

Boston Business Journal - November 12, 2009
[/boston/stories/2009/11/09/daily41.html](#)

Boston Business Journal

Thursday, November 12, 2009, 1:26pm EST

Stimulus dollars set for family housing

Boston Business Journal - by [Mary Moore](#)

The Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership and Heading Home will use \$4.5 million in federal stimulus funds to move more than 700 homeless families being sheltered in area motels and hotels into housing.

Massachusetts is steering \$17.9 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to community-based nonprofits to address the needs of families and individuals who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. The award is part of \$1.2 billion issued by the **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development** to provide nationwide rental assistance and services either to prevent homelessness or to help those in shelters get housing more quickly.

In August, the Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership launched what it calls a re-housing pilot project at the **Cambridge Gateway Inn**. The organization identified families who, with some rental assistance, could transition quickly from homelessness to housing. By the beginning of November, 20 of the 70-plus homeless families sheltered at the Gateway moved to permanent housing using a government-funded limited assistance program.

As a result of the pilot program, the Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership and Heading Home are collaborating to scale up the Gateway Inn model and move as many as 760 families from Boston, Brighton, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Malden, Quincy and Waltham – approximately 1,500 individuals – out of hotels and motels and into permanent housing over the next two years.

The two organizations will provide comprehensive services to these families. They will identify as many as 300 families for rapid re-housing and use intensive housing search, time-limited rental assistance, case management and other tools to enable these families to decrease dependence on public support and to become independent.

Currently, the state pays \$89 per night, per room for a family in a motel shelter, averaging \$2,600 per month – or more than \$30,000 per year, per family. The rapid re-housing model holds rental assistance funds at \$12,000 per family, according to the two organizations.

The Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership is a regional provider of rental housing voucher assistance. Heading Home, formerly Shelter Inc., is a nonprofit organization with a mission to end homelessness in Greater Boston by providing housing and services that help end the conditions that create homelessness.

All contents of this site © American City Business Journals Inc. All rights reserved.