



The Psychological Center

The Psychological Center Inc. is pleased to submit this concept paper to the City of Lawrence to further the city's efforts to eliminate homelessness through prevention and rapid re-housing of our residents.

The Psychological Center embraces the concept of housing first for individuals and families struggling to survive in this economy and move along their path of recovery. With our proposal we anticipate providing case management and financial assistance to 60 - 80 individuals a year over the three-year grant period.

The Daybreak Shelter, TPC's SOAP program and TPC's PEOPLE! Center, currently coordinate services for individuals working on their recovery, and our goal is to offer wrap around services for these individuals to assist them with housing and case management. We will expand our services to points of re-entry to reach individuals before they reach the shelter system. We propose to provide case management, including determining eligibility for benefits, employment services working with the navigator at Valley Works, assistance finding affordable housing and financial assistance to secure housing. Assistance with utility companies, paying arrears (within the HUD guide lines), making deposits as necessary, and paying current charges with the individual's contribution increasing on a sliding scale.

We will work with member agencies of the Lawrence Continuum of Care, including the Lawrence District Court Probation Dept personnel in assisting with individual discharge planning, Essex County Sheriff's Office discharge planning office, to find suitable affordable housing as individuals re-enter the community. We have a memorandum with a local realtor to provide a minimum of ten fair market rate two- and three-bedroom apartments in the City of Lawrence for individuals and/or families who are currently homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. We propose to offer rental assistance in the form of a subsidy based on the individual or family ability to contribute to their rent. We anticipate paying first, last and security, the next two months at 100%, then a percentage reduction over the next 12-18 months until client is fully self-supporting. Each client receiving assistance will meet with the case manager on a regular basis to insure that the client's goals are being met. Case management will be flexible to adjust to the individual needs.

The Daybreak Shelter will be our base of operation. Training for HMIS reporting and data collection, supervision of case manager and office space will be provided at the shelter. Our proposed budget for three years is attached is attached.

11 Union Street*Lawrence, MA 01840*Tel 978-685-1337* FAX 978-681-1281