



Interagency Council on Homelessness

April 24, 2025

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Interagency Council on Homelessness

Agenda

- Call to Order
- Introductions
- Vote to approve minutes from March 25, 2025 meeting
- Opening Remarks and Department of Housing Updates
- Presentations
- Public Comment
- Adjourn

Presentations:

Homeless Prevention Pilot

Donna M. Rook, Ph.D, MSW

Administrator, Family & Adult Services

RI Department of Human Services

Homelessness Prevention Grants

James Rajotte, MS

Director of Strategy & Innovation

RI Executive Office of Health & Human Services

Pay for Success Program

Kimberly Simmons

Executive Director

Rhode Island Coalition to End Homelessness

Interagency Council on Homelessness

Quorum

1. Chief of Office of Housing & Community Development
2. Director of the Department of Administration
3. Chair of the Housing Resources Commission
4. Director of Department of Human Services
5. Director of the Department of Health
6. Director of Children, Youth & Families
7. Director of Healthy Aging
8. Director of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals
9. Director of Department Of Labor & Training
10. Director of Corrections
11. Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
12. Director of the Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation
13. Director of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency
14. Representative from the Rhode Office of Veterans Services
15. Office of the Public Defender
16. Medicaid Director with the Department of Human Services
17. Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services
18. Office of the Lieutenant Governor
19. Ex-officio member from the Providence Veterans Administration
20. Ex-officio member who shall be from the interagency council on homeless advisory council (see 40-17-5, Advisory council established)

Interagency Council on Homelessness

Approval of Minutes

- Review of March 25, 2025

Draft Minutes

- Approval of Minutes





Welcome

Opening Remarks

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Department of Housing Updates

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Presentation

Department of Human Services

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Department of Human Services

Housing Stability Pilot

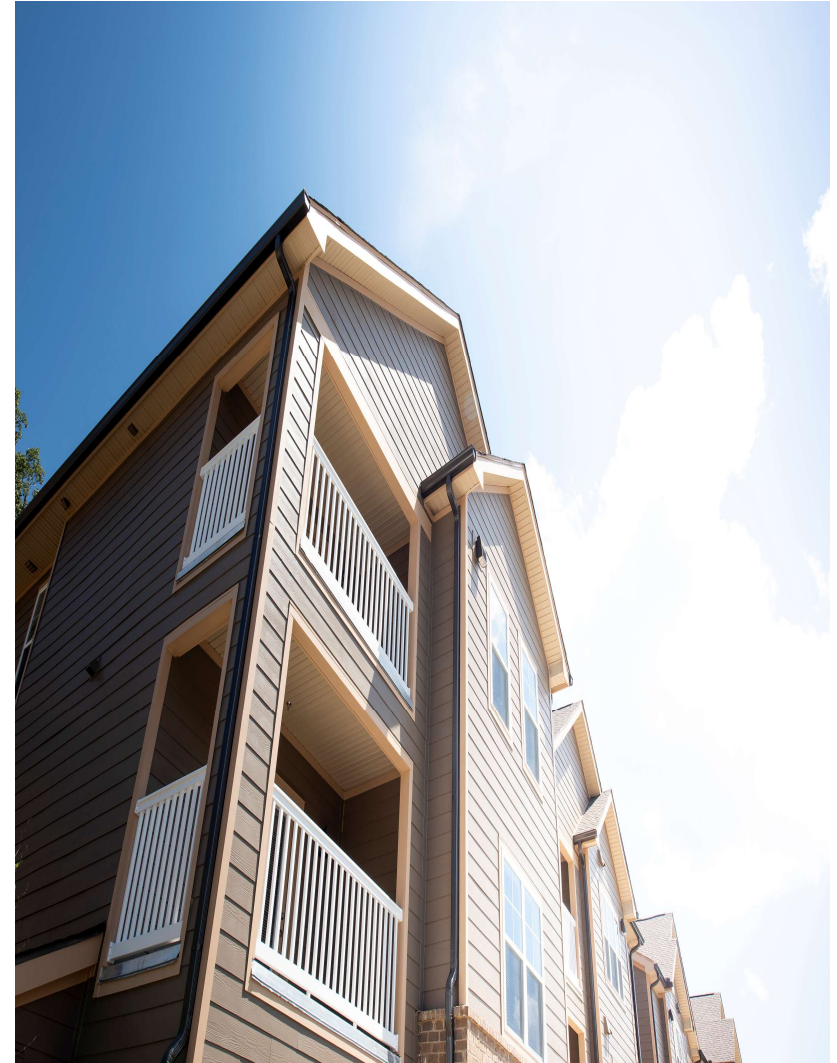
Presented by Donna M. Rook, Ph.D, MSW – Administrator, Family & Adult Services



Housing Stability Pilot Overview

The DHS Housing Stability Program (HSP) provides nonrecurrent, short term financial benefits, designed to assist eligible families obtain or maintain housing stability.

Partner Agencies



Background

How was the Pilot Created?

The HSP is funded by the Federal TANF block grant and is authorized under the grant's Non-Recurrent Short-Term (NRST) Assistance feature.

What is a Non-Recurrent Short-Term Benefit?

It is defined as a benefit that:

- Is designed to resolve a specific crisis or episode of need
- It can't meet recurrent or ongoing needs
- TANF is the target population meant to keep children in their own homes.

Who is eligible to be assisted?

Eligible families must be experiencing a specific housing crisis that can be resolved with short term financial assistance.

Families can either be currently housed and request assistance to prevent homelessness or can be currently homeless and request assistance to move them directly out of homelessness into permanent housing.

Families can only receive HSP assistance once every 12 months.

Eligibility Criteria

- Household Composition
 - The household composition must be one configuration:
 - A minor dependent living with an eligible family member
 - A pregnant person
 - A young adult between the ages of 18-24
- Citizen Status
 - Applicant must be a:
 - Citizen of the United States
 - Eligible Non-Citizen
- Income Level
 - Total income must be at, or below, 250% FPL
- Residency
 - Must be a current resident of the State of Rhode Island

Enrollment in RI Works or other DHS benefit programs is not a requirement to receive assistance.

However, if the household is currently enrolled in RI Works, proof of enrollment will confirm the household is eligible based on household size, citizenship status, income level, and residency status. Proof of enrollment in other DHS assistance programs may also provide sufficient proof of eligibility for certain eligibility criteria as determined by DHS.

Housing Stability Crisis

Eligible families must provide documentation of the housing crisis they are facing to determine if the crisis meets the definition of need that can be resolved with a non-recurring short-term benefit.

They must also provide documentation that their housing stability can be maintained long-term once financial assistance is provided.

If the housing crisis cannot be resolved with assistance, the applicant is not eligible to receive assistance.

Examples of types of assistance that may be eligible if it relates to a housing crisis and stabilization plan :

- Rental assistance
 - Move-in funds and arrears
- Mortgage assistance
- Utility assistance
- Relocation assistance
- Vehicle assistance

- Legal fees
- Assistance needed to obtain / maintain employment
- Non-rent related housing expenses
- Assistance with other types of unexpected expenses that cause housing instability

How to Apply

Case managers assisting applicants to complete the application and obtain any requested eligibility documentation can reach out to request the application to complete and submit.

The Housing Stability Pilot Application is available by contacting DHS.housing@dhs.ri.gov

The completed application and verification documents are submitted to the above address.

DHS staff within the field offices can also help complete the application packets. Case managers and/or applicants can request to speak to a housing specialist in the ESSU.

Once eligibility is determined and approved, the funds will be paid by Crossroads directly to the property owner or business identified to receive payment.

Statistics as of April 18, 2025

- Program operating for 4 months

Applications packets received: 255 applications

Adults served: 237

Children served: 374

Total dispersed: \$771,770

Evolution: We are now seeing eviction court documents referencing the program and providing 30 days for the tenant to apply for the HSP.

Presentation

Executive Office of Health &
Human Services

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Overdose Grants for Homelessness Prevention

Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Presented by James Rajotte, MS – Director of Strategy & Innovation

2025 Overview

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Health and Human Service System Priorities

PRIORITY 1:

Focus on the root causes and the socioeconomic and environmental determinants of health to ensure individuals can achieve their full potential.

PRIORITY 2:

Promote continuums of care that deliver efficient, effective, and equitable services across the life course.

PRIORITY 3:

Address addiction, improve the behavioral health system, and combat stigma, bias, and discrimination.

PRIORITY 4:

Develop and support a robust and diverse health and human services workforce to meet the needs of every Rhode Islander.

PRIORITY 5:

Modernize, integrate, and transform health information technology and data systems to support value-based systems of care.

Homelessness Prevention Initiatives Grant Program

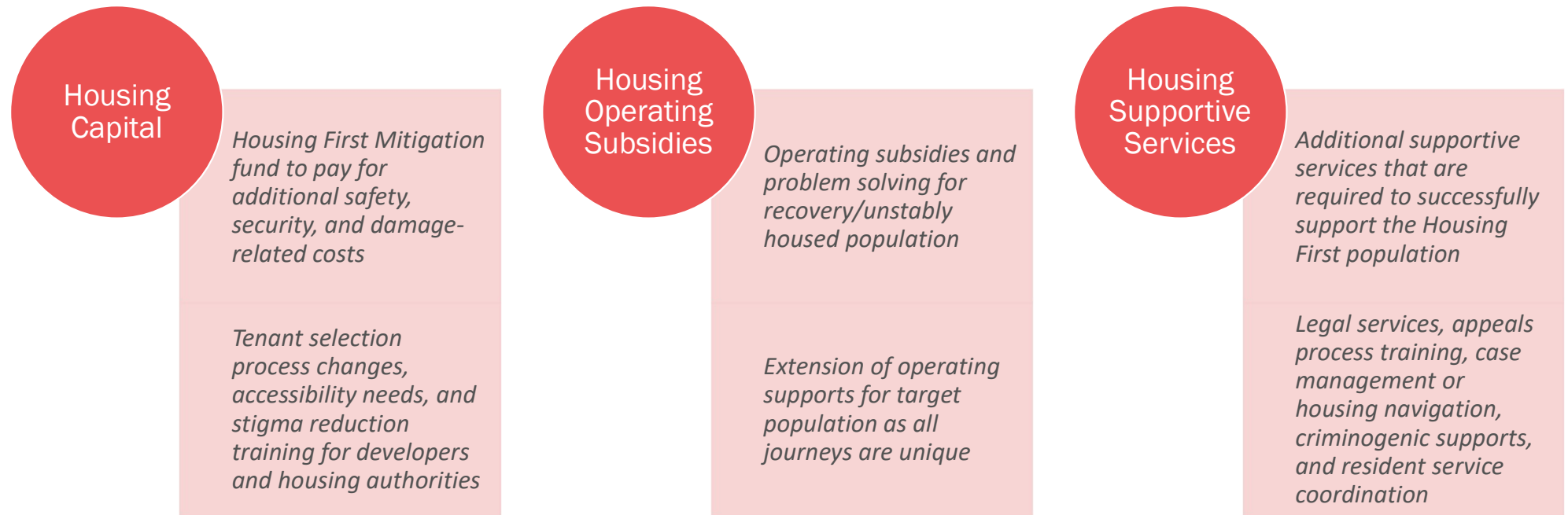
EOHHS is accepting rolling applications for a specific opportunity to address homelessness prevention, and some response, for the overdose, opioid use, and substance use populations. <https://eohhs.ri.gov/Homelessness-Grant-24>

- **Purpose:** In partnership with the Department of Housing, this program is funded through the Opioid Settlement Funds for specific populations. Grants to organizations are issued on a quarterly basis contingent upon funding availability and technical scores.
- **Eligible Applicants:** Partnerships between sectors are strongly encouraged and preferred. Eligible applicants include: Medical, behavioral health, and community-based organizations; Housing policy organizations; Harm reduction organizations; Health Equity Zone partners, local partners, and coalitions; Current and past CHF applicants; Criminal justice-serving organizations; Other non-profit organizations, especially those led by individuals with lived experience of OUD/SUD.
- **Example Grant Activities:** (1) Landlord Mitigation Fund for Priority Populations; (2) Landlord Incentives for Housing Priority Populations; (3) Subsidies for Individuals or Families with OUD/SUD; (4) Housing First Policy and Technical Assistance; (5) Harm Reduction Model Implementation for Shelters and Providers; (6) Supportive Services Partnership Incentives; (7) 24-Hour Warming Station and Emergency Shelter Supportive Services; (8) Recovery House Accessibility Fund; (9) Equity Supports and Quality Improvement; (10) Housing is Healthcare Coordination

Homelessness Prevention for Overdose and OUD/SUD

Evidence-based model for ending chronic homelessness, keeping homeless families and individuals stably housed, improving health outcomes, and reducing emergency department costs for victims of overdose, opioid use disorder, and substance use disorder.

Strategic Approach: As Approved by the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee (OSAC)



Important Note: Funding Restrictions

Opioid Settlement funds may not be used for expenses or purposes that do not align with the requirements set forth in Exhibit C of the Opioid Settlement Agreement.

- Applicants are advised to review the guidelines and eligibility criteria carefully and ensure that proposed expenditures are directly related to addressing the opioid crisis, OUD/SUD, and homelessness prevention.

Per the Settlement agreement, priority shall be given to the following core abatement strategies:

Strategies

- Naloxone Or Other FDA-approved Drug To Reverse Opioid Overdoses
- Medication-assisted Treatment ("MAT")
- Distribution And Other Opioid-related Treatment
- Pregnant & Postpartum Women
- Expanding Treatment For Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome ("NAS")
- Expansion Of Warm Hand-off Programs And Recovery Services
- Treatment For Incarcerated Population
- Prevention Programs
- Expanding Syringe Service Programs
- Evidence-based Data Collection And Research Analyzing The Effectiveness Of The Abatement Strategies Within The State

Per the Settlement agreement, Support treatment of Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and any co-occurring Substance Use Disorder or Mental Health (SUD/MH) conditions through evidence-based or evidence-informed programs or strategies that may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Priority 2: Allowable Uses

Treatment:

- Treat Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)
- Support People In Treatment And Recovery
- Connect People Who Need Help To The Help They Need (Connections To Care)
- Address The Needs Of Criminal Justice-involved Persons
- Address The Needs Of Pregnant Or Parenting Women And Their Families, Including Babies With Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome

Prevention:

- Prevent Overprescribing and Ensure Appropriate Prescribing And Dispensing of Opioids
- Prevent Misuse Of Opioids
- Prevent Overdose Deaths And Other Harms (Harm Reduction)

Other Strategies:

- First Responders
- Leadership, Planning And Coordination
- Training
- Research

Example: Expanding Supportive Services

- EOHHS recognizes that for some individuals to be successful in shelter and housing, additional wraparound services are necessary to address individualized need and unique life situation.
- This is not an exhaustive list, but that list can be found in the application materials provided.



How to Apply for this Opportunity

Visit [Homelessness Prevention Initiatives Grant Program Announcement | Executive Office of Health and Human Services](https://eohhs.ri.gov/Homelessness-Grant-24) (<https://eohhs.ri.gov/Homelessness-Grant-24>) to learn how to apply today!

- Organizations should identify which activities they are interested in implementing.
- Prepare a comprehensive application addressing the threshold evaluation and technical criteria.
- Please also refer to [the full grant description document](#) as a guide.
- Quarterly reviews of applications will occur on a rolling basis with prioritization of projects on the following timeline, due to funding spenddown restrictions.
- To submit your application or for any questions related to this grant or the application process, please contact: OHHS.OpioidSettlement@ohhs.ri.gov.

THANK YOU



For questions or more information, please contact:

James C. Rajotte, Director of Strategy and Innovation

Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services

James.C.Rajotte@ohhs.ri.gov

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Presentation

Rhode Island Coalition to
End Homelessness

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Discussion



Next Meeting:

Thursday, May 22

9:00am

Department of Administration
Conference Room 2

Street parking available (metered)

Public Discussion



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Adjournment



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