



August 20, 2015

Deirdre Randolph
Project Planner
Housing and Redevelopment
City of Santa Barbara
630 Garden Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Request for a new \$60,000 HOME TBRA Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Grant

Dear Deirdre,

Transition House has been the grateful recipient of HOME funds for tenant based rental assistance (TBRA) for clients served through Transition House's Homelessness Prevention program since 2012. This letter is to request a new \$60,000 HOME TBRA grant for Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing to serve approximately 18 homeless individuals or families over the two year term of the grant.

Transition House has offered homelessness prevention case management services coupled with emergency rental assistance for seven years. Three years ago we also began offering security deposit and/or rental assistance to eligible homeless families living in our shelter in an effort to move them back into housing more quickly. This methodology of addressing homelessness is referred to as "rapid rehousing" and it is considered a best practice in our industry.

Clients served by Transition House for both homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing (HPRR) are required to participate in a minimum of six months of case management services after receiving assistance with rent payments (which are paid directly to the landlord). Case management addresses issues such as management of household finances, career development, accessing entitlements, and life skills and sound decision making, all with the goal of sustaining housing. Clients are encouraged to build a safety net, including a savings account to help stabilize their housing situation. Our program offerings also include free, onsite evening classes providing education for at-risk families in computer skills, career development, English as a Second Language, and parenting skills. Finally, the case manager makes referrals for additional services including medical, mental health, or legal assistance.

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Transition House's HPRR program follows strict guidelines in managing TBRA. Recipient households must make less than 60% AMI (as documented by pay stubs, tax returns, SSI letters of award, etc.); provide a pending eviction notice (if applying for homelessness prevention) and a copy of their long-term lease on their apartment; and be paying a "reasonable" rent. Reasonable rent is determined by following HUD Fair Market Rent (FMR) guidelines for the Santa Barbara area, and by research done by the case manager on rents being charged for similar-sized apartments in like neighborhoods.

Clients who are given TBRA security deposit assistance to move into a new apartment will be required to have the apartment inspected. The case manager is trained to conduct these inspections—they are quite similar to inspections that the Housing Authority conducts for Section 8 voucher rental units. The case manager will then work with the landlord to correct any issues arising from the inspection before the client takes occupancy of the unit.

To receive Homelessness Prevention assistance, the household must be determined to be in imminent danger of becoming homeless if not for TBRA assistance. Transition House not only collects information on the household's financial disposition and whether they have other options or resources to help them pay rent, but also screens for additional factors that are used to determine high risk for homelessness. To receive Rapid Rehousing assistance, the household must be homeless.

With all prospective clients, it must be determined that the household will have the means to pay rent and sustain the housing after the assistance has ended. That means that the household will be able to gain an adequate income source (for example, they may be in the midst of a job search, or waiting for paperwork on an entitlement to be processed), or a lesser rent (they may be on the section 8 waiting list, or a waiting list for other programs/housing that would result in a reduced rent).

Transition House utilizes a methodology that was developed by HUD to determine client eligibility, and to administer the program. Annual audits have been performed both by HUD staff, and by City and County staff, of Transition House's case files including required documentation, compliance with program regulations, case management strategy, and data collection methods. We have consistently received positive feedback on our program. Transition House will continue to follow HUD requirements.

Our statistics from previous TBRA assistance are attached. Please let me know any additional information you require at this time. Thank you for considering Transition House's request.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Baushke
Executive Director

Transition House service level and outcomes with City of Santa Barbara TBRA funding as of August 15, 2015

Total	118,376.41	
Families	36	
Average Per family	\$ 3,288.23	Percentages
Chronic all Homeless Families	9	25%
Total Individuals	109	
Children	66	61%
Adults	43	39%
# of families receiving Section 8	12	33%
Families still housed	32	89%
Families with Unknown housing status	2	6%
Families no longer housed.	2	6%