# **Housing and GI Implementation Workgroup Meeting**

December 13, 2021

Recording of the meeting can be accessed [here](https://healthmanagement.zoom.us/rec/share/WWzVvWr8SxhVYLaybzq3uGNfJ-P-VbjqNxxqEvYhEx5zKErf1WIV0RXkcAkMRaUF.lR1rLUwMHdNTGVCi).

**Attendees**: Dara Dupont, Rita Landgraf, Mimi, Dara Dupont, Meghann Karasic, Leah Woodall, Donna Snyder White, Liddy Garcia Bunuel, Lindsey Ashkenase, Melissa Minor Brown, Marci Eads, Trenee Parker Delaware, Brandin Bowden, Kirsten Olson, Mawuna Gardesey, Ray Fitzgerald, Mary Wise, Liz Brown, Dara Hall, Kelly Dungee, Tiffany T Warrick, Marlena Gibson, Joanne, Khaleel Hussaini, and Ana Bueno

Rep. Minor Brown and Rita Landgraf, co-chairs of the SDoH Committee, welcomed members and presented the following agenda and reminded the members about the goals of the implementation workgroup:

* Welcome and Introductions
* Discussion about goals of the meeting
* Design elements breakout rooms

Implementation Workgroup Goals

* Serving 15 – 30 women total between both interventions​
* Create processes and coordination among multiple partners​
* Ensure feedback loop from end users​
* Will explore and leverage funding (grants, etc.) to grow program over time while doing process improvement​

## **Housing Design Breakout room notes**

**Attendees,** Lindsey Ashkenase, Ray, Meghann Karasic, Khalleel, Mawuna, Mimi, Mary Wise Kelly Dungee, Vilma Y Lopez, Dara Hall**.**

Rep. Minor Brown shared information about SRAP and DEHAP Program. On the Housing Analysis report HMA proposed the State Rental Assistance Program (SRAP), which is a state-funded voucher program in which DSHA partners with other public agencies, including the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) to provide low-income individuals and families with housing vouchers. ​

* 12 MONTH PROGRAM-RELIES ON CASE MANAGERS TO FIND LANDLORDS AND UNITS. LIMITED OPTIONS. ​
* To be eligible for SRAP vouchers by DSHA, individuals must: ​
* Either be a legal U.S. citizen or eligible immigrant. ​
* Be a resident of Delaware. ​
* Be 18 years of age or older; and ​
* Have a household income of 50% of the State Median Income or less.

DEHAP

* Either the renter household or the landlord can initiate an application. Documentation is required from both the tenant and the landlord. ​
* The application portal will start with several pre-qualification questions to help determine potential eligibility. ​
* All applications must be submitted via the online application portal. ​
* DEHAP can cover arrears for rent, utilities (if stated in the lease) that are due to the landlord from April 2020 – present, up to 15 months to ensure the household’s housing stability. ​
* The maximum amount of rental assistance per household is up to $2,000 per month. ​
* The maximum amount of total utility assistance per household is up to $1,500 per month with a total maximum of $22,500 in utility assistance. ​
* The 15-month rental assistance is treated separately from the 15-months of assistance allowed for utilities. For instance, a renter applicant who has DEHAP Program Guidelines met their 15-month limit for rental assistance can also apply for another 15-months of utility assistance even if the rental household is not in the arrears on the rent. ​
* DEHAP provides security deposits

Discussion

* Meghann Karasic asked if the group should explore Rapid rehousing through the Housing Alliance as they received ARPHA funding. She indicated SRAP may not be bound federal rules. Section 8 has barriers for individuals with criminal backgrounds. Also SRAP may cover undocumented and may be qualified as mix status family.
* Rep. Minor Brown mentioned Pregnancy is time limited event and it was important for units to be available. She asked if women could apply for both Housing vouchers and DEHAP and Marlena answered yes that they can apply to both programs.
* Group agreed to meet with Marlena to clarify if there are any prohibition for subsidies and to get t information on how extensions would work in the case the pregnant woman needs more assistance or does not find housing after delivery.
* Ray Fitzgerald mentioned that focusing on existing programs is not the way to do transitional housing and suggested to rent houses with the potential to serve 15 moms He mentioned that for example St. Francis 3 houses they use for this purpose. He felt it was more viable to house 3 pregnant women in this facility and share the space. Most newborns do not have rooms to manage, and it would cost $4,500 a month for 3 women to serve 15 for longer period. Waitlist for Public housing is less than a year. Section 8 multiple years. Government programs are not designed to work fast. Effective but not fast. He suggested to design and create a new program and not use an existing program.
* The team discussed about the possibility to give the women money to rent understanding that individuals that receive TANIF or benefits programs do not give an exemption.
* The team agreed that in terms of eligibility the program will prioritize pregnant women with or without children.
* Ray Fitzgerald mentioned that Social services may have money to pay for this without additional funding.
* Meghan mentioned that ARPHA funding is due Jan 15, 2021
* Mawuna asked Lindsey and Vilma if they would be able to refer them to housing.
* Meghan mentioned that Hope Center Emergency Housing Advisor board received unrestricted money and asked the group if there were any criteria in mind regarding BH and SUD, medical health, social supports already in place, etc.? That will factor into the type of housing that's needed and location.

Each Design group came back to the main room and gave updates on the work they did during the breakout room session.

* Both teams working on eligibility and continue working on design.
* DEHAP more flexible in terms of paperwork DEHAP.
* Ray Fitzgerald asked if Gift cards were considered income? How much how often? Meghan will investigate regulations.
* Liddy clarified that women may not be eligible for both programs Housing and GBI they would have to apply to one and they need to be separate to evaluate the interventions separately.
* Mawuna asked if we needed to have one prior the other meaning if the individual does not have housing do they receive GBI first and then apply for housing. Liddy clarified that based on the Harvard conference she attended women may not need the vouchers if they receive GBI.
* Khaleel added that there may be women that deal with both scenarios, but it was important to note that pregnant women may need rapid assistance and that the team could explore using current resources for case management. Khaleel mentioned that DEHAP was more flexible in terms of paperwork and has more flexibility.
* Ray Fitzgerald asked if there was a discussion in GBI about the negative effect on benefits (entitlement cliff). One reason he pushes to rent is that it does not affect their income it was easier to show the results and get support if you are successful. Liddy clarified the group is exploring on how to deal with the entitlement cliff.
* Liddy mentioned that there is an opportunity to learn with other GBI programs around the country to learn from them to make sure the program does not harm women.
* Rep. Minor Brown asked if Gift cards are considered income. Ray indicated that it depends on how much and how often they receive them.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:34pm.