

Recent Funding Lost for Eviction Prevention in Westchester (updated 2/7/2012)

Westchester's safety net of eviction prevention services has been ripped to shreds. Cuts are coming from every direction. Over \$5.3 million in HPRP funding is ending. We knew that was going to be difficult to handle but now nearly \$1.3 million more is being cut from eviction prevention. That means that key parts of Westchester's eviction prevention infrastructure that we had before HPRP - often for 15-20 years - is disappearing. This includes major reductions in cash assistance, as well as outreach, case finding, budget assessment, and legal representation.

We need to work together to strategize how to piece together the remaining funding and come up with a strategy to secure more public and private resources. We need to rebuild a comprehensive eviction prevention network, sustain the new approaches we learned with HPRP, and ensure that we can offer assistance with rental arrears and time-limited rent subsidies when doing so will keep someone out of a shelter and thus save taxpayer dollars.

There are things we can do. Westchester County agreed to release \$200,000 in county funding for eviction prevention. Westchester County also restored \$430,000 originally slated to be cut from Legal Services' eviction prevention program. Yonkers is preparing to spend its second round of ESG funding, which will be used for rapid rehousing, street outreach, and eviction prevention. If Westchester County gives us strong support, we may be able to organize a Homeless Summit similar to the one organized several years ago by the Westchester Coalition for the Hungry and Homeless, but this time follow through to secure specific commitments from local foundations, corporations and local governments. We also need New York State to provide additional funding to help offset NYS' recent \$523,000 cut in eviction prevention funding.

Here are some of the recent cuts:

- Federal stimulus money through HUD's Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing (HPRP) program is ending. Yonkers had over **\$1.5 million**. Its eviction prevention component has ended and its rapid rehousing component is winding down.
- Mount Vernon's **\$745,701** HPRP program and New Rochelle's **\$686,935** HPRP program have slowed to a trickle and are ending in May.
- The County's nearly **\$2.4 million** HPRP program will end no later than July. It funds 5 agencies to do eviction prevention. They have about \$130,000 left to spend on rent arrears. Three of those agencies' programs will end in February, one in May, and the final program ends in June.
- Legal Services of the Hudson Valley was notified of over \$700,000 in funding cuts in just one week recently. NYS OTDA decided not to renew a **\$415,000** grant they'd had for over 15 years and the Legal Services Corporation cut their funding by **\$295,000**.
- CLUSTER has had a Housing Resource Center in Yonkers for over 30 years. This year it lost 80% of its funding for staff. This included loss of **\$108,000** in NYS OTDA grant funding they'd had for 15 years. The Center went from 7 staff last year to 1.5 now.
- HUD has frozen **\$405,939** in ESG funds to Westchester, due to the fair housing dispute.
- The City of Mount Vernon was no longer eligible for ESG funds in 2011 or 2012. In 2010 it had received **\$68,000** including **\$25,000** used for eviction prevention.
- The federal Emergency Food and Shelter Program funding administered by the United Way was cut **40%** and delayed 11 months this year. Westchester lost **\$177,565** including nearly **\$40,000** used for rent and mortgage arrears to prevent eviction. It may be cut again in 2012.

**Recent Funding Lost for Eviction Prevention in Westchester
(updated 2/7/2012)**

HPRP 30-Month Funds Ending

Source	Timing	Amount
Westchester County HPRP	5 EP components: 3 end in Feb., 1 in May, and last in June	2,373,791
Yonkers	EP component ended in Oct. 2011	1,533,003
Mount Vernon	Winding down, will close by June 2012	745,701
New Rochelle	Winding down, will close by May 2012	686,935
TOTAL		5,339,430

Other Eviction Prevention Funding Lost

Source	Timing	Amount
ESG: Westchester County	Ongoing - frozen by HUD due to housing dispute	405,939
CLUSTER: NYS OTDA ESG/HIP/SHIP (now STEHP)	Non-renewal announced by NYS OTDA in November	108,000
LSHV: NYS OTDA ESG/HIP/SHIP (now STEHP)	Non-renewal announced by NYS OTDA in November	415,000
LSHV: Legal Services Corporation	Non-renewal announced in November	295,000
EFSP: United Way	EFSP funding for Eviction Prevention was cut by \$40,000 (40%) in 2011, more cuts possible in 2012	40,000
ESG: Mount Vernon	Not eligible in 2011 or 2012	25,000
TOTAL		1,288,939