

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act)
Department Of Housing and Urban Development

NOTICE OF REVIEW PERIOD FOR A SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE
CONSOLIDATED PLAN 2008 ACTION PLAN FOR THE HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION
AND RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM (HPRP)

Notice is hereby given that the City of Troy, New York proposes to amend the 2008 One-Year Action Plan of its Consolidated Plan to create two new homeless housing programs under the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has allocated \$845,286.00 to the City of Troy for homeless prevention and homeless re-housing. An application requesting funds from the U.S. Department of HUD for the purpose of HPRP funds is due May 18, 2009.

It is proposed that three agencies each receive a portion of this funding—Unity House and Joseph’s House and Shelter by direct contract and the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern NY through a sub-contract with Joseph’s House and Shelter.

Unity House will take the lead in the provision of *Homelessness Prevention Services*. The Homelessness Prevention program will assess immediate housing needs, explore housing options and resources, provide flexible financial assistance and offer voluntary case management services. Prevention services will be targeted to people who have extremely low incomes, who have a demonstrated housing crisis and who lack protective factors such as friends and family who can help them. This funding would augment an existing Unity House program and funding could begin to be disbursed to those in need as soon as it becomes available.

Joseph’s House would take the lead in the provision of *Rapid Re-housing Services*. Rapid Re-housing program works with people who are already homeless to help them quickly move into rental housing. The program will be short-term and involve housing location, financial assistance and an offer of case management. This funding would augment an existing Joseph’s House program and funding could begin to be disbursed to those in need as soon as it becomes available.

In addition, \$15,000 in funding would be used to increase *legal services* already available in a legal housing outreach program operated by Joseph’s House. Combining this funding with other in-place resources would provide a .5 FTE lawyer to work on housing issues.

Sixty-five percent of the funding available will be used to provide direct assistance to households at-risk-of or currently homeless in the form of time limited rental subsidies, emergency rent payments, emergency utility payments, first month’s rent and assistance and other eligible activities as needed. [HUD is requiring that 50% of this funding be used for this purpose.]

The remaining funding would be used to create 3.5 FTE’s to oversee and run the program—1.75 FTE’s in each agency. Funding would also cover some of the other expenses related to providing this direct assistance. For more detail we have attached a preliminary budget for your review.

Unity House and Joseph's House will work collaboratively and closely on this program. Both agencies' workers will communicate regularly, and it is expected that both agencies will be able to provide direct assistance across the continuum (homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing.)

The program will accept referrals from community based organizations, local government units as well as self-referrals and will market the program to a wide audience so that at-risk households in Troy know that this help is available.

Consistent with HUD's Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP), and the [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009](#) a 12-day public review and comment period is hereby established commencing on Monday, April 27, 2009, and ending on Friday, May 8, 2009. During the 12-day public review period the City Council will conduct a public hearing to solicit public comments concerning the proposed use of Consolidated Planning grant funds. The public hearing will be held at 6:45 PM on Thursday May 7, 2009 in the City Council Chambers on the second floor of Troy City Hall. All Troy residents and taxpayers, as well as neighborhood organizations, businesses and other stakeholders in Troy are invited to attend the public hearing and speak regarding the proposed use of Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program funds identified above.

Copies of the Council legislation of the proposed funds are available in the office of the Department of Housing and Community Development on the third floor of Troy City Hall weekdays between the hours of 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. The legislation is available for public review and comment for the 12-day period.

The final decision regarding the use of HPRP funds as described above will be made by the City Council at 7:00PM on Thursday May7, 2009.

Timothy Mattice, Director of Planning
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