



C I T Y O F
RENO
Memorandum

DATE: April 14, 2025

TO: Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Jackie Bryant, City Manager

FROM: Jayna Litz, Housing Manager
Monica Kirch, Housing & Neighborhood Development Director

DEPT: Housing & Neighborhood Development

SUBJECT: Rapid Rehousing Pilot Program at Village on Sage Street Update

There are a portion of individuals experiencing homelessness who have income. However, the amount is not sufficient to cover housing costs without a subsidy, such as obtaining a housing voucher. Unfortunately, many individuals who are experiencing homelessness miss their opportunity when contacted for an interview with Reno Housing Authority (RHA) due to their housing instability.

To help these individuals the Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND) partnered with Clean and Safe, Volunteers of America (VOA), and RHA to create the Rapid Rehousing Pilot Program at the Village on Sage Street. Participants receive a rent subsidy for up to 24 months and pay no more than 30 percent of their income towards the rent of \$555. For example, an individual receiving a typical monthly Social Security Income payment of \$943 is responsible for \$283 per month in rent and the City pays the remaining \$272. This allows individuals to move off the streets or out of a shelter while waiting for long term assistance with an RHA subsidy. As participants move into permanent housing, new participants on the wait list will be accepted into the program. Participants also receive tenancy support from the VOA Service Coordinator to ensure they do not miss an opportunity for permanent housing.

On June 12, 2024, Council approved an allocation of \$200,000 in contingency funds to be used for a Rapid Rehousing Pilot Program. On August 28, 2024, Council approved an agreement between the City and VOA to provide placement and rental assistance at the Village on Sage for the pilot program for two years. The pilot program was launched shortly after execution of the agreement with VOA.

As of today, the Rapid Rehousing Pilot Program is at full capacity with 25 participants. Currently, eight participants have completed RHA interviews, and two have received vouchers.

While HAND is responsible for overall program oversight, the following data outlines engagement and services to date by VOA, Clean & Safe, RISE Outreach, and Karma Box Project. This includes referrals to the pilot program, participant sign ups for the RHA wait list, participant move-ins to permanent housing, and help securing documents needed to satisfy RHA requirementsⁱ:

Volunteers of America

- Tenancy Support: 25

Clean & Safe

- Successful Referrals: 8
- RHA Move-Ins: 1
- RHA Sign Ups: 8

RISE Outreach

- Successful Referrals: 5
- ID's: 4
- Social Security Cards: 2
- Award Letters/Income Statements: 4
- RHA Sign Ups: 18

Karma Box Project Outreach

- Successful Referrals: 2
- ID's: 2
- Social Security Cards: 1
- Award Letters/Income Statements: 1
- RHA Sign Ups: 72

Additionally, since part of the program eligibility is for participants to be on the RHA lists, staff from multiple departments and partner agencies are helping program applicants apply as the respective lists open.

Thanks to the generous 20% match from long time community champions, Allison and Jeff Gorelick, the available program budget is still nearly \$200,000. Staff is also working diligently to identify additional funding to extend the program past the two-year pilot period.

ⁱ The following numbers represent the results of outreach and support efforts for program referrals and are not indicative of the number of program participants.