

Veteran Maintains Housing While Supported Through Job Search

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

HPRP Grantee:	City of Glendale
CoC Name and Number:	CA-612 Glendale CoC

Latest CoC Point-in-Time Count:

Total persons in ES:	207	Total persons in TH:	84
Total persons in Safe Haven:	0	Total unsheltered persons:	121
Total persons, sheltered and unsheltered:	412		

Yesenia* had supported herself for more than two decades since serving in the military after the Vietnam War. She lived in a small studio and worked a minimum-wage job at a local bookstore, and as the economy worsened, the bookstore cut her work week by twenty-two hours. Her motivation and determination to find supplemental employment were not a problem, but the competition was extremely tough for the entry-level jobs she was qualified to perform. Watching her income decrease and her expenses pile up, she realized that her age and lack of education had never been bigger barriers. Her landlord waited for six months without rent before issuing a Three-day Notice to Pay Rent or Quit.

Yesenia visited a local jobs center as was now habitual, and received a referral to the City of Glendale's HPRP program. HPRP staff convinced her landlord to postpone the eviction process until they determined her eligibility. She collected her eligibility documentation and her employer confirmed her hours reduction as due to slow business. HPRP paid the six months of rental arrears she owed and subsidized her rent while she continued her job search. In addition to job search assistance, her case

worker focused on budgeting and saving skills to help Yesenia maximize and maintain sources of income.

Yesenia was hired part-time at a large conference center that has not undergone any economic difficulties. After three weeks, she was moved to full-time at a rate five dollars more per hour than her bookstore job, and exited HPRP self-supporting and stably housed. In grateful response, the Veteran delivered a letter to Glendale's HPRP staff:

"I cannot express my excitement at having the opportunity to succeed. I already have a game plan for saving and distributing my income to those I owe, and actually see a little nest egg develop! I have a chance to become self-sufficient and stop living in fear of being homeless... God bless!"

**Names have been changed for confidentiality.*

For more information, contact Ivet Samvelyan, Glendale Housing Authority at (818) 548-3720 or isamvelyan@ci.glendale.ca.us.