Ramsey County Housing Collaborative Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2018 at Avivo

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**Attendance** was taken: Gary Miller, Union Gospel Mission; Ciara Graham, Jeremiah Program; Heidi Olson, HIRED; Majida Handzic, Avivo; Donyella Smith, Wilder Project Quest; Shirley Benson-Rogers and Melissa Davis, YWCA of St. Paul; Sara Hesseltine and Erinn Moriarty, Solid Ground; Hua Moua, Maykolia Vang, and Renee Theese, WFS. Guest speakers: Isabel Schneider, Financial Assistance Counselor, Ramsey County

**Sign in and Check in**

Everyone checked in and introduced themselves.

**Transitional Housing Grant, presented by Isabel Schneider, Ramsey County**

* The housing grant is for families residing transitional housing programs, and recipients cannot be receiving other rental programs, such as Section 8. Families will need to be MFIP eligible. The county financial assistance workers will need to verify income.
* If a housing provider or employment counselor finds out a resident is not receiving grant, or resident applies and should have been receiving grant, financial assistance worker can go back and retro pay, and only for a couple of months.
* Extensions for housing grant can be given for mental health reasons; work extensions are not available for housing grant.
* All shelters get $110 housing grant
* A DM waiver will need a safety plan.
* Client who are residing in permanent supportive housing can still receiving HG under Special Circumstances: Per Combine Manual: 0013.03.09, Informing:

**MFIP:**

**For household to be eligible for $110 MFIP Housing Grant, unit:**

* Meet all MFIP financial and non-financial eligibility factors.
* Must not be an assistance unit with a relative caregiver who opted out of MFIP assistance, or a unit in which the relative caregiver applied for MFIP as part of the assistance unit, but only the relative children found to be eligible
* Must not be opting out of MFIP cash portion or MFIP Housing Grant
* Must not be currently receiving a Housing subsidy through the Department of Housing and Urban Development UNLESS one or both of the caregivers meet one of the criteria listed below:
  + Age 60 or older.
  + Caring for another member in the assistance unit, a relative in the household, or a foster child in the household due to illness or incapacity certified by a qualified professional which is expected to continue for 31 days or more.
  + Caregiver is certified by qualified professional to be suffering from an illness, injury, or incapacity that is expected to continue for more than 30 days, and severely limits the caregiver’s ability to work 20 or more hours per week.
  + Meets Special Medical Criteria (SMC)
  + Receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
  + Receives Mille Lacs Tribal TANF

**Other MFIP Discussion Topics:**

* Extension activities will still need logs; job search, if taking classes, need transcript
* Child care is based on employment plan with employment counselor; i. e., resident may need child care for doctor’s appointments; based on individual needs.

**MFIP Update Sheets and Networking:**

Hua will email the most recent MFIP sheets to appropriate EC and Housing Providers.

**Next meeting:**

Next meeting will be at Avivo