

**FOR HOUSING AUTHORITY COMMISSION MEETING OF: Sept. 25, 2017
AGENDA ITEM NO.:**



PROGRAM MANAGEMENT REPORT

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

A Story Worth Telling

It is always heartwarming to share a Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) success story. However, FSS asked to share this particular story, which is still unfolding. Sean, was accepted to receive a Housing Choice Voucher through the Homeless Voucher Lottery sponsored through the Emergency Housing Network.

Sean's story begins like that of many people in similar circumstances. His childhood was spent living on the streets with a mother who was caught up and lost in drug addiction. His life lacked the good foundation, role models and nurturance needed to propel him toward a bright future. Later, his wife's involvement with drugs and street life again left him lost and alone as a single father with three young children to care for. Despite having little education or resources Sean's "failure is NOT an option" attitude has been truly inspirational.

When confronted with responsibilities, Sean doesn't back down. A lack of transportation means he rides a skateboard to work and to all his appointments and interviews. While working recently in the local berry harvest, Sean was injured. Even this setback did not deter him. He continued working with his arm in a sling. Only after learning his shoulder was indeed out of place did he cease working.

I believe we can all learn something from Sean's remarkable "never give up" approach to life. Unwilling to let his past define him, Sean is creating a happy ending for him and his children. His tenacity, positivity and unwavering devotion will undoubtedly lead to one of the greatest success stories of FSS.

PROGRAMS

Security Deposit Assistance

Program	Program Budget	Expended to Date	Program Balance	Families Served to Date	Average Assistance Per Family	Budget Period	Percent Budget Year	Percent Budget Spent
Security Deposit	\$54,000	\$51,268	\$2,732	80	\$640.85	10/15-9/17	100%	94.9%

Eligible households have incomes less than 50 percent of area median income and lack the means to pay a security deposit.

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidelines are making it difficult for the voucher holders to lease up as well as find units that qualify for Security Deposit Assistance. SHA is working with HUD to find a solution.

General Housing Programs and Client Profile (Statistical Charts at end of document)

Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers

SHA administers the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program providing subsidies to eligible participants to rent from private landlords. The Housing Choice Voucher Program currently serves 2,755 households. Vouchers can be used at several SHA sites as well as privately owned properties.

Veterans Assistance Supportive Housing Programs (VASH)

SHA administers two VASH programs with 63 total vouchers in partnership with the Veterans Administration. The Veterans Administration screens and refers eligible veterans to SHA. The VASH tenant-based program provides vouchers to at risk homeless veterans. VASH vouchers can be used at several SHA owned properties as well as privately owned properties.

Currently, 52 of 64 vouchers are leased up. We have five (5) clients that have been issued vouchers and seeking housing.

Family Unification Vouchers

SHA entered into an agreement with the Department of Human Services after receiving 100 Family Unification Vouchers from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. This program serves three types of families experiencing barriers to finding stable housing: 1) parents reuniting with children returning from foster care; 2) parents that need to provide a stable living environment to avoid having their children removed from their home; and 3) youth 18 to 21 years of age who have recently left the foster system and need to return to their parent's home. One hundred one households are currently served with Family Unification Vouchers.

Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation

Private property owners offer 36 rehabilitated rental units in the Salem-Keizer area through HUD's Moderate Rehabilitation Program. SHA refers eligible housing applicants to these properties when there are vacancies.

Public and Affordable Housing

SHA owns and manages 245 public housing units for low-income families at 30 percent of monthly gross income (80 percent below median), and 392 affordable (non-federal) housing units to families that meet specific income requirements.

BUSINESS PROFILE:

The NAHRO Blog: Legislative & Policy Updates from Washington, DC

Congress Approves Short-Term Spending Bill

SEPTEMBER 11, 2017 ~ TESS HEMBREE ~ [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

On Friday, September 8, Congress approved a package that included a three-month continuing resolution to avoid a government shutdown when the fiscal year ends on September 30, putting an abrupt end to what was expected to be a contentious debate throughout the month of September.

Negotiated by the President, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, the package deal was signed by the President immediately after it was approved by Congress. Among other things, the deal includes:

- Continued government funding until Friday, December 8 with an across-the-board cut of .6791 percent
- Extension of the debt limit until Friday, December 8
- \$15.25 billion disaster relief for Hurricane Harvey

- Extension of the National Flood Insurance Program until Friday, December 8

The House also began work on an eight-bill omnibus package last week, including the FY 2018 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development bill. It is expected to finish work this week on the omnibus, which will serve as the foundation for negotiations with the Senate when considering a final spending package for the fiscal year.

Congress still needs to come to an agreement on overall spending levels for the year; neither the House nor the Senate have approved budget resolutions, but both chambers wrote appropriations bills based on extremely different spending levels. The House and the Senate both propose an increase in spending, so an agreement will need to be reached on an overall funding level and, presumably, to raise the funding cap for the fiscal year.