

Hidalgo County, Texas Family Avoids Homelessness Thanks to HPRP

Positive Stories / Lessons Learned from HPRP: Individual Success Story

HPRP Grantee:	Hidalgo County, TX
CoC Name and Number:	TX-607 - Texas Balance of State CoC

Latest CoC Point-in-Time Count:

Total persons in ES:	1,739	Total persons in TH:	584
Total persons in Safe Haven:	0	Total unsheltered persons:	9,033
Total persons, sheltered and unsheltered:	11,356		

Jose* and his family's situation deteriorated rapidly and steeply. Jose lost his job, and he and his wife fell behind in their rent. When their landlord delivered an eviction notice, they sought the assistance of a legal aid organization to buy some time before they and their four children would become homeless.

Legal Aid referred the family to the Advocacy Resource Center for Housing's HPRP program. Their HPRP case manager used the small amount of time before they had to vacate to help them find a new apartment. HPRP paid for the first month's rent and security and utility deposits, and the family moved in directly from their old apartment. Jose easily identified his main priorities - feeding and clothing his family, relieving the stress on his wife for constantly caring for the children, and dealing with the developmental delays his youngest son was exhibiting. Their case manager connected them with food stamps, which they used throughout their time with HPRP, the Salvation Army for clothes donations, Easter Seals to assess his son and provide occupational and speech therapy, and waiting lists for other housing programs.

Two months later, Jose had found another full-time job and bought a car. He worked his forty hours in less than four days so that he could support his wife and spend time with his children. In another two months, the family received a Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) from the local housing authority and moved into a unit they could afford, and out of HPRP.

The story of Jose's family is both a household success and a tribute to Hidalgo County's use of HPRP as a bridge between providers to provide seamless services and support to families. Despite being in crisis, Jose and his family were never once homeless. With the housing stability provided by HPRP and the continuous linkages to other providers, they were able to utilize all resources available and increase their own stability for the future.

**Names have been changed for confidentiality.*

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