



Housing Support Program

The SonomaWORKS Housing Support Program is a partnership between the Sonoma County Human Services Department, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa and the Sonoma County Community Development Commission.

Program Goals:

- Support SonomaWORKS families in achieving housing stability and prevent future housing instability.
- Provide financial literacy education through the partnership of Catholic Charities and COTS' Rent Right program.
- Participants will develop a "Renter's Portfolio" that will include a family budget, credit report, and letters of recommendation.
- Intensive case management from both the SonomaWORKS program and Catholic Charities staff.
- Housing locator services.
- Housing retention services and financial assistance.

Financial Assistance:

- Rent and Utility deposits and landlord incentives
- Credit and application fees
- Rent subsidies up to 6 months
 - Month 1 subsidized 100%
 - Months 2-4 subsidized 70%
 - Months 5-6 subsidized 50%

Timelines:

- Money awarded 09/2014. Request for Proposal process for contractor began immediately. Contract awarded and signed at board on 12/02/14. First referrals to program expected mid to late December.

Lessons Learned/Challenges:

- New programs take time to implement when using outside agencies.
- It helps to have flexible partners willing to make quickly.
- Rental market is challenging.
- Client's lives/personal motivations may be a barrier to finding housing.