

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



Interagency Council on Homelessness Housing Solutions Committee Charter/Work Plan (2018)

Committee Overview

Committee Chairs: Polly Donaldson (DHCD), Chapman Todd (Development Consultant)

Meeting Frequency: Monthly (First Wednesday from 1:30p-3:30p)

Distribution List PoC: ichapmantodd@gmail.com

ICH Staff: LaShun Lawson, LaShun.Lawson@dc.gov

Work Groups:

- Landlord Outreach
Co-Chairs: Ishan Heru (Community Connections) & Govt Chair TBD
Standing time TBD
Distribution List PoC: iheru@ccdc1.org
- Tenant Barriers
Co-Chairs: Darrell Cason (DHS) & Amber Harding (Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless)
4th Wednesday from 10a to 12p
Distribution List PoC: amber@legalclinic.org

Purpose/Domain

The Housing Solutions Committee serves as a forum for identifying issues, gaining feedback, and providing updates on permanent housing solutions for persons exiting homelessness – with a primary focus on Objectives 2 and 3 in the Homeward DC plan (Increasing the dedicated supply of affordable and supportive housing; Reducing barriers to supportive and affordable housing).

Roles & Responsibilities

- Serves as a forum for sharing updates and soliciting feedback from homeless service system partners on the Housing Production Trust Fund Consolidated RFP;
- Serves as a forum for identifying and troubleshooting challenges related to coordination with the District's Coordinated Assessment and Housing Placement (CAHP) system to ensure efficient lease-up of PSH units funded through the Consolidated RFP;
- Serves as a forum for gathering feedback (including ways to streamline/simplify) the PSH development process;
- Responsible for identifying/informing strategies to incentivize participation by landlords in Homeward DC implementation to increase the number of rental units available to clients exiting homelessness;
- Responsible for identifying/informing strategies to reduce barriers to accessing affordable and supportive housing;
- Responsible for informing strategies to build the capacity of nonprofit development community to accelerate new production of PSH and 0-30% AMI units;
- Using data provided by the ICH Strategic Planning Committee (related to permanent housing resource needs/gaps) – responsible for making recommendations on types of units to prioritize in HPTF competition (unit size and configuration, handicap accessibility, considerations re: programming etc.); and

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- Serves as formal link between the ICH and the broader affordable housing efforts in the community.

2018 Priorities

1. Improve Tracking of Low Income Housing Unit Availability. Gather input on and develop recommendations for enhancements to the DC Housing Search Portal to better capture/map/report location and availability of affordable units throughout the District. (Landlord Outreach Workgroup)

Milestones:

- Recommendations to Housing Solutions Committee (target date: April)
- Updates to portal completed (target date: TBD in June)

2. Develop Continuum of Care-wide strategy for landlord engagement and unit identification. Develop strategy for system-level landlord engagement and relationship management to increase the number of rental units available to individuals and families experiencing homelessness. (Landlord Outreach Workgroup)

Milestones:

- Identify coordinated housing navigator approach/strategy (target date: March)
- Develop materials to support coordinated outreach and messaging (target date: April)
- Make enhancements to DHS Step Tool (or other IT system) for back-end matching of available units with client households (target date: June)
- Draft operating protocol; launch phase 1 (target date: June)

3. Improve efficiency of lease-up process for PSH Units Funded Through Consolidated RFP. In coordination with the CAHP leadership team, map the business process to identify process challenges/bottlenecks. Bring results back to Housing Solutions Committee for review and follow-up. (Housing Solutions w/ support from CAHP Leadership Team)

Milestones:

- Process mapping completed (target date: April)
- Follow up steps (target date: TBD)

4. Identify strategies to mitigate unfair tenant screening practices. Identify most common screening barriers faced by households experiencing homelessness (and other extremely low income households). Identify strategy to mitigate unfair screening practices. (Tenant Barriers Workgroup)

Milestones:

- Conduct research/present proposed strategy to full committee (target date: May)
- Follow up steps (target date: TBD in May)

5. Additional Priorities?