



FY2008 RECOMMENDATION/FY08-BP49 DEVELOP ADDITIONAL HOUSING RESOURCES FOR OFFENDERS

Status: Implementation Unknown

Actions/Updates

2017 UPDATE

Although recommendations regarding collaborations by public/private housing agencies were not developed, the CCJJ 2013 Reentry Task Force submitted the following recommendations that were approved by the Commission: FY17-RE #04 (Promote Housing Opportunities for People with Non-Conviction, Sealed, and Expunged Records) and FY17-RE #05 (Provide Statutory Guidance on Public Housing Decisions).

2013 UPDATE

This recommendation will be presented for follow up to the CCJJ 2013 Reentry Task Force.

2012 UPDATE

The State of Colorado is addressing housing through better coordination and oversight. Given the current level of attention to housing issues, we feel that the State Homeless Plan needs to first be finalized before further CCJJ action can occur.

The consolidation of 2 State housing authorities, the Division of Housing (DOH) and the Supportive Housing and Homeless Program (SHHP), is currently administered by DOH Director Pat Coyle. We understand that efforts are in place to review the administrative plans, with the goal to establish greater programmatic effectiveness and cost efficiencies.

The Governor's office has established a draft of a State Homeless Plan with an emphasis on establishing greater working relationships with State Housing Authorities. Significant input has been obtained from stakeholders throughout the State. Currently it is being reviewed by the Governor's Executive Leadership and will soon be released for public comment. Gary Sanford is the Governor's point person.

The Task Force for the continuing Study of the Treatment of Persons with Mental Illness Who are Involved in the Criminal Justice System (MICJS), a sub-committee of a Legislative Oversight Committee, has the issue of housing as a priority. It has stalled of late as the chair of that committee resigned from MICJS. The committee chair is in the process of seeking a new chair.

HUD recently, Summer 2011, released a letter allowing persons with criminal history's greater access to housing.

2011 OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ACTION STEPS

Each housing authority has an administrative plan. CCJJ's Regina Huerter will work with Transition Task Force leader Louise Boris to convene a meeting and report back to CCJJ staff.

2010 UPDATE

Implementation unknown. Officials from the Department of Corrections report that its Office of Planning and Analysis (OPA) does not track homeless offenders. DOC facilitated two meetings in October and November 2009 with the Colorado Community and Interagency Council on Homelessness to discuss barriers to securing housing for offenders. DOC staff statewide continue to seek out felon- friendly landlords to house homeless offenders. DOC staff sit on the Colorado Community and Interagency Council on Homelessness, which collaborates with agencies such as the Colorado Behavioral Health Council, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Colorado Disability Determination Office, Colorado Health Care Policy and Financing, Social Security Administration and the Veterans Administration. DOC is also collaborating with the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Division of Housing's Second Chance Act Adult and Juvenile Offender Reentry Demonstration Project grant application. Community Re-Entry Specialists identify ordinances statewide, and participated in City and County of Denver meetings on Ordinance 565 (restrictive ordinances) which have been suspended.

2009 ACTION/IMPLEMENTATION

The Department of Corrections has agreed to convene a committee that includes representatives from the Department of Human Service's Office of Behavioral Health and Housing (Development and Supportive Housing and Homeless Programs), and the Division of Housing in the Department of Local Affairs, and CURE (Citizens United for the Reformation of Errants). This group will review information on special populations provided by DOC, and identify city and county ordinances that restrict placement of incarcerated populations. DOC plans to prepare a report of restrictive ordinances by October 1, 2009 for the purpose of facilitating greater collaboration and education on this issue.

2009 IMPACT

Future Commission reports will document progress by DOC on the actions described above. Data obtained from stakeholders on the expansion of housing resources, if available, will be included in the June 2010 Commission report.

2009 BARRIERS

DOC estimates that additional housing costs could exceed \$50,000 annually. Lack of dedicated staff to continue this initiative is an additional barrier.

Description

Form a collaborative of public and private agencies to identify and develop additional housing resources for special populations who have a criminal record (for example, the aging, those with mental illness, people with developmental disabilities, sex offenders, and those with medical problems).

Agencies Responsible

Department of Corrections, Department of Human Services, Department of Local Affairs

Discussion

Implementation of this recommendation requires the collaboration of multiple entities. The Department of Corrections has agreed to convene a multiagency committee through October 2009. The Commission remains committed to promoting the development of housing resources for offenders since a stable living environment is a prerequisite to successful re-entry.