

Voice of the Poor

December, 2009

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City of Phoenix Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) Training Class

Date of Class: Thursday, January 7th

Time of Class: 2:00PM

Location: Vincentian Hall, Watkins

RSVP: Julie Douglas 602-803-5547

The following information is crucial for conferences that have boundaries in the Phoenix area to read. The city of Phoenix was recently awarded **just under 7 million in funds** to help individuals that have experienced job losses or decreases in income caused by the economic downturn, and as a result are in immediate risk of eviction/homelessness. This program can assist individuals with rental assistance that will help them with their housing needs as they search for a new job and/or stabilize their income.

To highlight the effectiveness of this program, recently referred cases have been assisted with 2-3 month's rent, with financial assistance ranging from \$1,725 to \$2,193. In one case there was also help with a limited amount of utility assistance. Individuals can be helped up to 18 months, although 3 months is more the norm. This is a resource that your conference needs to know about.

The City of Phoenix Human Services Dept has chosen SVdP as one of their partners in this program, and will be conducting a training module on Thursday, January 7 at 2 p.m. for any conferences that wish to participate in interviewing potential clients for the (HPRP) program. There will be only one HPRP training class, so if your conference is interested in participating in the pre-screening and referral of clients in your boundaries, you will need to have a Vincentian present at the class.

It is imperative that training be taken to participate in this program, since the City is relying on us to know how to correctly screen and refer only valid cases over to them.

How it works: Vincentians that receive training in this class will then be able to do the first interview with clients that they feel qualify for this program. If a client meets all the criteria for the program, the Vincentians will help the individual fill out the initial paperwork, and then fax the form to Family Ministries at Watkins. A team of trained Vincentians at Watkins will then review the paperwork and determine which cases meet the criteria and fax these cases to the city. (We have been told that we will be limited to submittal of 2-3 cases per week)

The City will take over at this point and the client will be turned over to a caseworker, who will determine if the person is indeed eligible for the program. The Vincentian will not need to follow up past this point.

Q. Where does this money come from? A. It comes from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), federal stimulus money that the City of Phoenix has received from the federal government. The life span of the program is estimated to be about 3 years.

For Questions or to RSVP call Julie Douglas at 602-803-5547

Note: Many other Arizona cities will also be receiving these HPRP funds and the programs may differ in format. We will keep you informed of the status of these funds as we become aware of them or you may call your city and ask if they have HPRP funding available and the criteria for referral.

VOP will next meet on Monday, January 18 at 3:30 p.m. at Vincentian Support Services. Meetings are open.