



## PHA GUIDE TO PARTNERING WITH FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TO PROVIDE MOVE-IN ASSISTANCE

### Background

When families and individuals experience homelessness, they often do not have funds for security deposits, utility hook-ups, or the household goods and furniture they need to settle into a home when they get housing assistance. Such expenses are not covered by many of the primary publicly-funded subsidy programs, but private support for such needs can help the public programs to operate more efficiently and to house people more quickly.

In some cases, households exiting homelessness may be moving into a neighborhood where they do not have friends or family connections. PHA partnerships with faith-based and community organizations can help provide people with the items that are essential to furnishing an apartment or house, and they may offer additional informal support that would help an individual or family to feel welcomed into their new home and community.

Some PHAs have established partnership relationships with faith-based organizations, non-profit service providers, and other community organizations that can provide assistance with move-in costs and access to free or extremely low-cost furniture, bed linens, towels, dishes, cooking supplies, and other items that people need when they move into an apartment or home. In some communities, churches or faith-based organizations “adopt” a family and volunteers contribute the items needed to furnish an apartment. They may also stock kitchen cabinets with some food to welcome their new neighbors.

Faith-based organizations and volunteers who have provided support (such as food, blankets, and other supplies) to people while they are homeless may find that helping support people as they move into their new permanent homes better helps them contribute to ending homelessness.

In other communities, local non-profit organizations operate thrift shops or warehouses where people can select free or low-cost furniture and other household items they need when they are moving into housing.

### Where Can PHAs Do This?

All PHAs can establish partnerships with faith-based and community organizations to provide move-in assistance to people exiting homelessness.

### Who Can PHAs Assist?

Move-in assistance may be particularly helpful for people who have experienced chronic homelessness, transition aged youth, families fleeing domestic violence, Veterans, and other people experiencing homelessness who do not have furniture or other household items.

#### Examples

- The **Housing Authority of the City of Dallas** partners with the Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance (MDHA). MDHA solicits donations of furniture in good condition, and partners with the housing authority to provide furniture when people who have been experiencing homelessness move into housing. Churches in the Dallas area also help by providing linens and other household items.
- The **Minneapolis Public Housing Authority** partners with the Minneapolis VA Medical Center to implement the [Hennepin County HUD-VA Supportive Housing \(VASH\) program](#) for Veterans experiencing homelessness. A partnership with Bridging, a local non-profit furniture bank, provides furniture and household items to Veterans who are using VASH vouchers that are administered by the housing authority.
- The **San Diego Housing Commission** and VA San Diego Healthcare System partnered with the Downtown San Diego Partnership and other partners who raised private funds to help cover move-in costs and household items and furniture for people being housed through targeted sponsor-based vouchers and the HUD-VASH program.