

## **2021-0018 Other Housing Services**

### **Program Description**

The intent of this program is to work with Native families to understand their unique needs, tailoring our services to move them toward independence and self-sufficiency. Information and resources on budgets, credit repair, basic home housekeeping, how to maintain a rental unit, Landlord/Tenant rights and other information, is just an example of the resources we will provide to families enrolled in our services. To prevent households from becoming homeless by offering short term rental assistance to defray rent and utility bills. For tribal households who are currently homeless to establish stable housing, emergency shelter will be offered for up to four (4) weeks. Emergency assistance will also be used to relocate families when it has been determined that current living situations are not decent, safe or sanitary.

We will introduce a new program "Community Awareness Health and Safety", designed to provide home safety demonstrations, home ownership education, home maintenance skills, educational training, and financial literature to residents in our affordable permanent housing. Households participating in our TBRA, Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Rehousing and Emergency Housing Programs will also benefit from this new service. These services will be offered virtually and in person, using social distancing recommendations.

Our clients reside in scattered site-housing throughout ten (10) Counties in Western Washington – Clallam, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom. Many of our housing clients live in rural areas and do not have access to public transportation. Because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, our housing staff will use virtual techniques to make "home visits", to review housing stability plans, plan for clients to get transportation to medical appointments. Staff members will work with clients to navigate systems such as work source and other necessary appointments to ensure families will become self-sufficient.

### **Describe intended outcome: - Other**

Families will learn how to identify, obtain and/or maintain access to community resources. They will learn how to understand, create and use a monthly budget and apply those skills to track their spending habits, cut spending and set financial goals. Families will set long term financial goals and take steps to clear up their credit report, if necessary.

### **Who will be assisted:**

Samish citizens and other Native families enrolled in a federally recognized Indian tribe. Households with or without children who are living temporarily with friends, relatives or households who are facing eviction within 14 days. Households that are forced to live in a place not meant for human habitation. Having no primary nighttime residence. People who are fleeing or attempting to flee a domestic violence situation.

## **Types and level of Assistance**

Assistance preparing a **housing search plan** and list of local landlords. For those clients that demonstrate that they need more assistance and support to find housing, the supportive service will be provided to meet the level of need.

**Evaluate** the household's current resources, problem-solving abilities, and financial life skills, then provide the appropriate amount of assistance to ensure the greatest chance of successful transition to independence after program exit. When assistance ends, participants should have developed a natural support system, if possible, that will allow them to address obstacles that might later arise with employments, childcare, transportation or financial management.

Participants will also need to know how to **navigate multiple systems**, so "other housing services" should consist of arranging, coordinating, and monitoring the delivery of individualized services to facilitate housing stability. Rather than simply making referrals to programs, there will be times that we will need to walk participants through how to access services on their own and ensure that participants have the skills to access services in the future independently. This is extremely important now due to COVID-19, for some of our clients are not sure how to access these services remotely. **Connections to Mainstream Resources** – that are appropriate to addressing barriers to housing retention.

We will also provide resources and information through our newsletter, webpage and mailings on budgeting, credit repair and debt management. We will also provide information on basic home repair, weatherization and home safety tips. This information will be available to all our Samish citizens and to other Native families that have access to the internet.

**Homelessness Prevention** - short term rental assistance to defray rent and utility bills.

**Rapid Re-Housing** – quickly move families out of homelessness and into permanent housing.

**Emergency Assistance** - to establish stable housing, emergency shelter will be offered for up to four (4) weeks. Emergency assistance will also be used to relocate families when it has been determined that current living situations are not decent, safe or sanitary.

All services are attached to Case Management and community mainstream resources.

**To be served: 50**