

WELCOME HOME

FAMILIES/INDIVIDUALS HOUSED IN RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM

After nearly three decades of homelessness, a disabled gentleman recently found a landlord willing to work with him and provide housing. If not for the extra financial boost from the Pinellas County Rapid Re-Housing Program, he would continue to live on the streets. Also, a single mother of five (5) is now able to seek employment and childcare with the stability of having her family safely housed.



Funding for the program comes from the Board of County Commissioners and City of St. Petersburg and is administered by the Human Services Department. Human Services has partnered St. Vincent de Paul South Pinellas, 211 Tampa Bay Cares, and the Homeless Leadership Board to provide financial assistance and critical case management to rehouse homeless families and individuals in support of Pinellas County's "Housing First" model.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has charged local communities to end chronic homelessness by targeting persons with the highest needs and longest histories of homelessness for existing and new permanent supportive housing. Chronically homeless individuals are those who have a disability, are in emergency shelters or are unsheltered, and who have been continuously homeless for one year or more or have been homeless on four (4) or more occasions that total one year or more in the last three (3) years. According to the Homeless Leadership Board in Pinellas County's 2017 Point in Time Count Survey data, 690 people in Pinellas County were chronically homeless.

"Housing First" is a best practice model implemented throughout the country that begins with a fundamental principle that housing is a basic human right, and as such, should not be subject to preconditions. National research suggests that individuals and/or head of household members who have been homeless are more successful in achieving self-sufficiency when housing stability is acquired first, regardless of whether or not they are sober or financially self-sufficient in the beginning. Once their housing situation is stabilized, their ability to achieve sobriety, financial self-sufficiency, or other common barriers to housing stability dramatically improve.

To learn more about Human Services Programs visit: www.pinellascounty.org/humanservices

With Partners We Can Do More...

Board of County Commissioners | City of St. Petersburg | St. Vincent de Paul South Pinellas
211 Tampa Bay Cares | Homeless Leadership Board