

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Policy Priority: The Department of Housing and Urban Development is focused on ensuring that we end homelessness and support families and individuals experiencing homelessness in the most effective way possible.

Problem: Research has shown that for homeless families Rapid Rehousing – having the homeless provider pay the rent on an apartment for 6 to 18 months and providing intensive services during that time frame – is a far more cost effective way to quickly address families in crisis than other methods such as Transitional Housing and longer stays in Emergency Shelter. The problem is connecting potential landlords with the providers of services to the homeless.

Use Case:

- Cynthia and her 1 year old son John have gone to an emergency shelter to escape an abusive relationship. Cynthia has not worked since her son was born but had previously worked as wait staff. The Emergency Shelter had determined that with short term housing assistance and services to connect her with child care and helping her locate a job, she could escape her abusive situation and live on her own. What the Emergency Shelter needs is an easy way to identify available units that Cynthia might be comfortable living, with the landlord willing to accept payment from the homeless provider for a specified time period.