



LAUDERTRAC

HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES UPDATE FORT LAUDERDALE

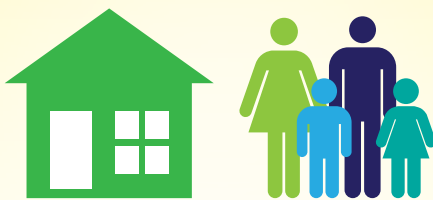
Tracking Progress on Commission Priorities for 2020



October/November 2020

BUILDING A BRIDGE THROUGH HELP, HOUSING AND HOPE

\$290,000 committed
from the HOME Investment
Partnerships Program



\$40,000 matching
contribution for Intensive
Case Management Services

Temporary Housing Helps Some Get Back on Their Feet

One of the core factors to address homelessness is to have housing resources available for situational homeless victims. Through the Tenant Based Rent Assistance (TBRA) program, participants are eligible to receive temporary housing assistance. Participants are required to pay 30% of their household income towards rent and be part of a nine-month intensive case management effort that ensures successful transition to self-sufficiency.

This fiscal year, the City Commission committed \$290,000 to mentioned program from the HOME Investment Partnerships Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), in addition to a matching contribution of \$40,000 for Intensive Case Management Services. Program enrollment began in October 2020. To date, three individuals have secured temporary housing, one

of whom was a participant of the COVID-19 Hotel Voucher program. Others are securing housing through established processes. The program is expected to reach full capacity by December 2020.



Community Court

Community Court was launched in early 2019, as an approach to serve citizens with resources from the 17th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida, Broward County, Broward County Clerk of Courts, the Office of the Public Defender, the State Attorney's Office, and other service-treatment providers.

Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, there was a pause in since March this year, and a new open-air version of the Community Court was relaunched in September at Holiday Park. Partners, volunteers, and the City of Fort Lauderdale

staff assembled an open-air virtual platform that connects participants with a diverse network of providers and government entities through technology like Zoom and mobile devices. Participants are able to dialog with Judges, the Clerk, Attorneys, and other Community Court stakeholders. The program is expected to operate in this fashion, each week, until further notice.

Onsite operations are by appointment only, focusing on those with notices to appear for court. Due to coronavirus safety protocols, walk-ins are not permitted at this time. In addition, temperature checks and social distancing measures have been implemented.

Since reopening, the Community Court program has addressed pending cases since March 2020. The last Community Court served seven new Community Court cases and a total of 30 hearings. Each participant is assessed, referred to treatment, immediate shelter, or housing options. Under the virtual platform, program records indicate approximately 21 referrals to services and three program graduates.

For more information about Community Court or volunteer opportunities, please contact Christopher Leonard, Community Court Coordinator, at 954-828-6139 or cleonard@fortlauderdale.gov.

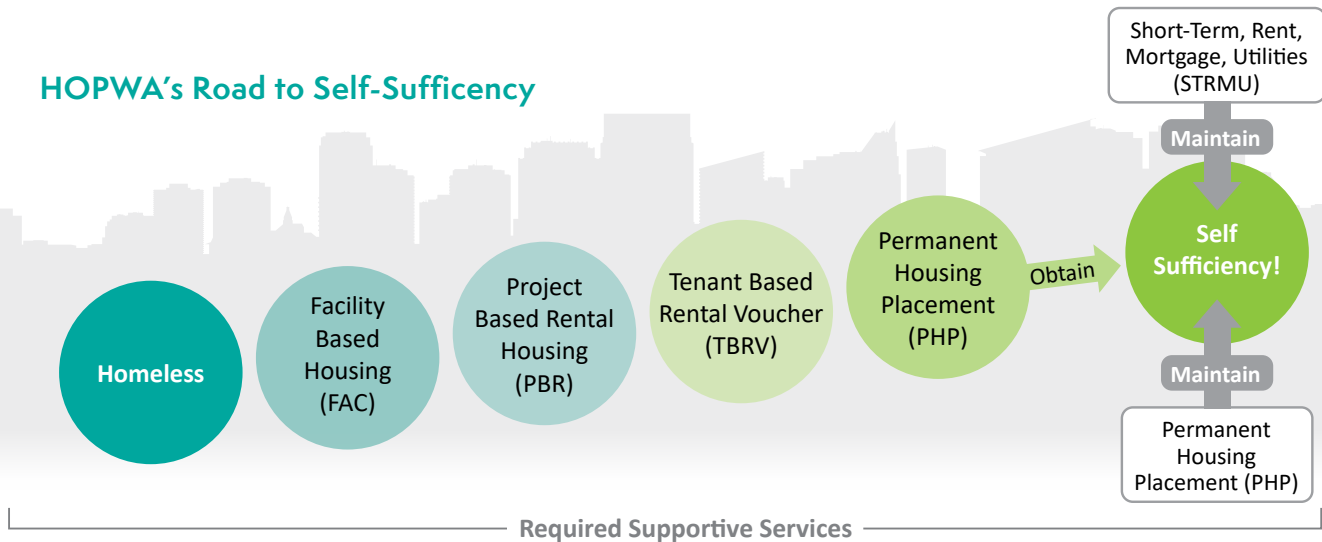


HOPWA is Helping the Way

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) uses a comprehensive approach to address homeless victims. Recently, the President of Broward House, a HOPWA community partner and non-profit who's mission it is to improve the quality of life for individuals impacted with chronic health challenges, advised of a success story of a participant, who was previously homeless. The program participant completed the substance abuse treatment program and successfully participated in the recent elections for the first time in his life. The program also helped described participant to transition into full-time work.

Another community partner, Mount Olive Development Corporation, MODCO, advises of a similar HOPWA success story, where a participant enrolled in the program and attained employment for a local retail establishment. The program participant followed all guidelines, successfully became a first-time homebuyer, and enrolled in a PhD Program, where he was awarded a full scholarship. Stories like these follow HOPWA's Road to Self-Sufficiency Process. Through the Housing and Community Development Division of the City Manager's office, individuals can get back on their feet and avoid homelessness as a sole option.

HOPWA's Road to Self-Sufficiency



Rapid Rehousing Programs on the Horizon

A critical component for addressing homeless is having affordable housing options available. Since the start of COVID-19, many have been impacted by severe economic hardship, loss of jobs, and housing instability. As a result, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced that the City would receive a secondary allocation of \$1,640,833 of Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), through the Federally approved CARES Act. Grant funding will be used as a response to those experiencing housing issues due to COVID-19. The City will be amending 2019-2020

Annual Action Plan to reflect the new CDBG CARES Act Funding and will focus funds on Housing Reentry and Rental Assistance support services. The City's Housing and Community Development Program Manager expects to mitigate homelessness risk through options afforded by described program.

GET INFORMATION AND UPDATES



24-hour Neighbor Call Center: 954-828-8000
Website: www.fortlauderdale.gov
Email Updates: www.fortlauderdale.gov/enews
Facebook: www.facebook.com/CityofFortLauderdale
Twitter: www.twitter.com/FTLCityNews
YouTube: www.youtube.com/cityoffortlauderdale
Nextdoor: www.nextdoor.com