

LOCAL GOVERNMENT >

Housing Finance Authority of Hillsborough County Has Been Helping to Permanently House Hillsborough Homeless:

THE UP AND OUT PROGRAM

Q: HOW DOES THE UP AND OUT PROGRAM WORK?

The HFA provides rental assistance to formerly homeless families. The assistance is \$403 per month for families in two or more bedroom units and \$286 for families living in one bedroom units. The assistance is given for up to two years.

Q: DO THE FAMILIES RECEIVE OTHER ASSISTANCE?

All participants continue to receive case management services from the HFA's partner, Metropolitan Ministries. Successful case management is a condition for families to remain in the program. The HFA pays for the case management.

Q: WHY DID THE HFA TARGET THIS GROUP?

The HFA worked with homeless housing providers in Hillsborough County/Tampa to identify a segment of the market where other governmental resources were generally not available. With a limited amount of funds, the HFA has been able to have a significant impact helping families leave the homeless housing system and move back into more traditional housing.

Q: HOW MANY FAMILIES BENEFIT FROM THE PROGRAM?

The HFA assists up to 25 families at any given time. Seventy-eight families have participated in the program, with 229 people housed (101 adults and 128 children).

Q: HOW MUCH HAS THIS COST?

Since 2008, the HFA has spent \$502,798 on the program. This translates to an average of only \$6,446 per family.

Q: IS THE PROGRAM SUCCESSFUL?

Since the start of the program, over 76% of the families in the program “graduated” and are now self-sufficient. More recently that number has grown to 80%, as 12 out of the 15 households from Metropolitan Ministries have moved from homelessness to self-sufficiency, paying market rent with no subsidies or supports. The HFA found a direct correlation between families receiving assistance for 18-24 months and higher success rates.

Q: HOW DOES THE HFA MAKE SURE THAT THE HOUSING IS DECENT, SAFE, AND SANITARY?

The HFA and Metropolitan Ministries utilize properties that have bond financing from the HFA or received Housing Credits from FHFC. This ensures that the properties are monitored and that the units are properly maintained.

Q: HOW DOES THE HFA VIEW THE PROGRAM?

The HFA believes that the program has been a great success, both in helping families in need and filling a gap missed by other providers. With a limited financial commitment, the HFA has had a real impact on the community. HNN



Pictured: Dennis and Zayda Hebert, and their son, Dennis, Jr.

“Through the Up and Out Program, my family was able to transition from homelessness to a place of our own. We were able to save money and move to a safe, stable environment. I am now working full time at Metropolitan Ministries in Tampa as an IT Support Technician and able to support my family. We are self-sufficient...and so grateful for this program. We wouldn't have been successful without it.”

-Dennis Hebert, formerly homeless client