**NY-603 Governance Board Meeting Minutes**

**June 18, 2021**

**10:30AM-11:45AM**

**Zoom Virtual Meeting**

* + **Welcome and Introductions** 
    - Please sign in via the chat with name and organization
  + **EHV CE Prioritization Policies and Planning**
  + 24 PHA in ToB, 17 in Village of Hempstead – As a CoC, we will be signing MOU’s with each of those entities individually
  + We will work with them as partners – good working relationship with ToB
    - Prioritization + CoC Decision – will probably work with us and agree
  + NYS Housing and Community Renewal – allocated almost 1450 vouchers, administering and distributing a 1/3 to each of the following regions: 1/3 to NYC, upstate, 1/3 to Nassau/Suffolk/Westchester/and Rockland
    - NYS has more ideas on how to manage and prioritize those vouchers
    - **How should we prioritize these vouchers/move forward in getting referrals for those vouchers/and what this will look like?** 
      * Mike’s presentation/powerpoint on EHV Priority Planning
      * Recap plan in place from last GB meeting
        + Principles from last meeting that was discussed:

Fast Lease Up’s and Streamlined Process – based on written language from the state; expect HH’s to be leased up in 90 days or less (households we need to move quickly)

Bridge Housing Approach – targeting HH already in rrh programs in units and looking at psh HH who are stabily housed and interested from moving on from the program and able to transition in place or have to find another unit

Unmet Needs/Underserved Populations – equity, trauma, level of vulnerabilities that people have, risk of returning to homelessness, challenges with sustainability, and overall health related to covid or other

* + - * + Identified HH that are in RRH programs for 1+ year (107) and every family in PSH through the CoC (72)

Likely to receive more vouchers through this method (Bridge)

* + - * Strategies to Better Address Racial Equity (Christine)
        + Need to look at every decision through a racial equity lens (i.e. prioritizing resources for one group vs. another)
        + Voucher prioritization
        + Flexibility to reevaluate referral methods and pivot if needed

MOU’s should be revisted with stakeholders – look periodically who is being referred

* + - * + Education and Outreach Component

Program Design

Landlord Incentives

Racial discrimination, implicit biases, disparities, racial discrimination

* + - * + Ask people who are directly impacted – what would they suggest to fix disparities? Or adding more people to these meetings
      * Meeting with NYS
        + Vouchers can cover 120% of FMR
        + It can result in more HH to transition in place (i.e. RRH programs and following a rent reasonableness rental scale as opposed to sticking within FMR, but also within PSH programs if in order to access housing at the time of lease up – they were placed in programs above 100% FMR)
        + Landlord incentives – 1000 lease sign on bonus for landlords (marketing to landlords)

This would include HH transitioning in place

* + - * + State’s own priorities for how they want to prioritize these vouchers

The first group to see connected to vouchers – families who are currently experiencing homelessness & HH actively fleeing DV

Need to look back at our approach and strategy – our prioritization and strategies we came up with do not align with state priorities at least for the first 21 days. Once the state opens up their portal on August 1 – only be able to refer HH experiencing literal homeless and are families, and who are actively fleeing DV

State is gathering feedback from other CoC’s (we provided feedback)

Need to have a plan as a CoC if they do not change this. We need to submit referrals within those 21 days to connect HH locally to the resource and demonstrate and prove to the state that we are effective in doing this (making applications and leasing HH up)

Need to create a policy or understanding of prioritization for looking at those groups – how should we look at those groups?

Which HUD homeless families? Do we want to be targeted? Should we have an open process?

How many families that need a voucher and can exit homelessness quickly with a lease up? (to demonstrate that the program works)

Living on the Street, in shelter, or actively fleeing DV – define hud homeless

DVCES waitlist will come in handy

RRH Program – have 2 families who are fleeing and actively working with them and can actively get them into another apartment

Waitlist – 55: 43 are families, 12 are singles, 15 of those are in sheltered in a motel or shelter, and 40 are actively fleeing

We can get a picture of who has the most barriers and who would benefit from the housing voucher as opposed to rrh program

Phase 2 – have clients for this

How many HUD homeless families do we want to consider? Are we going to target? Are we going to reduce the pool?

Suggestion: All HUD homeless families, limit the use of thresholds, preparation in place for an assessment – who does the assessment? And who makes the determination as to whether that HH should be prioritized? What does that mean – how much more work is that? Is it part of CE to do that?

Suggestion: group of people who are referred to a program – the agency can help to further assess and make that determination so that it would not all fall on CE. When is the go point?

Program should start on August 1 – the best plan is to have people lined up and pull the trigger on the bunch of referrals (intend to have 100 referrals lined up before August 1 and refer them as we’re allowed to)

Suggestion: there are other entities that DSS has collaborated with to do RRH – hoping there is a central point where we are all communicating (putting a list together to assist with RRH to know that they are working with LICH) – who will put in the application?

Vote: Under an open application process, homeless families and people actively fleeing DV would be eligible to apply for EHV and would be the referrals that are submitted to NYS for the first 21 days, once the state application portal opens on August 1 (RRH HH and PSH HH could be referred to the state after the first 21 days). Any homeless families that cannot be referred in the first 21 days will have their applications kept on file and if we receive any additional vouchers in the future, we will revisit that list.

Motion – Donna

All in Favor

Populations not considered at the moment (single adults, youth, etc.) and see how this works and continue to discuss with GB and revisit as the program starts