

Tenant Based Rental Assistance-Homelessness Prevention

Homelessness prevention is defined as “housing relocation and stabilization services and short- and/or medium-term rental assistance necessary to prevent an individual or family from moving into an emergency shelter”.

Community Advocates will provide Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) to individuals and families who are at-risk of becoming homeless but are not residing in an emergency shelter. In order for an Individual to become eligible he/she must meet federal income guidelines, lack resources to pay rent on their own, have a sudden loss of income, and they must have a proof that there is an ability to pay rent once the rental assistance ends.

Community Advocates will work as the centralized intake agency for individuals and families seeking TBRA. As in the past, Community Advocates will partner with the other housing/homeless service providers throughout the Milwaukee Continuum of Care. Milwaukee COC agencies will provide direct referrals to Community Advocates. There will be priority placed on outreach and engagement to vulnerable populations including 18-24 year olds, and individuals on fixed incomes that face homelessness due to high utility costs.

The type of assistance that will be given to families and individuals may include: rental arrear payments, short-term rental payments (up to 3 months) and security deposit payments. The maximum amount that a household can receive will not exceed \$1,000 unless extenuating circumstances warrant additional funding to prevent homelessness.

Community Advocates has provided Homelessness Prevention Services for over 15 years and TBRA for over 8 years. Per Wisconsin ServicePoint records, during the 2013 program year, Community Advocates Homelessness Prevention Program recorded a 98% success rate as it relates to Housing Stability. Housing Stability is defined as households not accessing emergency shelter within 360 days of receiving TBRA. The success is a direct result of the partnership with the other housing/homeless service providers as well as the continuum of services provided within Community Advocates