## NORTH CAROLINA HOUSING PROGRAMS

Bob Winstead and Leone Lettsome NC-DHHS HIV Care Program

## (Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS)

 The primary goal of the HOPWA Program is to improve or ensure the provision of housing and housing-related services to persons living with HIV infection in North Carolina and their families.

#### Eligible Activities

HOPWA funds may be used for a wide range of housing, social services, program planning, and development costs. These include, but are not limited to, the acquisition; rehabilitation; or new construction of housing units; costs for facility operations; rental assistance; and short-term payments to prevent homelessness. An essential component in providing housing assistance for this targeted special needs population is the coordination and delivery of support services. Consequently, HOPWA funds also may be used for services including (but not limited to) assessment and case management, substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, nutritional services, job training and placement assistance, and assistance with daily living.

(Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS)

### Eligible Beneficiaries

Low-income persons (at or below 80 percent of area median income) that are medically diagnosed with HIV/AIDS and their families are eligible to receive HOPWA-funded assistance.

#### Application Process

Locate the Network of Prevention and Care for the county in which an individual resides and contact the HOPWA provider agency for assistance. (See Handout for a list of Networks and HOPWA providers across the State)

(Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS)

### Services/Activities Funded in North Carolina

## <u>Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)</u>

- A rental subsidy that helps participants obtain permanent housing in the private rental housing market. The housing must meet certain housing quality standards and the rent must be reasonable.
- TBRA pays a portion of the tenant's full rent and the tenant pays a portion based on their adjusted income or gross income.

(Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS)

#### Services/Activities Funded in North Carolina

#### Short-Term Rent, Mortgage and Utilities Assistance (STRMU)

- Rent, mortgage, and utilities assistance paid on a participant's behalf in order to prevent homelessness and to help a household maintain their current housing.
- STRMU can assist with back and ongoing rent, mortgage and utility payments.
- Assistance for a participant is limited to 21 weeks in a 52 week period.
- Cannot be used if an individual or household is receiving rental assistance through HOPWA or another federal, state, or local housing subsidy program.

(Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS)

### Services/Activities Funded in North Carolina

### Permanent Housing Placement (PHP)

- Used to help eligible persons establish a new residence where ongoing occupancy is expected to continue.
- Allowable placement costs include application fees, credit checks, and security deposits. These costs cannot exceed the value of 2 month's rent in the new unit.
- Other allowable costs include tenant counseling, assisting individuals and families to understand leases, securing utilities, and making moving arrangements.

(Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS)

#### Services/Activities Funded in North Carolina

### Supportive Services (SS)

- Eligible services and activities utilized to stabilize households in their housing situation and improve access to care and support.
- Allowable activities include employment assistance/training and transportation.
- Employment assistance/training covers job readiness training and placement assistance, but does not include buying clothes for an interview.
- Transportation includes public transportation vouchers for medical appointments, but does not include payments for the repair of an individuals vehicle.

(Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS)

#### Services/Activities Funded in North Carolina

### Housing Information(HI)

- Assistance with referrals to affordable housing resources, assistance in locating available, affordable, and appropriate housing units, working with property owners to secure units for participants, homelessness prevention, and other housing-related activity.
- Developing directories of affordable housing units in a region and providing referral services to assist an eligible person with locating, acquiring, financing and maintaining stable housing. This may include fair housing counseling for eligible persons who may encounter discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, familial status, or handicap.

(Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS)

### Services/Activities Funded in North Carolina

## • Resource Identification (RI)

 Assists agencies with establishing, coordinating and developing housing assistance resources for eligible individuals and their families. RI activities may involve conducting preliminary research to determine the feasibility of specific housing-related initiatives.

(Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS)

## Leone Lettsome, HOPWA Program Administrator

Telephone Number: (919) 755-3134

Email Address: <a href="mailto:leone.lettsome@dhhs.nc.gov">leone.lettsome@dhhs.nc.gov</a>

## Bob Winstead, NC HIV Care Program Manager

Telephone Number: (919) 755-3122

Email Address: <a href="mailto:robert.winstead@dhhs.nc.gov">robert.winstead@dhhs.nc.gov</a>

## NC Housing Finance Agency Community Living Programs

### Targeting Program

The Targeting Program is a partnership between NC Housing Finance Agency and NC Department of Health and Human Services to provide access to affordable housing for people with disabilities and/or experiencing homelessness with very low incomes. Properties developed with using the federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) are required to participate in the Targeting Program. This means that LIHTC properties must set aside between 10 percent and 20 percent of their units and make them available for eligible participants as identified by DHHS. Participants are referred from local service providers and communities to DHHS once they have taken a short training and become an approved referral agency.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7fDfpj8Mhac

## NC Housing Finance Agency Community Living Programs

#### Key Rental Assistance

Key Rent Assistance is only available in properties participating in the Targeting Program. Key rental assistance makes the Targeted apartments truly affordable to persons who are disabled and/or are experiencing homelessness with extremely low incomes and can help pay for security deposits and certain costs incurred by property owners.

#### Transitions to Community Living Voucher

The Transitions to Community Living Voucher provides rent assistance to assist people with behavioral health disabilities either be diverted from, or transition out of restrictive settings, so that they can live in the community of their choice. The voucher, combined with supports that help tenants live independently, makes up the housing portion of a broader program known as the Transitions to Community Living Initiative. The voucher operates as a partnership between the NC Department of Health and Human Services and the state's network of mental health management organizations. TCLV not only provides rent assistance, but can also help pay for security deposits and certain costs incurred by property owners.

- The Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG) provides funding to qualified local governments and non-profit organizations to:
- Improve the number and quality of emergency shelters.
- Provide essential services to shelter residents.
- Re-house homeless individuals and families.
- Prevent families and individuals from becoming homeless.

#### **Allowable Activities**

- Street Outreach: Essential Services related to reaching out to unsheltered homeless individuals and families, connecting them with emergency shelter, housing or critical services and providing them with urgent, non-facility-based care. Eligible costs include engagement, case management, emergency health and mental health services and transportation.
- Emergency Shelter: Essential Services such as case management, childcare, education services, employment assistance and job training, outpatient health services, legal services, life skills training, mental health services, substance abuse treatment services, transportation and services for special populations. Shelter Operations including maintenance, rent, minor repair, security, fuel, equipment, insurance, utilities and furnishings.

#### **Allowable Activities**

- Prevention: Housing relocation and stabilization services and short-and or medium-term rental assistance as necessary to prevent the individual or family from becoming homeless if:
  - 1. Annual income of the individual or family is below 30 percent of median family income.
  - 2. Assistance is necessary to help program participants regain stability in their current permanent housing or move into other permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing. Eligible costs include utilities, rental application fees, security deposits, last month's rent, utility deposits and payments, moving costs, housing search and placement, housing stability case management, landlord-tenant mediation, tenant legal services and credit repair.

#### **Allowable Activities**

• Rapid Re-Housing: Housing relocation and stabilization services and short-and or medium-term rental assistance as necessary to help individuals or families living in shelters or in places not meant for human habitation move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing. Eligible costs also include utilities, rental application fees, security deposits, last month's rent, utility deposits and payments, moving costs, housing search and placement, housing stability case management, landlord-tenant mediation, tenant legal services and credit repair.

#### **Eligibility**

- Federal program regulations require that ESG funding is used to serve persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. According to ESG program regulations, homeless means:
- An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence.
- Individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence.
- Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age or families with children who do not otherwise qualify as homeless.
- Any individual or family who:
  - 1. Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence.
  - 2. Has no other residence.
  - 3. Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.
- Income Limits: Federal limits on income are based on family size. For the ESG program, the only relevant number is 30% of median.

- Contact
- If you have any questions or comments regarding the Emergency Solutions
   Grant program please direct them to:
- Kim Crawford
   ESG / Homeless Programs Coordinator
   919-855-4991
   kim.crawford@dhhs.nc.gov
- Chris Battle
   Homeless Programs Coordinator
   919-855-4984
   chris.battle@dhhs.nc.gov

## Resources

#### Community Living Partners

The North Carolina Housing Finance Agency partners with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to provide integrated permanent supportive housing options to North Carolinians across the state. This site serves as a resource hub for community living partners to include local management entities/managed care organizations (LME/MCOs), service providers and property managers and owners. Here you will find information and resources related to our community living programs: the Transitions to Community Living Voucher (TCLV), the Targeting Program and Key Rental Assistance.

https://www.nchfa.com/rental-housing-partners/community-living-partners

## Resources

- www.NCHousingSearch.org
- Welcome to NCHousingSearch.org. Listings are updated daily, so be sure to check back often.
- Search North Carolina rentals by city, county, or ZIP code
- Bottom of Form
- Find Rental Housing
- List Housing
- Info and Links
- Find or List Supported Housing
- Login