



City of Bainbridge Island Housing Solutions Center Year End Report 2020

Report on Execution of Services:

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

March 2020 marked the fifth year of operations for the Housing Solutions Center, working on the Helpline House Campus on Bainbridge Island, after receiving a second funding award from the City of Bainbridge Island. Working out of our Bainbridge office we interviewed clients identifying with housing needs. The half-time HSC Navigator met with 124 unduplicated households, 22 of whom were literally homeless (i.e. living in a place not meant for human habitation). An additional households were at significant risk of losing their housing due to an imminent eviction. The remaining 104 households had housing but the housing costs were so high that their housing stability was in jeopardy.

HSC Services provided included: Referrals for deposit and rental assistance funding, emergency shelter, supportive housing, landlord referrals, collaboration with Kitsap Mental Health, employment and training referrals, Peninsula Community Health referrals for mental health, community outreach and Veterans Assistance referrals, along with working closely with community partners.

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?

The most significant goal of this project is to provide housing assistance for families and individuals who are homeless or at risk of being homeless secure housing and/or funding to stay housed. The ultimate goal is to help as many households in crisis find permanent housing, or at least shelter on an interim basis until more permanent resources can be identified. In the last year, we have seen the need for affordable housing increase. There is an insufficient supply and an ever increasing demand. People who work on the island and appreciate living there, have the desire to raise their families on the island and remain a part of the community. We are committed to working with people as long as it takes to get families connected to options that may work for them; in some cases may include moving off the Island to more affordable parts of the County or transportation assistance to family members in other states.



Now, in our fifth year, we feel we are an established resource on Bainbridge Island. We partnered with Helpline House for a fifth year for space and client referrals. We also work closely with Housing Resource Bainbridge for client referrals and resources. The outcome has remained a consistent number of people being referred to the Housing Solutions Center.

3. Reference the specific measureable 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.

OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES CHART		
Program Activities or Services	Annual Goal: Unduplicated Bainbridge Residents Served (Outputs)	Outcome of Receiving this Program/Service (Outcomes)
Navigation Services	150 Head of Households served in 2020	150 Referrals will meet with navigators and receive housing and community referrals- 124 HH met navigators and received referrals
Deposit Referral Services	8 Head of Households assisted with deposit in 2020	8 HH will be eligible for assistance, find a landlord and move into permanent housing. 6 HH and (7 Individuals) were assisted with funds to move into permanent housing
Eviction Prevention	20 Households Head of Households assisted with eviction prevention in 2020	20 will be eligible for assistance that will prevent an eviction/homelessness. 30 HH (69 individuals) assisted with eviction prevention in 2020.

During 2020, on Bainbridge Island, we were able to provide rent assistance totaling \$82,576 which prevented the eviction and potential homelessness for 30 households. We also, provided deposit and initial rent assistance, totaling \$8,003 to move 6 households directly out of homelessness and into permanent housing. Our numbers for assistance in households served have decreased this year in large part due to the COVID 19 pandemic and the governor’s eviction moratorium. We were also unable to meet our projected outcomes for deposit assistance; due to the challenge of finding both

affordable housing and landlords willing to take clients with multiple barriers on the Island. We continue to work with many of the other households seeking HSC services getting them connected with affordable housing and landlords. The biggest barrier we are finding to help these households however; is the lack of affordable housing. Even with available financial assistance, we have many people with whom we work with who are unable to find an affordable place to live. HSC is also able to link households to other services they can utilize that HSC does not provide. Those receiving eviction prevention funds were able to stay safe and warm, housed for at least another month while assessing other income or housing options. We were able to use a total of \$90,579 in funding to both directly move households out of homelessness and keep households from becoming homeless.

**Actual Bainbridge Island residents service by the Housing Solutions Center:
This chart shows the number of clients assisted and of these how many live on the island:**

January- March 2020

Total clients assisted: 43. Of those 32 or 74% live on Bainbridge Island.

April-June 2020

Total clients assisted: 30. Of those 28 or 93% live on Bainbridge Island.

July-September 2020

Total clients assisted: 45. Of those 44 or 97% live on Bainbridge Island.

October-December 2020

Total Clients assisted: 29. Of those 25 or 86% live on Bainbridge Island.

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 attract additional funding or other types of support?

The Housing Solutions Center has 24 community partners throughout Kitsap County we work closely with on a regular basis, including Kitsap Mental Health, local shelters, North Kitsap Fishline, YWCA and Housing Kitsap, just to name a few. On Bainbridge Island, because of our partnership with Helpline House, securing a location and collaborative referrals with the social workers has been beneficial for our mutual clients. We work with Housing Resources Bainbridge on a regular basis. By assisting their clients in need of funding to move in to one of their vacant housing units. We also work with Oxford Houses, domestic violence service providers, the Home Share program and local landlords, helping to find the right choice for those seeking housing. Treatment centers, Peninsula Community Health Services, Kitsap Transit (who provides free bus tickets), and employment and training programs are others we partner with.

In addition to the rental assistance provided by Kitsap Community Resources and the Salish Behavior Health Organization, we were able to secure funding for rental assistance through 1/10 of 1% that can help families or individual's suffering from mental health or SUD with their rent for up to 6 months. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, we were also able to utilize 3 new funding sources this year; CDBG funding, CARES act funding and ERAP funding became available to Housing Solutions Center in an effort to help combat those struggling financially during these unprecedented times.

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

Budget verses actual:

AREA	BUDGET	COBI 2020 Funds Spent	Balance
Human Resources (Staff Salaries, Supervision, Benefits, Consultant Services)	\$20,161	\$21,080.10	\$-919.10
Space/Facilities	\$0	\$	\$
Equipment Purchase			
Travel/Training	\$1,000	\$28	\$972
Insurance			
Operating Expenses	\$1,000	\$875	\$124.48
Scholarships/Stipends			
Other – Direct Rental Assistance	\$0	\$0	\$0
Indirect Administrative Costs	\$1,839	\$1,934.55	\$-95.55
TOTAL	\$24,000	\$23,918.17	\$81.83

This budget reflects that both travel/training and administration costs ran lower than expected. Human resources slightly exceeded our expectations.

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

“J” is a very friendly guy who’s been living in the woods for several years. He has a history of mental illness and we weren’t quite sure how to get him permanently housed but we helped him get on some housing waitlists. He was reluctant to move to a different area because he felt a sense of community and belonging in his neighborhood. He also utilized the local food bank and mental health services. Eventually, his name came up for a subsidized unit close to where he had been living. With ROAST funds we were able to help Jason with his first month of rent and deposit. I checked in with “J” after a month and he said he loves his new home and it feels like a dream come true. He reports that he has finally been able to cook and prepare nutritious foods. He’s also meeting with his social worker regularly. Overall, his life has greatly stabilized.

"B" is a long-time Bainbridge Island resident with a wife and two children. He works as a care-giver but due to COVID 19 restrictions, he lost work hours and got behind on rent. HSC was able to use our COVID19 funds to assist the family with three month's rent until his hours picked back up. Currently, he is back to full-time work and can manage his ongoing rent.

"A" is a single mother who was staying with friends and working part-time on Bainbridge Island. She has been fleeing DV and has mental health and substance abuse disorder issues. She was trying to maintain sobriety and get custody of her child back. When she lost her job due to COVID 19, she became homeless and had to sleep in her car. HSC was able to help her find clean and sober housing off-island in Kitsap County. We paid her deposit and first month of rent with our mental health funds.

"C" is a single father of two who lives on Bainbridge Island. He lost his job due to COVID19 and was surviving on Unemployment Insurance. When his unemployment payments were reduced, he could no longer pay his rent. HSC used our Emergency Rental Assistance Program funds to pay two month's rent. "C" starts a new job in a week. Although he is still a little behind on rent, he said he will be able to catch up very quickly.

The Housing Solutions Center's goal is to connect as many households in crisis to permanent housing, or at least shelter on an interim basis until more permanent resources can be identified. The funding the city has provided has made it possible for us to open an office much closer than the previous nearest office in Poulsbo. We are able to assist those who appreciate living on the island. 88% of the people who visit our Bainbridge Island office live on the Island.

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

Having funding available from the City of Bainbridge Island is always beneficial in helping to provide Housing Solutions Center services for those living on the Island. We are very pleased with the two year funding cycle and happy to be a part of the funding through the City of Bainbridge.