



Six-Month Progress Report to the City of Lawrence

Outside Agency Funding – 2009

e-Housing Connection

The e-Housing Connection has now been fully operational for six months, and has had success finding emergency temporary housing for 30 % of the clients that have been referred to the program through the database of participating landlords and the relationships formed between the service provider, the clients, and the landlords.

Of the referrals, six or 30% have received transitional housing vouchers for up to 24 months of rental assistance through the LDCHA Transitional Housing Program funded by a HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance grant from the City of Lawrence. Three of the e-Housing Connection referrals or 15% have used the security deposit funds set aside from the 2008 City HOME grant funds to lease-up in an emergency temporary housing unit.

A major barrier to finding emergency temporary housing is the lack of income to pay rent, even a reduced rent. There are no funds available for immediate rent assistance or subsidy for emergency temporary housing. Other barriers have been that landlords are not willing to set aside eligibility requirements for the families that are facing legal difficulties with previous landlords. A majority of landlords who are willing to participate want rent subsidies.

In response to these issues, the LDCHA has determined that the Outside Agency Funds for 2009 be used for rental assistance to e-Housing Connection families instead of for salary for the e-Housing Connection coordinator position. The LDCHA has determined the position can be fully funded by the Housing Authority. Redirecting the Outside Agency Fund allocation for rental assistance would directly benefit program participants searching for temporary emergency housing.

We are hereby requesting that the first half of the funding allocation, \$6,596, be used for rental assistance to landlords renting units to homeless families instead of salary for the coordinator position. We will also be requesting the second half of the funds be used for this same purpose.

The e-Housing Connection has evolved since its original inception just six months ago. We continue to refine and improve the model being used. All agencies participating in the development of this new program agree that emergency temporary housing needs additional resources for temporary rental assistance to be successful. Housing assistance resources are anticipated through the HPRP but these will not be available till at least September, 2009. This



funding will hopefully provide resources dedicated to rental and utility assistance, as well as more housing case management support services.

Another need is increased landlord participation in the e-Housing Connection as well as in the LDCHA Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher and HOME TBRA programs. To meet this need the LDCHA is partnering with the City of Lawrence Planning and Development Department to co-sponsor a Landlord Summit to discuss the need for emergency temporary housing for families and the benefits of Section 8 and HOME program participation.

Below is a summary of program outcomes to date:

Total number of referrals: 21 (6/22/2009)

Total number of families on current referral list: 13

Total number families in need of rental assistance to lease up/maintain emergency temporary housing: 7

Total number of families placed in housing through the e-Housing Connection: 4

Total number of families placed in housing independently but through e-Housing landlord contacts: 2

Total number of families declared ineligible for the program: 2 - 1 (chronically homeless); 1 (debt owed to LDCHA, eviction from THA, falsified information on e-Housing application)

Total number of families dropped due to service provider issues: 5

Total number of families using \$500 security deposit grant: 3

Total inspections: 4

Total number of families granted transitional housing vouchers: 6

Total number of landlords: 20

Total number of properties referred: 19