Strategies to Address Housing Insecurities

Lessons Riverside City College Learned Along the Way

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Objectives for this Session:

- Learn Strategies to Address The Needs of Students who identify as Homelessness or Housing Insecurities
- Steps to Get the Ball Rolling
- Discuss Potential Barriers and/or Roadblocks
- ALLOW YOU TO SLEEP BETTER AT NIGHT
What We’ll Be Focused On:

➢ Strategies to Address Housing Insecurities
  ➢ Is There a Need? What is the Level of Need?
  ➢ Community Partnerships
  ➢ Funding Streams

➢ Implementation
  ➢ Getting the Word Out on Campus
  ➢ Identifying Students and their Needs
  ➢ Referral to Community Partner(s)

➢ Discuss Potential Barriers and/or Roadblock
  ➢ Internal
  ➢ External
Strategies to Address Housing Insecurities

Determine If There Is a Need

• Survey Your Students
• Have You Been Getting Referrals
• Work with Financial Team
• Check In with Your Associated Students
• Check in with Unified School Districts
Strategies to Address Housing Insecurities

Community Partners

➢ City and County Resources
➢ Temporary Shelters
➢ Hotel/Motel Owners and Managers
➢ Transitional Housing
➢ Rapid Rehousing (not always rapid...........)
Strategies to Address Housing Insecurities

Possible Funding Streams

- State Funding
  - HHIP Funding
  - Basic Needs Support
  - One-time Basic Needs
- Associated Student Funds (Emergency Loans)
- Foundation Funds (Endowments, Emergency Funds)
- Federal Funds
- Private Funds (foundation, corporations, non-profits)
What do the students actually need:

- Hotel/Motel Vouchers
- Emergency Shelters
- Rental Assistance (if in arrears)
- Housing Assistance
  - Find a Unit (house, apartment, room)
  - Rental application/lease
  - Down Payment, Utilities, Furniture
  - Background Checks (is a barrier)
Other Potential Things to Consider:

• What type of Assistance Will You Provide?
  • To What Extent Can You Provide It?
    • One Semester? Academic Year? Specific $ amount/Student
    • Space Limitation/Funding Limitations per category of support

• Who Will Select the Students?
  • Any Priority Consideration (i.e., Foster Youth, Homeless, Single Parents)
  • Individual Selection Based on Criteria?
  • Referrals then Selection
  • Group Decision based on Scoring/Points
Our Experience at Riverside City College
Our Experience at Riverside City College

From Eager Anticipation............

.................................To Total Anxiety

And ALL PHASES IN BETWEEN
From THEN to NOW...............what a difference a Day/Month/Year MAKES!!!!

• Received Notification that RCC was selected for the HHIP Pilot Project
• Reached out to our ORIGINAL Rapid Rehousing Partner (of record)
• Worked with Outside Vendors and Business Services
• Had many Conversations........Sent lots of Emails
• Prayers Answered......ALL OF THEM ANSWERED
  • Path of Life Ministries – Riverside (RRH Partner)
Getting the WORD OUT about HHIP/ Educate the College/HHIP Promoted

- Meeting of the Managers (Campus-wide)
- Student Services’ Department Leads Meetings
- FLEX Day Presentation to Faculty
- Discussed HHIP with President’s Leadership Team (PLT)
- Work with our RCCD Sister Colleges and District Team
- Onboarding Event with New Students
- Specific “Targeted” Events with Certain Student Groups (Guardian Scholars/Foster Youth, Umoja, Athletics)
- Updating our internal Student Services Resource Guide and First Five booklets
Identifying Potential Students (Sample of What We Do at RCC)

- Foster and Homeless Information - From Financial Aid
- Referrals from across the campus (email, referral form, calls)
- Basic Needs Resource Center (case management of student)
- Student Ambassadors (tabling events, Welcome Day, Club Rush)
Once we are notified about a student who is experiencing some type housing need……..

- Admissions and Reports
- Financial Aid
- My Administrative Assistant
  - The Intake Form and Survey are sent to students by VPSS Admin. Assistant
    - They are NOT available on our website. We were just using it in house through emails to students when they qualify for that part of the process.
- Seamless flow of the forms.............electronic submission
- ORIGINALLY........As the VPSS, I am the STOP or MOVE FORTH decision maker. All exceptions are my final call.
  - NOW we have a Basic Needs Supervisor in Place!!!
RCC Intake Form and RCC Intake Survey

• Determine if a student qualifies for HHIP
  • follow-up call with the “referring party”
  • Submit Intake Form (electronic routing)
  • Email to student to complete intake survey.

• If eligible - student is connected with Rapid Rehousing

• If not eligible - student is sent an email with information on external resources
Eligibility Qualifications for RCC HHIP:

- Current RCC student (or registered for upcoming term)
- Minimum of 2.0 GPA (with possible exceptions...depending on circumstances/situation of student)
- Prefer the student to be FULL-TIME student
- Ideally at least 30 credit hours earned
Working with our Community Rapid Rehousing Partners is a REAL PARTNERSHIP

- Soft pass-off of students by email
- Meet to Discuss PARTNER Expectations
- CCCCCO HHIP Survey Draft
- Chancellor’s Q&A for HHIP Funding (pdf)
- Set up payment plans and reporting requirements
- Month debrief with RCC Team and Rapid Rehousing Team
  - Meet together with a “problem” referral, as needed
  - Show our PARTNERSHIP UNITY when meeting with a student
Lessons Learned:

• This is a FLUID process.

• Developing an onboarding-type “brochure” for selected
  • Updated to include “you break it or charge it...you pay for it clause” for hotel stays

• Definitely a LABOR OF LOVE....but VERY REWARDING

• UNDER CONSIDERATION.........put the HHIP information on our website