



PARTNERS IN CARE

Our mission is to eliminate homelessness through open and inclusive participation and the coordination of integrated responses.

Homeless Prevention & Diversion Series Session 1: Overview

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Overview

Homelessness prevention: wide variety of efforts and strategies to prevent people from experiencing homelessness. Keeping people in place who are on a lease or have some sort of housing that can be stabilized. The intervention that takes place when someone can stay in their current location.

Diversion strategies: practices assist people to resolve their immediate housing crisis by accessing alternatives to entering emergency shelter or the experience of unsheltered living. Diversion is folks who are already experiencing a crisis, they're couch surfing, living doubled up, etc. They're already at emergency shelter's front door.

Debunking Myths

Shelter is not the only resource.

Shelter doesn't = housing vouchers

Homeless programs do not have any better list of available housing units than the next person.

Homeless programs do not have unlimited rental assistance.

Homeless prevention and diversion resources will only be successful if the household has a source of income and they are motivated to sustain their housing. If a household does not have a source of income they should be referred to community resources such as shelter.

Diversion Strategies Discussion

CCH Helpline – provides intake, information, and referrals for financial assistance and housing. Staff are trained on de-escalation, trauma informed care, motivational interviewing, assertive engagement, and cultural competency.

Catholic Charities Counseling Services Hotline: 808-527-4470

IHS employment program, "Hele 2 Work"

HIS urban agriculture program, "Taking Root." Hydroponic garden where people can take classes 2-3 days a week and receive a certification for landscaping / gardening.



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Other services that may be provided in diversion programs:

- Housing stability case management
- Landlord, family, and roommate tenant mediation
- Housing search
- Tenant legal services
- Credit repair help and matching
- Bus passes
- Car repairs
- Costs associated with obtaining legal identification
- Security Deposits/last month's rent
- Utility deposits, payments and arrears
- Rental assistance and arrears
- Rental application fees
- Moving costs

Family Promise Shelter Diversion Questions (see attached)

Ian De Jong & OrgCode Division Training



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Program Overviews

The Institute for Human Services

ESG-HPRP:

- Provides:
 - Back rent, utilities, first month's rent, security deposit
- Eligibility Criteria:
 - Must show sustainability of income and proof of hardship. Ex. Medical bill, car repairs, etc.

CARES (affected by COVID):

- Provides:
 - Back rent only. Up to 6 months of rental assistance
 - Up to 1 year of case management
- Eligibility Criteria:
 - Must be 50% AMI
 - Must show sustainability of income and COVID impact verification, ex. Loss of hours, having COVID and therefore need to call out of work.

For additional information or questions about IHS prevention and diversion programs please contact housingcares@ihshawaii.org



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Catholic Charities of Hawai'i

State Homeless Emergency Grants (SHEG) Program: an intervention program designed to help households to quickly exit or prevent homelessness, return to housing in the community and avoid future homelessness. Eligible for both individuals for families.

- Provides:
 - 1-3 payments of any combination: security deposit, first month's rent, past due rent
- Eligibility Criteria:
 - Must be homeless or at-risk of homelessness with a verification of housing status ex. Eviction notice from landlord
 - Must have household income that does not exceed 50% of the Area Median Income (AMI)
 - Must demonstrate self-sufficiency and ability to make future payments

Housing Placement Program (HPP):

- Provides:
 - Housing search and application fees
 - Ongoing case management
 - Landlord/tenant relations
 - Housing related legal representation (Legal Aid Society of Hawaii)
 - Financial literacy and one-on-one budgeting
 - Employment assistance
 - Furniture, school supplies, holiday gifts
 - Public benefits, child care subsidy
 - Financial assistance: first month's rent, security deposit, utility deposits, rental arrears
 - Follow up services up to 6 months after the household has been discharged from the program
- Eligibility Criteria:
 - Must have a minor in the household (age 17 or younger)
 - Household must have a combined income of 250% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) or below
 - Household must be homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness

For additional information or questions about CCH prevention and diversion programs please contact the CCH Help Line at (808) 521-4357



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Family Promise

Diversion resources: if you're working with a family with minor children who is living doubled up or couch surfing and they're able to sustain but just need a little bit of assistance.

Victim of Crime Assistance: for families with minor children who need help with move-in costs

Please contact Family Promise at info@familypromisehawaii.org

For other programs that provide rental assistance such as security deposit, first month's rent, past rent or past utilities please visit the State of Hawaii's website here:

<https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/eviction-moratorium-resources/>