

**Foothills Housing Network
Rapid Re-Housing and Prevention
FY13, FY14, and First Quarter FY15**

Introduction

The Foothills Housing Network (FHN) is the partnership of organizations working to prevent and end homelessness within the Rappahannock-Rapidan Region. FHN is responsible for planning and implementing the regional homeless services system. The Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission (RRRC) has served as lead agency for FHN since 2009.

Since the adoption of the federal HEARTH (Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing) Act in 2009, the US and Virginia have moved toward a regional, Housing First approach to homelessness. In order to adapt to federal and state changes and continue to address the needs of the community, a regional response to homelessness in PD9 was required, and local stakeholders determined RRRC should lead this effort. FHN's current planning process promotes coordination of local organizations and encourages a structural and strategic approach to housing and homeless services. FHN partners are now collaborating more than ever to coordinate a regional response to homelessness.

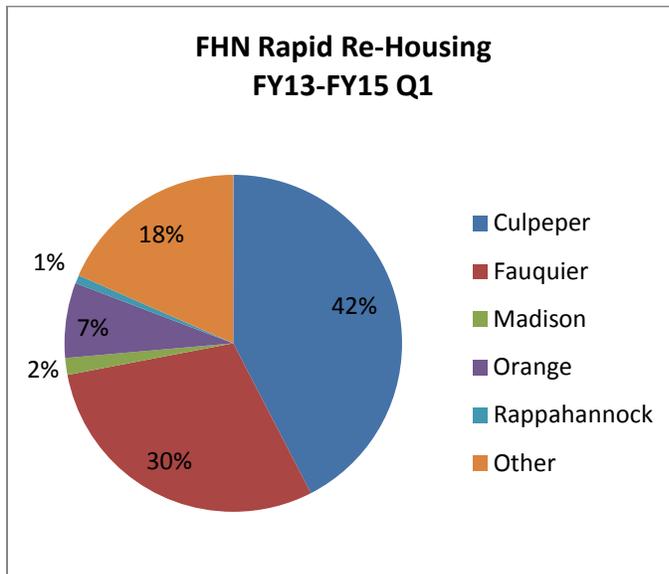
Starting in FY13, DHCD required that Rapid Re-Housing and Prevention funds be applied for and administered on a community-wide basis, with funds awarded to one grantee representing the entire CoC or local planning group. RRRC has administered these grants since FY13. This report details the successes of these regional programs and how number of households served is broken down by county.

Rapid Re-Housing Data

Rapid Re-Housing provides assistance to literally homeless households, defined as those sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, abandoned buildings, or the street; living in an emergency shelter or transitional housing unit; exiting an institution, which they entered from homelessness, after 90 days or less; or fleeing domestic violence.

In FY13, FY14, and the first quarter of FY15, FHN's Rapid Re-Housing program helped 125 households experiencing homelessness obtain permanent housing. These households included 126 children. The average cost of the program per household, including financial assistance, case management, administration, and overhead, is about \$5,000. Most households receive financial assistance for 1-3 months; case management may continue longer to ensure housing stability. The table and chart below show the breakdown of households served by county.

County	Households	Clients	Children
Culpeper	53	122	58
Fauquier	37	75	27
Madison	2	4	0
Orange	9	29	16
Rappahannock	1	1	0
Other	23	54	25
Total	125	285	126



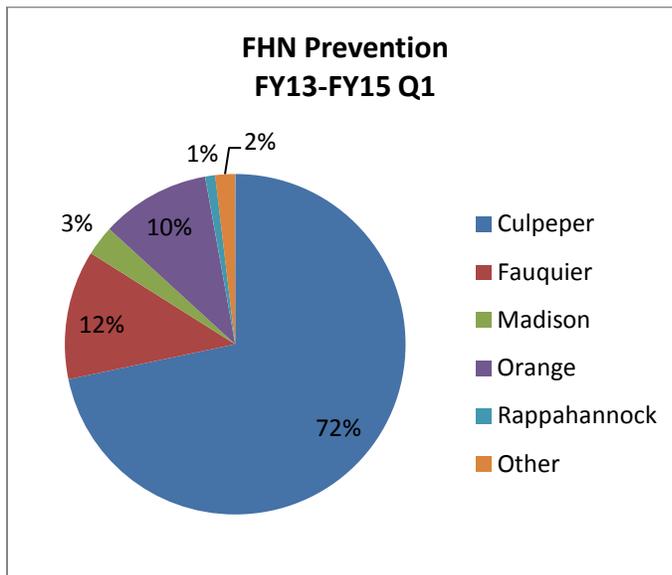
Rapid Re-Housing for FY13-14 was funded by the state Homeless Solutions Grant (HSG), operated by Community Touch and CCDC, and the federal Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), operated by CCDC. Rapid Re-Housing for FY15-16 is funded by the Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (VHSP) and is operated by Community Touch and CCDC.

Prevention Data

Prevention assistance helps extremely low-income households with an immediate eviction to keep their housing, or if remaining in the same unit is not an option, helps households move into a new place without ever experiencing homelessness.

In FY13, FY14, and the first quarter of FY15, FHN's Prevention program helped 106 households at risk of homelessness maintain housing. These households included 153 children. The average cost of the program per household, including financial assistance, case management, administration, and overhead, is about \$3,300. Most households receive financial assistance for 1-3 months; case management may continue longer to ensure housing stability. The table and chart below show the breakdown of households served by county.

County	Households	Clients	Children
Culpeper	76	217	115
Fauquier	13	33	13
Madison	3	10	6
Orange	11	33	18
Rappahannock	1	1	0
Other	2	3	1
Total	106	297	153



Prevention assistance through the state Homeless Prevention Program (HPP) was operated by CCDC for FY13-14. HPP provided assistance to households within 50 percent of the area median income with no more than \$500 in assets. Prevention assistance through the Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (VHSP) is operated by CCDC and Community Touch for FY15-16. VHSP Prevention provides assistance to households within 30 percent of the area median income with no more than \$500 in assets.

Reasons for Prevention Distribution

We believe that Culpeper accounts for the vast majority of Prevention clients because CCDC has been operating this program for the region for the past 15 years, and local agencies are familiar with it. Additionally, transportation barriers may have prevented more clients outside of Culpeper from receiving Prevention assistance from CCDC. High Culpeper numbers may also be attributed in part to the Culpeper Human Services walk-in intake center, Sam's Place. This generates a large number of referrals to the homeless programs.

Extending Reach of FHN Programs

The Foothills Housing Network has only tracked participant households by county since the last quarter of FY14, as this data is not available in the basic HMIS reports and requires more knowledge of the database to extract. Data showing the disproportionate percentage of participants from Culpeper prompted us to do several things to extend the reach of FHN programs in all five counties.

First, Community Touch now provides Prevention assistance in addition to CCDC. This is the first time that the Prevention program has been operated by organizations in both Culpeper and Fauquier. Second, Community Touch now meets with clients at Fauquier DSS one day per week to improve access to services in Warrenton and better cover Fauquier County. Third, we developed a website and brochure to better inform those in need of our programs. These have been distributed to DSS offices and providers throughout the region.

Data Analysis Methodology

The above charts were created using HMIS data on “Zip Code of Last Permanent Address.” Using zip code data, we extrapolated county of residence prior to program entry using the Free Zip Code Database provided by unitedstateszipcodes.org. The following map shows the breakdown by zip code of households served by the Rapid Re-Housing and Prevention programs during FY13, FY14, and the first quarter of FY15.

Households Served by Zip Code, FY 2013-2015 (Q1)

Households Served

- None
- < 5 Households
- 5 - 9 Households
- 10 - 20 Households
- 114 Households

Note: 218 households were served by either Foothills Housing Network Homelessness Prevention or Rapid Re-Housing programs, or both.

19 Households with last zip code of residence outside of the region were also served during the time period.

