



ARE YOU STRUGGLING TO PAY YOUR RENT AND AT RISK OF EVICTION? HAVE YOU RECENTLY BECOME HOMELESS?



Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) Funds are Available to Help Eligible Polk County Households



HOMELESS COALITION
OF POLK COUNTY

The Purpose of HPRP is to provide housing support services to stabilize households experiencing hardship resulting from the economic downturn. The HPRP grant funds can be used to provide Homeless Prevention Assistance, which includes rental and utility assistance to households that would otherwise become homeless without this grant program. Funds may also help pay rent and utility arrears. The grant can also be used for Rapid Re-Housing Assistance, which seeks to quickly re-house households who are experiencing homelessness. HPRP provides temporary financial assistance (3 months with the possibility of extension to 18 months) and serves as a bridge to help people gain long-term housing stability.

Polk County received a grant for approximately \$1.2 Million from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the HPRP program through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The Homeless Coalition of Polk County administers the program on behalf of Polk County.

Requirements:

- Head of household must be 18 years of age or older
- Applicants must reside in Polk County
- Must meet the criteria for homelessness or imminent risk of becoming homeless
- Households can demonstrate they would be homeless, but for HPRP assistance
- Applicants must have income under 50% of the Area Median for Polk County
- Applicants must provide documentation as required by HPRP program
- Applicants must meet with a HPRP case manager
- HPRP financial assistance is paid directly to the landlord and/or utility company
- HPRP funds **cannot** be used to assist persons already receiving rental assistance or utility allowances from other federal, state, or local programs (e.g. Housing Choice Vouchers (formerly Section 8), Tenant Based Rental Assistance)

HPRP is **NOT**:

- A mortgage assistance program (Homeowners are **not** eligible)
- A foreclosure prevention program
- Intended to serve persons who need long-term or intensive supports
- A utility assistance program-If you are not homeless or about to become homeless, you will not qualify for HPRP assistance.

For More Information Contact: The Homeless Coalition of Polk County, Inc.
(863)875-5747 (Winter Haven Center) or (863) 687-8386 Lakeland Office)
or visit the Coalition website www.polkhomeless.org

