

## A Father and Son Find Permanent Housing and Supportive Services Through HPRP

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

HPRP Grantee:	Oakland County
CoC Name and Number:	MI-504 – Pontiac/Royal Oak/Oakland County CoC

### Latest CoC Point-in-Time Count:

Total persons in ES:	281	Total persons in TH:	329
Total persons in Safe Haven:	0	Total unsheltered persons:	88
Total persons, sheltered and unsheltered:	698		

Roger\* is a middle-aged, single father with a 10-year-old son named Michael\*. Having struggled with substance abuse in the past, Roger had difficulty maintaining steady work. After becoming unemployed, Roger was evicted from his home and forced to move into South Oakland Shelter with his son. South Oakland Shelter serves individuals and families of all ages and backgrounds experiencing homelessness.

Once in the shelter, Roger was assigned to a case manager who worked with him to set goals and define the steps needed to reach them. Roger then met with his case manager at least twice a week to track his progress. Meanwhile, the shelter was able to connect Roger to Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous support groups to address his history of substance abuse. He was also connected to Michigan Rehabilitation Services to aid in overcoming his barriers to gaining employment. Throughout this rough patch, Michael was able to remain in school, thanks to help from the local school's homeless liaison.

During Roger's case management, staff at South Oakland Shelter, an HPRP subgrantee under both Oakland County and the City of Royal Oak, qualified Roger and his son for Rapid Re-Housing assistance.

Case management staff worked with Roger to identify safe and affordable housing in the area for him and his son, eventually settling on a two-bedroom apartment in a local suburb. Shortly after obtaining housing, Roger was able to secure a new job at a local steakhouse near his new home. Working close to home allowed him to support Michael's interests in football and baseball, including involvement on a local recreational baseball team. Roger's housing stability greatly contributed to his ability to find employment. At the same time, the stability HPRP created led to improvements in Michael's school grades.

Overall, it took about three months for South Oakland Shelter to move Roger and Michael from homeless to housed. Roger received HPRP financial assistance for his security deposit and just two months of rent, totaling \$1,950.

Each individual at South Oakland Shelter who moves from the shelter into permanent housing is assigned a Follow-up Care Coordinator. The Follow-up Care Coordinator assists individuals and families in maintaining their nascent housing stability and increasing their self-sufficiency for up to one year after they have obtained housing. Follow-up Care Coordinators conduct home visits with clients at least once a month to aid in helping the clients achieve their goals.

When Roger's Follow-up Care Coordinator met with Roger and his son a year after they were qualified for HPRP assistance, they were still housed, and Roger remained employed and actively seeking extra employment opportunities. In addition, Roger had been connected with other resources, including dental services. Roger comes back to the shelter now to volunteer, serving food and providing fellowship to those still in need.

*\*Names have been changed for confidentiality.*

For more information, contact Whitney Calio, Oakland County Community & Home Improvement on behalf of South Oakland Shelter at 248-858-2071 or [caliow@oakgov.com](mailto:caliow@oakgov.com).