Dawson Beach Transitional Housing

Prince William County Office of Housing and Community Development's (OHCD) two year Transitional Housing program provides decent, safe and sanitary housing with support services for families with children that are homeless, while facilitating movement to independent living and self-sufficiency through the provision of individualized services. These services are aimed at self-empowerment, improved employment potential, increased opportunities for economic betterment, strengthened skills in the area of financial planning and family budgeting and attempts to increase educational levels, and instill effective home management.

Eligibility Requirements

- All applicants must currently reside with an Area Homeless Provider and be in good standing with their program.
- Must be legally admitted to the U.S. with valid documentation.
- Household income must be less than 80% of Area Median Income as determined by HUD.
- Have legal custody of a child or children under age 18.
- No active use of drug or alcohol substances as evidenced by one year sobriety.
- Must be currently employed ability to pay the minimum Program Fee.
- Household income, including both earned and unearned must be at least $785 per month.
- Motivation as demonstrated by current actions to alleviate their homeless situation.
- Willingness to participate in the Self-Sufficiency portion of this program and provide a current credit report which includes credit scores.
- Within thirty days of participation have cell phone service.
- Must provide a current Criminal History free of drug and violent criminal activity. In addition supply National Sex Offender Public Registry (NSOPR) report free of crimes against children.

Area Homeless Providers Referrals

When a unit becomes available, notice is provided to Area Homeless Providers to obtain referrals for the application/selection process. To be considered for participation, the following procedures must be followed:

- Area Homeless Providers make applications available to their residents who meet basic eligibility criteria for the Dawson Beach Transitional Housing Program.
- Application forms must be completed by the Applicant and returned to the Area Homeless Provider.
- Area Homeless Providers must complete a Referral Form and attach to application.
- Area Homeless Providers must deliver completed applications along with all required documentation to OHCD before the application deadline.
- Applications are reviewed by Interview Team.
- Interviews are scheduled for qualified applicants.
- After interviewing all qualified applicants, the Interview Team recommends their selects to the Program Division Chief for acceptance or denial of the applicant into the program.
- Family selected is notified of acceptance.

Property Description

In July 1993, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors authorized acquisition of the Woodbridge Military Housing Site located on Dawson Beach Road. There is a 30-year restriction to use the property solely for serving the homeless. OHCD has operated the transitional housing program and maintained the facilities without the use of County General Funds. The seven acre site contains a Community Center and seven townhouse units comprised of four 2-Bedroom and three 3-Bedroom units.

Occupancy & Participation

Selected families are required to sign an "Occupancy and Participation Agreement" that entails individual, family and group counseling working towards self-sufficiency for a period of no more than two years. The monthly Program Fees are based on thirty percent (30%) of the household's gross income.

Counseling Services

OHCD contracts with a local non-profit to provide Housing Counseling Services to Dawson Beach Transitional Housing participants. Some of the services provided include:

- Counseling services assisting each family in assessing their initial needs and make referrals in obtaining available resources.
- Counseling services assisting each family develop individual self-sufficiency action plans to determine the income/wages necessary for the family in order to become successful, meet their financial responsibilities and obtain permanent housing within two years.
- Counseling services assisting each family with life skills, employment skills and strengthening neighborhood activities.
- Counseling services assisting each family in developing a monthly household budget and savings plan.

Office of Housing and Community Development
Dr. A. J. Ferlazzo Building
15941 Donald Curtis Drive, Suite 112
Woodbridge, Virginia 22191-4217

Amira Gonzalez, Community Planning & Development (703) 492-2301
(703) 492-0499 **FAX**
7-1-1 **VA RELAY**

www.pwcva.gov/housing

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