



Housing Authority of Kittitas County  
107 West 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Ellensburg, WA. 98926-2568

July 14, 2011

Nancy Goodloe, Ed. D., Chairwoman  
Homeless/Affordable Housing Advisory Committee  
205 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 108  
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Dear Dr. Goodloe and Members of the Committee,

Attached is a budget summary for the 2010-2011 operation of the Kittitas County Emergency Housing Hotline. Also included is a projected budget for 2011-2012 that I request be considered for continuation of the service to the residents of Kittitas County.

Briefly, there were a total of 39 contacts made during the year of operation for Emergency Housing services that we were authorized to offer to residents. I have forwarded a copy of the summary report for the 2010-2011 operation to you under separate cover.

You will note that the bulk of the 'administrative costs' were provided to the contracted after-hours answering service. We are proposing for 2011-2012 that the housing authority staff handle the after-hours calls. If the program is continued for 2011-2012, we would request the ability to revisit this decision in the event that the call volume increases significantly. The contracted answering service has indicated its willingness to resume service when it becomes necessary.

We also request that consideration be given to modifying the number of nights stay in the motel that can be authorized for a family or individual to allow for an adequate amount of time to successfully connect with services without having to have to make other arrangements during the transition period. For the most part HAKC staff was able to connect the participant to an allied service agency for longer term solutions in a relatively short period of time. However, we did have to refer a number of clients to area churches or other resources if they were unable to secure more permanent housing within the three day limit. There is a period during the December – January holidays that is very difficult to connect with services due to holiday schedules.

The success experienced in rapidly housing participants during this period was the availability of services through EnTrust Community Service's RIETH grant and HopeSource's Polaris Project both funded by the County's Homeless/Affordable Housing Funds. The Polaris project is now full and the turnover rate may not readily accommodate the rapid placement of individuals in the future. The RIETH Grant has allowed EnTrust Community Services' staff to form some very good partnerships with area landlords and clients. These relationships will work to the benefit of future clients because the RIETH program has developed a very positive reputation throughout the community through prompt rental payments, tenant screening, and follow-up by EnTrust staff.

Having the ability to authorize an extended stay of up to 10 calendar days, for example, would increase a participant's ability to concentrate on the acquisition of more permanent housing and not be distracted by worrying about immediate needs for a short period of time.

We did turn away a number of transient inquiries for shelter and made referrals to services outside the Kittitas County area.

While requests for services did not meet expectations, I believe the service was important to have available – at least 19 individuals and families would agree.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions concerning the attached budget summary.

Thank you for your support of the 24/7 Kittitas County Emergency Housing Hotline.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Perry L. Rowe".

Perry L. Rowe  
Executive Director