

F.O.R.T.H. PLAN

Faith Organizations Restoring & Transitioning Homeless

- An agency such as Project URGE, CFC (Catholic Family Center) or Salvation Army will handle screening for each potential client. Screening includes selecting candidates who fit the criteria for placement and providing an initial assessment of psychosocial-economic issues. At intake a survey and assessment of readiness to participate in the program would be given to the person/family under consideration.
- A referral would be made to a participating church or Project URGE after determining the person/family is willing to participate in the program.
- The program would focus on one-year permanent housing arrangement with an option to renew for one year. A contract would include an eviction option for any person(s) who continually fails to meet program guidelines.
- Before a client or family is placed, church volunteers committed to administering the Housing Project would be required to complete an orientation & training program. This could be done in two parts with the first phase covering recruitment issues, expectations, and orientation to client population. The second phase, when the church is ready to proceed, will include a mentoring team to build team skills and clarifying boundaries, as well as case studies as examples of potential problems and coping strategies.
- Initially the church or Project URGE (from expressly donated funds) will pay the cost of the clients rent in full. Once a client has reached a certain income level, a sliding scale co-payment will be required from the client to the church or Project URGE. The partial rental fee will serve as a learning tool and a bridge to independence. The church or Project URGE will hold the lease arrangement with the landlord, but would also have a **contract with the client** defining terms of participation.
- An agreement would be made between the church and, for example, CFC, Project URGE (or other agency) for contracted case management service, which could take several different formats, such as, a one year contract for x amount of service with a per diem rate for needs above the base level (e.g., one MSW would meet with family every other week for a period of 6 months at a cost of \$30/hr).
- A specific representative from the church would be assigned as a liaison to the client and the case manager, as needed for direction and collaboration. This will include an initial sign-off from the client family to allow for HIPAA related restrictions.
- If a church does not feel that it could adequately support the training portion for the client/s, but could financially support training and counseling by qualified personnel through our affiliated agencies – this would be an alternative. This would require some additional funding.

The purpose of this plan is to create a positive impact on the homeless clients life, which cannot be manifested in a short period of time (such as 18 days). This proposal builds in a long-term component of compassion, knowledge and accountability. It also gives a greater sense of dignity and the probability of a higher degree of success. In turn, this will instead prevent the continuous cycle of a family or individual from reentering shelters by leading them through positive changes in lifestyle to a manageable approach to living in a suitable home.

If a church felt that it could not adequately fund the proposal, then a group of churches could pool resources as a team. An example might be: Churches A & B handle the actual rental fee, while churches C & D handle the fees associated with the case management.

*If interested in helping to develop or participate in this program please contact Mary Stevens at **Project URGE** – (585) 223-8340 or (585) 458-5927 ext. 104 – Jane Ames, MSW