

# **Year-end report on 2017 Grant Activity**

## **Homefinding Services**

### **Housing Resources Bainbridge**

*1. Summarize the activities undertaken in providing the scope of services described in Attachment A.*

Housing Resources Bainbridge assisted over 350 households in 2017 through the Homefinding Services programs. The Homefinder portion of the program helped connect people with resources to help them find housing. In some cases they were given applications for HRB rental housing and/or information about other housing providers in the area – Bainbridge Island or Kitsap County. They were also given advice about making the process move more smoothly and how to be realistic about the state of low cost housing and the probable timeline for finding housing. The Homeshare program continued to match those with extra room in their homes with those looking for lower cost rent – sometimes in exchange for services such as household chores, driving or pet sitting.

*2. Reference the project objectives identified in your project proposal. Were those objectives achieved? Why or why not? Were there any unexpected positive outcomes or challenges?*

Project objectives were achieved to the extent possible with the only limitations being the clients' ability to contact HRB and the dearth of affordable housing in the community. Some positive outcomes achieved were finding housing for people through the Homeshare program when they had very limited income to pay rent and also connecting people with resources to provide emergency rental assistance. The consistent challenge comes in the form of not enough housing for those in need.

*3. Reference the specific measurable results identified in your project proposal. Were they achieved? If not, what challenges prevented the achievement of the anticipated results? How many Bainbridge Island residents were served? Are the conditions for those residents generally improving or worsening? Please explain.*

HRB was contacted by more than 350 clients in 2017. The Homeshare portion of the program saw 5 Home Providers and 19 Home Seekers added to the program. Home Providers did not sign up in the same numbers as anticipated for various reasons. HRB is working to improve the program hoping to address this situation and make renting a room more palatable to those with rooms available. Home Seekers contacted us in higher numbers than anticipated, reflecting the dismal rental market and the lack of affordable housing available on Bainbridge Island. Homeshare is a program that is gaining national recognition – the challenge comes in finding the home providers who are willing to be flexible enough to add another person to their household. The other challenge is finding housing for parents with children – Homeshare is generally not an option for them.

Of the people who contacted us approximately 10% reported living on Bainbridge Island. They did not always leave their addresses so it was difficult to determine place of residence with all contacts. It is also difficult for us to determine if the conditions for some of these contacts is

improving because we don't know what becomes of them after we have given them the resources to assist them with housing. Unless they make an application for our housing we have no way of knowing their outcomes. As a group the situation for lower income individuals is worsening because of the lack of available housing, the aging population trying to live on fixed incomes and increasing numbers of single parent households with limited income.

*4. Describe the involvement of any partners identified in your project proposal, as well as any unexpected cooperative relationships that developed through implementation of the project. Did the City funding help you attract additional funding or other types of support?*

Housing Resources Bainbridge was happy to partner with the Housing Solutions Center through Kitsap Community Resources at the Bainbridge Island location. The housing navigator there was able to refer her clients to HRB to apply for housing and also to provide emergency rental assistance or move in assistance to clients moving into HRB properties, as well as other properties on Bainbridge Island. This is a great resource for those needing housing assistance and a great partner for HRB.

*5. Reference the project budget specified in Attachment A. Provide an analysis of actual expenses and income in relation to the projected budget.*

Actual expenses and income were as stated in the contract with City of Bainbridge Island and the original proposal:

AREA	TOTAL PROGRAM BUDGET	COBI HSF REQUEST	OTHER REVENUE SOURCES	FUNDS AWARDED	FUNDS DISPERSED
Human Resources (Staff Salaries, Benefits, Consultant Services)	\$15,900	\$15,900		\$11,745	\$11,745.00
Advertising	\$2,100	\$2,100		1,305.00	\$1,142.83
Indirect Administrative Costs	\$2,000	\$2,000		1,450.00	\$1,450.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$14,500.00</b>	<b>\$14,337.83</b>

*6. Please provide a short description of how the City funding has helped your organization or helped the community. Please also include any quotes or stories related to this support.*

Without this funding from the City of Bainbridge Island, Housing Resources Bainbridge would not be able to give the level of service required to meet the need of all the people looking for housing. There will always be those who need the services HRB offers. Clients have commented: "Thank you for helping me from day 1!! Your help has made a difference in my life and I am very grateful.", and from a Home Provider in the Homeshare program: "I am so

anxious for these wonderful young folks to have the opportunity to stay in our community, they add so much texture and enthusiasm. I have referred several "looking" young folks to your Home Share program and so hope they connected with you..."

*7. What recommendations, if any, do you have regarding future funding cycles?*

Based on the recent Community Needs Assessment done by PRR for the City, the need for affordable housing and access to housing resources is the top priority. Now that the City has chosen a 2 year funding cycle there can be no changes to the process or funding until late in 2018. HRB would like to see the ability to amend a grant amount if funds are available, to meet these critical needs of the community.

Respectfully Submitted.

Penny Lamping  
Program Manager/Property manager  
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