

Year End Report on 2018 Grant Activity
Homefinding Services
Housing Resources Bainbridge

1. *Summarize the activities undertaken in providing the scope of services described in Attachment A.*

Housing Resources Bainbridge assisted over 470 households in 2018 through the Homefinding Services Programs. The Homefinder portion of the program helped to connect individuals with resources for finding housing. In some instances, individuals were provided applications for HRB rental housing and/or information about other housing providers in the area – Bainbridge Island or Kitsap County. They were also given advice about making the process move more smoothly and how to be realistic about the state of low cost housing and the probable timeline for finding housing. The HomeShare program continued to match those with extra room in their homes with those looking for lower cost rent – sometimes in exchange for services such as household chores, driving or pet sitting.

2. *Reference the project objectives identified in your project proposal. Were those objectives achieved? Why or why not? Were there any unexpected positive outcomes or challenges?*

Our project objectives were met to the extent possible and despite limitations outside the control of HRB – namely the lack of affordable housing in the community. Our rental application was streamlined in late 2018, in order to reduce the burden on homefinders and reduce the amount of information that was required at the time of application. The HomeShare Program also identified successes with finding housing for people with very limited income to pay rent.

3. *Reference the specific measurable results identified in your project proposal. Were they achieved? If not, what challenges prevented the achievement of the anticipated results? How many Bainbridge Island residents were served? Are the conditions for those residents generally improving or worsening? Please explain.*

HRB was contacted by more than 470 households in 2018. The HomeShare portion of the program saw two Home Providers and 12 Home Seekers added to the program. Home Providers did not sign up in the same numbers as anticipated for various reasons, most notably because of restrictions on the types of tenants they might be willing to take on as a sharer. Throughout 2018, HRB worked to improve the program with the goals of addressing this situation and worked with providers and seekers to identify appropriate accommodations.

The number of individuals on extremely low, fixed budgets who contacted us as a seeker increased throughout 2018, and is likely due to the increasing unaffordability of apartments not only on Bainbridge Island, but throughout the region. Many seekers sought to relocate to Bainbridge Island after reading about the HomeShare Program and many saw it as only a temporary solution until other rental housing could be identified. HomeShare is a program

that is gaining national recognition – the challenge comes in finding the home providers who are willing to be flexible enough to add another person to their household. The other challenge is finding housing for parents with children – HomeShare is generally not an option for them.

Of the people who contacted us approximately, 20% reported living on Bainbridge Island. Individuals did not always leave their addresses so it was difficult to determine place of residence with all contacts. It is also difficult for HRB to determine if the conditions for some of these contacts is improving because we are unable to determine their final location or where they secure housing. Once we receive an application for our housing, we endeavor to contact the applicants at least every year to update our files and understand how their situations might have changed. As a group, the situation for lower income individuals is worsening because of the lack of affordable housing, the reduced purchasing power of fixed incomes (e.g., Social Security, pensions, etc.), and an increasing number of single parent households with limited or reduced incomes.

4. *Describe the involvement of any partners identified in your project proposal, as well as any unexpected cooperative relationships that developed through implementation of the project. Did the City funding help you attract additional funding or other types of support?*

Housing Resources Bainbridge was happy to partner with the Housing Solutions Center through Kitsap Community Resources at the Bainbridge Island location. The housing navigator there was able to refer her clients to HRB to apply for housing and also to provide emergency rental assistance or move in assistance to clients moving into HRB properties, as well as other properties on Bainbridge Island. This is a great resource for those needing housing assistance and a great partner for HRB.

5. *Reference the project budget specified in Attachment A. Provide an analysis of actual expenses and income in relation to the projected budget.*

Actual expenses and income are listed below in Table 1:

TABLE 1: HOMEFINDER SERVICES PROJECT BUDGET - 2018

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTALS	LIMITS	REMAINING
<i>HR – STAFF SALARIES</i>	6,149.19	6,219.52	131.29	0.00	12,500.00	12,500.00	0.00
<i>ADVERTISING</i>	322.28	426.24	426.23	274.65	1,450.00	1,450.00	0.00
<i>ADMINISTRATIVE FEE</i>	387.50	387.50	387.50	387.50	1,550.00	1,550.00	0.00
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT	6,859.57	7,033.26	945.02	662.15	15,500.00	15,500.00	0.00

6. *Please provide a short description of how the City funding has helped your organization or helped the community. Please also include any quotes or stories related to this support.*

Without this funding from the City of Bainbridge Island, HRB would not be able to offer the level of service required to meet the increasing needs of all people looking for housing. A recent client, who was relocating from Oregon in order to care for an elderly partner on Bainbridge Island, commented to HRB that: *“I would not have been able to find housing and assist my partner with his daily care needs without the support of the HomeShare program.”* Another client remarked that the HomeShare Program allowed her to *“remain in her wonderful rental and make a new friend at the same time.”*

7. *What recommendations, if any, do you have regarding future funding cycles?*

2018 continued the trend of a rising number of households who find themselves in a housing crisis for any number of reasons. Despite our administrative connections to Kitsap County, our community faces housing pressures more like those found in Seattle and eastern King County. These pressures have only exacerbated the lack of affordable housing options and we have slowly watched wait lists grow to over 50 or 60 households. The two-year funding cycle does provide administrative stability in allowing our organization to plan for the future; however, it can also hamper our efforts as needs unexpectedly grow. Our organization would like the opportunity to amend a grant amount if funds are available to meet the critical needs of the Bainbridge Island community.