

A Struggling Veteran Finds Employment and Housing Support with HPRP

Positive Stories / Lessons Learned from HPRP: *Individual Success Story*

HPRP Grantee:	City of Albuquerque
CoC Name and Number:	NM-500 – Albuquerque CoC

Latest CoC Point-in-Time Count:

Total persons in ES:	619	Total persons in TH:	408
Total persons in Safe Haven:	0	Total unsheltered persons:	144
Total persons, sheltered and unsheltered:	1,171		

Bob is a single veteran in his fifties who has always been a hard worker, able to manage his rent and bills on his own, despite living on a limited income. However, when Bob came to Catholic Charities, he was employed on an “as needed” basis for a company, and as hard as he was fighting to keep up with his bills, he found his challenges becoming heavier and heavier until he was on the brink of homelessness.

First, Bob was experiencing some health concerns and had to miss a few days of work to attend needed medical appointments. As a result of losing these hours, Bob began to fall behind on his rent. Next, the company he worked for announced that due to budget cuts, they would have to lay off Bob by mid-June. Bob was already two months behind on his rent. Unfortunately, he did not have any family or friends that were in a position to be able to financially assist him or provide him with temporary shelter, as they all lived outside of the state.

HPRP Promising Practices & Success Stories

As hard as Bob tried, he was unable to catch up on his rent payments before his apartment complex decided to begin the eviction process. It was at this time that he came to Catholic Charities, who recognized Bob as a potential program participant for HPRP, and began an eligibility screening.

Once officially enrolled in HPRP, Bob worked hard from day one. He was a regular at the Catholic Charities computer lab, perfecting his resume and applying for open positions. In addition, he attended a variety of life skills classes offered by the agency, including ones on money management, job development, renters' rights, and interview skills. Bob was focused on regaining employment, both applying to positions within his field, as well as ones in food service, retail, and call centers.

While Bob worked to regain employment and build his self-sufficiency, Catholic Charities also provided him with HPRP financial assistance that included two months of rental arrears and ten months of rent. During this time, Bob was able to maintain his utilities payments on his own.

Bob ultimately landed a full time position in his chosen field, where he works as an education assistant with autistic kids. He supplements this work with a part-time job to ensure financial stability. Bob greatly appreciates the opportunity he now has in his work to give back to the community. He is no longer receiving any type of housing assistance or case management upon exit from HPRP. In fact, he recently called Catholic Charities to report that he is doing great, working two jobs, and still residing in the same unit. Without the assistance of HPRP, Bob would have become homeless, making it more difficult for him to change careers and obtain employment, and much more challenging to get back on his feet.

**Names have been changed for confidentiality.*

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