

## **Pathways to Housing**

**A Transitional Housing Program of the Vermont Agency of Human Services,  
Brattleboro Field Division; Brattleboro Housing Authority;  
and area Human Service Agencies**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Pathways to Housing has been funded by the Agency of Human Services for a 12 month period beginning September 15, 2006. Pathways funding can support up to 20 families with children and individuals in rental housing while they participate in comprehensive case management services. These services, provided by area human service agencies, will be focused on improving the housing skills and overcoming the issues which have made it difficult for participants to obtain or retain housing.

A Program Oversight Committee comprised of representatives from AHS, the Housing Authority and area human service agencies is responsible for the acceptance of participants and all program operations.

### **PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY**

Pathways is principally funded from General Assistance dollars, therefore 60 % of its participants must be families with a child or children which are receiving TANF cash benefit. The remaining 40% are to be youth between the ages of 16 to 21 transitioning from foster care and women transitioning from incarceration.

Families are defined as one or more adults with one or more children 17 years of age or younger (up to age 19 in some instances). The adult must be the legal parent or guardian of the youth. The family must be receiving TANF cash benefit or about to be. A family which has applied for TANF, been accepted and is waiting for payment to begin qualifies for the Program. They must be receiving the benefit by the time they are actually housed. The Economic Services Division of the Department of Children and Families will certify TANF benefits.

TANF families, youth leaving foster care and women leaving incarceration must be having difficulty with finding or retaining housing. This can be as a result of a poor landlord reference, debt or having no references at all. Additionally, they must be homeless or about to be. Families living in area hotels are considered homeless under this program. The Agency working with the participant will need to determine what the reasons and extent of homelessness are in each instance.

### **AGENCY ELIGIBILITY**

Any human service agency in the Brattleboro Agency of Human Service District is eligible to participate in the Program. There are no funds for case management provided under the Pathways Program. The Agency must sign the Pathways Memorandum of Understanding before a Case Manager can bring a participant to the Program Oversight Committee for acceptance.

### **HOUSING ASSISTANCE**

Housing assistance under Pathways is in two forms: financial assistance similar to that under the Federal Section 8 Voucher Program and assistance with finding and retaining an apartment in the private and non-profit rental housing market. The financial assistance will generally limit the participant's contribution to rent to not more than 30% of their adjusted gross annual income. The Fair Market Rent levels for Windham County apply as do TANF income limits.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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