



The Homeless Assistance Fund, Inc.

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Philadelphia, PA

Challenge

To address barriers that prevent individuals and families experiencing homelessness from acquiring permanent housing.

Innovation

The capitalization of a dedicated fund from the sale of former naval base housing staffed as a private foundation and governed by cross-sector partners, provides a long-term source of grant funding that Philadelphia has used to fill gaps and leverage other funds for homeless assistance. HAFI supports homeless service providers that use evidence-based practices, including Housing First, Motivational Interviewing, Critical Time Intervention, and the Sanctuary Model.

Overview

Philadelphia's 2019 Point-in-Time Count identified 4,399 households experiencing homelessness. HAFI's role in addressing homelessness is to reduce financial barriers that delay households' transition from shelter or transitional housing to permanent housing. With an annual grant budget of \$200,000, HAFI provides grants to homeless service providers to support the costs of security deposits, first/last month's rent, furniture, utility arrearages, and associated case management. More recently, they have supported transportation costs to enable recently homeless individuals, including returning citizens, to obtain and maintain employment as one critical step in the path to permanent housing. Since 2005, HAFI has invested \$2.89 million in high capacity, homeless service providers in Philadelphia, enabling 1,850 households to transition from homelessness to permanent housing, and supporting over 700 formerly homeless individuals to obtain employment.



PARTNERS

City of Philadelphia Office of Homeless Services, Philadelphia Division of Housing and Community Development, and Urban Affairs Coalition.

