



## **BERGEN COUNTY HOUSING, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES CENTER**

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DIRECTOR

### **A Collaborative Approach to Meeting Human Needs: The Bergen County Housing, Health and Human Services Center**

The Bergen County Housing, Health and Human Services Center is a one stop location serving individual men and women who are homeless, individuals and families who are precariously housed, and others who require assistance connecting to needed services.

The 27,516 square foot building, located at 120 South River Street in Hackensack, includes housing, health and social services, a nutrition site, and shelter space for up to 90 individuals. Additional temporary overflow shelter space is available during the winter months. The Center is open 24 hours a day year round. Funding is provided by a combination of federal, state and local funds, and a wide range of shared and donated services provided by governmental and non-profit organizations.

The Center's goal is to place individuals who are homeless in housing and provide the support services needed to ensure that the placement is permanent. Those served may have a history of substance abuse, physical and mental health problems, and unemployment, in addition to homelessness. Because of the range of services available, those who need human services or a meal, but are not homeless, also receive assistance. The Center is the foundation for the County of Bergen Ten Year Housing Plan to launch a concentrated, community-wide effort to end homelessness.

The award winning Center is managed by the Housing Authority of Bergen County. The Center serves as a one stop location and a single point of entry for services. Onsite services include professional evaluation of client needs, development of individualized treatment plans, care management, placement in permanent housing, medical screening, mental health and substance abuse counseling, legal aid, veteran's services, HIV/AIDS counseling, Alcoholics Anonymous, and nutrition services.

Assistance with job readiness and placement, and registration for various public programs, such as Medicaid and welfare/benefits applications is available onsite. The Center supports job search by providing computers, mail service and telephones for contacts with employers. Vocational assessment, employment counseling and job placement as well as a 6 week on site training program is available to help individuals improve their job skills and social networking abilities. On-site access to Bergen Community College educational services and screening is available as well as one-on-one tutoring. Homelessness prevention services including emergency rent, utility and food vouchers are also available. These services are provided by existing public and private health and human service agencies under

contract or as extensions of their existing programs. These agencies are provided office space at no cost in order to provide the services onsite.

All individuals seeking shelter services receive basic care services as needed and an initial treatment plan is developed for them. Information gathered during this process is entered into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to develop a single information source regarding needs.

Efforts to place guests in permanent rental housing begin immediately following assessment. Utilizing a Housing First Approach, the Housing Authority of Bergen County dedicates 20% of available vouchers to the Center each year and administers the ESG funding for prevention and rapid re-housing. When a housing placement is made, care managers work directly with the guest and property owner to ensure the placement is permanent. Individuals and families who are not homeless, but need health and human services, are assisted to make direct contact with agencies that can respond to their need.

The Center provides breakfast for temporary shelter guests, and lunch and dinner for those from the community who cannot afford a meal. Dinner is provided at no cost by local churches and community organizations organized by Family Promise. Showers, bathrooms, and laundry facilities are available.

Christ Church CDC manages a drop in center - the Next Step Initiative - in the food service area during the day. Its purpose is to encourage the use of on-site services designed to strengthen employment skills, address health and human service needs, and seek permanent housing. Christ Church CDC conducts operations of the overnight sheltering program.

Medical care is provided through affiliation with the federally qualified health care center located at 25 Salem Street and Bergen Regional Medical Center. Wellness screening is provided onsite by nurses provided by the County Department of Health and the Bergen County Jail.

The following agencies currently provide services at the Center:

- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Advance Housing, Inc.
- Alliance Against Homelessness (AAH)
- Bergen Community College
- Bergen County Board of Social Services
- Bergen County Community Action Partnership: Credit Counseling
- Bergen County Health Department Health Screening
- Bergen County Health Department HIV/AIDS Screening
- Bergen County Housing Authority
- Bergen County Human Services: Veteran's Services
- Bergen County's United Way
- CarePlus, NJ
- Christ Church Community Development Corporation
- City of Hackensack Department of Human Services
- Comprehensive Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.
- Eastwick College
- Family Promise
- Financial Planning Association of New Jersey
- Hope for Ex-Offenders
- Making-It-Home
- Mental Health Law Project

Narcotics Anonymous  
Northeast NJ Legal Services  
North Jersey Friendship House  
One Stop Career Center  
On Our Own  
Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Bergen County: SNAP-Ed (Nutrition)  
SSVF Agencies (Community Hope, Soldier On, Catholic Charities,  
Hudson Community Action Corporation)  
The Women's Rights Information Center  
Transition Professionals (ex-offenders)  
Valley National Bank  
Vantage Job Tracks  
Wilson Life Skills Institute

**Selected statistics from October 1, 2009-October 1, 2016**

- 1000+ individuals have been placed in permanent housing. One third of these individuals were chronically homeless.
- Over 500,000 meals have been served.
- Individuals have made over 200,000 visits to the Next Step program
- 680+ families and individuals in danger of losing their homes were provided prevention and / or rapid re-housing assistance.
- Less than 5% recidivism rate.
- 244,520 bed-nights of shelter have been provided at BCHHHC.
- Reached "Functional Zero" for Veteran Homelessness.
- Currently under review for "Functional Zero" for Chronic Homelessness.

## **ESG (EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT) GUIDELINE CHART**

<b><u>HOUSEHOLD SIZE</u></b>	<b><u>RANGES OF GROSS MONTHLY INCOME</u></b>
<b>1</b>	<b>(Minimum \$1,100 - Max \$1,595)</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>(Minimum \$1,250 - Max \$1,825)</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>(Minimum \$1,400 - Max \$2,054)</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>(Minimum \$1,600 - Max \$2,220)</b>

### **Eligibility Requirements for ESG Program**

- Any applicant receiving subsidy by Section 8, Public Housing or Senior Housing are not eligible
- At the time of application, applicant must have a legal eviction notice through the court, be staying with a family or friend, or be staying at the Homeless Shelter
- If applicant states that they are living in a car or at a park they will not be eligible for ESG assistance
- Additionally, if applicant is staying at a motel/hotel an agency must be paying for it. If motel/hotel is paid out of pocket then assistance will be denied
- Food stamps are not considered income, however, it will be considered and may help applicant
- You must have income in order to apply. What is considered income?
  - SSI/SSD/SSA
  - Child Support
  - Unemployment
  - GA/ TANF
  - Pension/Alimony
  - A Job - ( 4 most consecutive and recent paystubs required)

**ESG HOTLINE NUMBER (201)336-6490**

**FAX: (201)343-2312**

**\* All calls are returned within 24-48 hours \***