head of household must have a documented disabling condition which could include mental health issues, substance dependence, or a co-occurring disorder. Case management is provided to monitor compliance and assist clients in becoming more self-sufficient.

Program Performance Measures	Actual FY12	Actual FY13	Estimated FY14	Target FY15	Target FY16
Percentage of households remaining housed at least 12 months after placement in permanent supportive housing	98.0	97	95.0	95.0	95.0

FY15 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY14 Approved	2,381,884	9.90
Multi-program adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting multiple programs.	83,895	0.00
FY15 CE Recommended	2,465,779	9.90

Housing Stabilization Services

Housing Stabilization Services provides intake and assessment for County households who are experiencing a housing-related emergency. The program's focus is on crisis intervention and prevention. State and County grants are provided to prevent evictions and utility cut offs. Additionally, referrals are made for Temporary Cash Assistance. Case management services are provided to help at risk households develop and implement plans to prevent a future housing crisis.

FY15 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY14 Approved	5,341,424	34.60
Multi-program adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting multiple programs.	184,222	0.00
FY15 CE Recommended	5,525,646	34.60

Service Area Administration

This program provides leadership and direction for the administration of Special Needs Housing.

FY15 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY14 Approved	273,970	2.00
Multi-program adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting multiple programs.	12,359	0.00
FY15 CE Recommended	286,329	2.00

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Program Name	FY14 Approved		FY15 Recommended	
	Expenditures	FTEs	Expenditures	FTEs
Rental & Energy Assistance Program	5,098,256	13.00	5,225,937	13.00
Shelter Services	6,661,362	3.00	6,634,413	3.00
Permanent Supportive Housing Services	2,381,884	9.90	2,465,779	9.90
Housing Stabilization Services	5,341,424	34.60	5,525,646	34.60
Service Area Administration	273,970	2.00	286,329	2.00
Total	19,756,896	62.50	20,138,104	62.50