



Rapid Re-Housing

Rapid Re-Housing is a program model that assists individuals and families who are **literally homeless** move quickly into permanent housing, usually to housing in the private market. It does so by offering targeted services and financial assistance to make the move from homelessness to housing possible. Rapid Re-Housing has demonstrated effectiveness in ending homelessness, shortening the time people spend being homeless, and reducing the rate at which people become homeless again. Rapid Re-Housing also increases turnover in shelters, which allows them to accommodate more people over time without increasing capacity.

Key components of Rapid Re-Housing include:

1. Assistance with the housing search and application process if the household wants and needs it. The program staff have housing expertise and strong contacts with landlords, so they are adept at identifying what housing may be available to the household based on their strengths and barriers.
2. Flexible financial assistance to pay for move in costs such as deposits and utilities, and short to medium-term support with rent if needed, which can be adjusted over time.
3. Limited housing-focused support services such as housing stability planning to help the household identify strategies to increase income or improve budgeting; and
4. Links to community-based programs that can provide the majority of other services a household may need once re-housed, such as child care, employment training or health services.

Not every household assisted needs all four components, but they are made available.

Rapid Re-Housing programs can vary in length of time, and may be limited to a single payment for deposit and first month's rent or as long as 18-24 months of subsidy and support. Some programs begin with the assumption that most households require only a small amount of support, but are able provide more if needed. This type of approach is called Progressive Engagement.

In a right-sized crisis resolution system, Rapid Re-Housing is the primary intervention offered to households that cannot quickly become rehoused on their own. It is offered within three days of a household entering shelter and can also be offered even when a household is still unsheltered.

For more information about Rapid Re-Housing Research see the [Research Page](#) of our website.