



# MEMORANDUM

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**DATE:** January 24, 2012

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Council Members

**FROM:** Albert Elias

Director

Housing & Community Development

**SUBJECT: Homeless Prevention Rapid Re-housing (Project Action)**

The Metropolitan Housing Commission requested that Mayor and Council receive information about the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP) that was developed locally as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Funds designated by Congress and administered by the US Department Housing and Urban Development (HUD) were intended to be used to provide financial assistance and services to either prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless or to help those who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized.

## **HPRP Awards to City of Tucson and Pima County**

The City of Tucson's Department of Housing and Community Development received an HPRP award of \$2,534,340 on August 7, 2009. Pima County's Department of Community Development and Neighborhood Conservation received an HPRP award of \$1,063,430. The City of Tucson and Pima County collaborated to offer one HPRP program for both Tucson and Pima County residents to simplify the application process for constituents. The funding award was for a three year period to August 2012 or until the funds were exhausted.

## **Community Input and Program Design**

The City of Tucson and Pima County held public meetings with service providers and other stakeholders soon after the announcement of the awards to discuss local needs and potential systems to deliver services and funds. A design group made up of experts familiar with low-income and homeless populations and local services made recommendations on the format for constituent services in Tucson and Pima County that would be called Project Action. Working through an Intergovernmental Agreement, the City and County contracted with experienced providers - CODAC Behavioral Health Services, Primavera Foundation and Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation - in order to provide HPRP services. The agencies' case workers were able to assist individuals and families pay rent, utilities, and other costs related to stabilizing their housing. They also worked with Housing and Community Development's Veterans Administration Supportive Housing (VASH) program vouchers to house potentially homeless veterans and their families.

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### **Program Outcomes**

Through the City of Tucson grant, 523 households, consisting of 1,263 persons have been assisted since the beginning of the program. Of the households, 458 received rental assistance, the remainder were assisted with security or utility deposits, utility assistance, moving cost assistance or a motel/hotel voucher. Of all of the persons served by the Project Action program, 95% successfully left the program for permanent housing. The City of Tucson program has spent \$1,973,673 through December 2011. It is expected that the program funds will be exhausted at the end of June 2012.

We can all be proud of the outcomes achieved by this program, which had both City and County staff working together to assist community members in need. We are also appreciative of the support provided by the Metropolitan Housing Commission in this endeavor. Should you have any questions please contact me at 791-4171.

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Cc: Richard Miranda, City Manager  
Liz Miller, Assistant City Manager  
Margaret Kish, Pima County  
Metropolitan Housing Commission members