



**Virginia**  
Housing Alliance  
Expanding Housing Opportunity and Ending Homelessness

## ***RAPID RE-HOUSING: A PERMANENT SOLUTION TO HOMELESSNESS***

### **What is Rapid Re-Housing?**

Rapid re-housing is a strategy to assist families and individuals experiencing homelessness to access **housing as quickly as possible** and then deliver uniquely tailored services to help them maintain stable housing.

It follows a “housing first” philosophy which says that individuals and families experiencing homelessness need housing first, and then they need services.

Rapid re-housing differs from traditional homeless assistance approaches in that it does not require a family or individual to live in emergency shelter or transitional housing for a certain length of time prior to returning to permanent housing.

Rapid re-housing can be delivered in an emergency shelter or transitional housing setting. Rapid re-housing is not mutually exclusive from emergency shelter and transitional housing programs and can and do work well together. At the same time, a community does not necessarily need an emergency shelter or transitional housing program IF the community has in place a rapid re-housing program.

Services are consumer-driven in that the person, with the help of a case manager, determines the services that she or he needs to maintain their housing.

Services are critical to help a family maintain their housing, access and maintain employment, and increase their self sufficiency and well-being. It is the housing AND the services that make rapid re-housing an effective permanent solution to homelessness.

### **THE COMPONENTS OF RAPID RE-HOUSING**

#### **1. Financial Assistance**

This could include:

- Rental assistance (short-term tenant-based rental assistance up to 3 months)
- Rental assistance (medium-term tenant-based rental assistance from 4-18 months)
- Security deposits
- Utility payments
- Moving cost assistance
- Motel and hotel vouchers

#### **2. Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services**

This could include:

- Case management
- Counseling
- Development of service plans
- Outreach and engagement
- Housing search and placement
- Legal services

## **Landlords and Services**

Landlords are a key partner in rapid re-housing as landlords have apartments that they need to rent. Landlords are often willing to participate in RRH housing for three reasons: it's a reliable source of tenants; landlords can ask RRH agencies for new tenants rather than advertising; and RRH families are often successful tenants because of the support they are receiving from RRH agencies.

Once housed, services are offered specific to that person's or family's needs. They choose to receive help. The services offered include case management, counseling, housing search and placement, legal services, and credit repair.

The philosophy is to build on people's capabilities. The approach is more effective than having forced rules. Services are broken down on an individual level—what it takes to get them into housing, and what it takes to keep them there.

For agencies, RRH is much more cost effective than older methods. They can serve more people on a short-term basis.