

**Bridging Rental Assistance Program (BRAP)
Monitoring Report
Quarter 4 FY2010 (April, May, June 2010)**

The Bridging Rental Assistance Program (BRAP) has been established in recognition that recovery can only begin in a safe, healthy, and decent environment, a place one can call home. The Office of Adult Mental Health Services recognizes the necessity for rental assistance for persons with mental illness, particularly those being discharged from hospitals, group homes, and homeless shelters. There is not a single housing market in the country where a person receiving Social Security as their sole income source can afford to rent even a modest one-bedroom apartment. In Maine, 96.1% of a person's SSI standard monthly payment is needed to pay for the average one-bedroom apartment in Cumberland or Sagadahoc Counties; and in the Kittery, Elliot, York and South Berwick area (York County), up to 124% of a person's SSI is required to pay for the average one bedroom apartment.

BRAP is designed to assist individuals who have a psychiatric disability with housing costs for up to 24 months or until they are awarded a Housing Choice Voucher (aka Section 8 Voucher), another federal subsidy, or alternative housing placement. All units subsidized by BRAP funding must meet the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Housing Quality Standards and Fair Market Rents. Following a *Housing First* model, initial BRAP recipients are encouraged, but not required to accept the provision of services to go hand in hand with the voucher.

The monitoring of the Bridging Rental Assistance Program (BRAP) is the responsibility of the Office of Adult Mental Health Services (OAMHS) and particularly the Director of Housing Resource Development within the OAMHS.

On July 13, 2007, because the number of persons with BRAP vouchers was 41 over the maximum, the BRAP Wait List Protocol was fully activated. The following report details the census activity over the most recent four quarters. Trending information from the previous reports (June, September, December 2009, and March 2010) is provided so ongoing activity can be readily measured against longitudinal trends. Since the last report:

There has been a continued clearing of the waitlist in this quarter. The number of persons waiting for a BRAP voucher has decreased, down 5% from the previous quarter, to 78 persons. The bullets below highlight some of the details regarding persons who are currently waiting for a BRAP voucher:

- Priority #1 applicants (Discharge from a psychiatric hospital within the last 6 months). Riverview and Dorothea Dix consumers are typically not waiting more than 5 days from the date of a completed application. Priority 1 applicants waiting for a BRAP voucher have decreased 32% from the previous quarter. Currently there are 23 persons in this category.

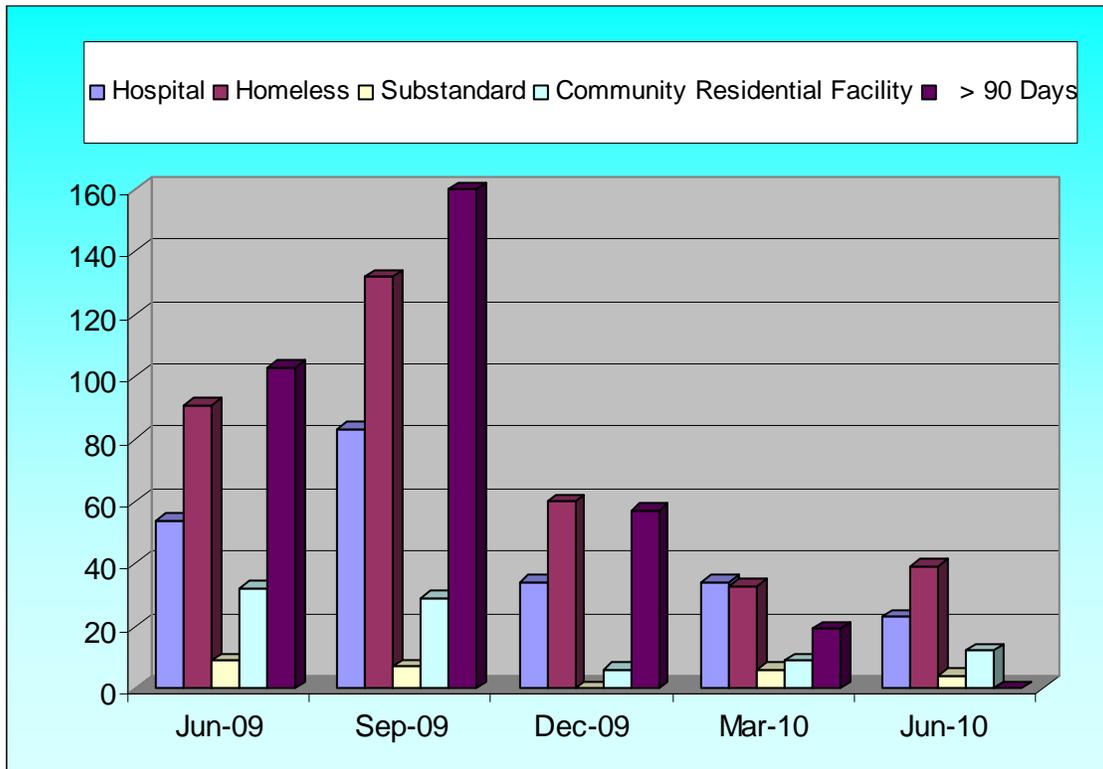
- Priority #2 applicants (Homeless) have increased from 33 to 39 persons, up 18%
- Priority #3 applicants (Substandard Housing) have decreased from 6 to 4 persons, down 33%
- Priority #4 applicants (Community Residential Facility) have increased from 9 to 12 persons, up 33%
- Persons on the waitlist greater than 90 days have decreased dramatically from 19 to 0.

Since inception of the wait list, there has been a total of 1,012 BRAP vouchers awarded broken down as follows: Priority #1, 528; Priority #2, 361; Priority #3, 19; Priority #4, 94. Note that 10 vouchers have been awarded to persons with no priority.

The number of persons on the program for greater than 24 months, remains steady at 25% of the entire program. This is principally a result of decades of federal and state cuts to low-income and supportive housing programs. The lack of availability of these resources, particularly Section 8 at the federal level, has translated to increased pressures on state programs such as BRAP.

Current census as of June 30, 2010 is 545 persons. As of the writing of this report it is important to note that we issued another 75 vouchers on or about July 1st which was made possible by a legislative budget authorization to increase BRAP funding in FY2011.

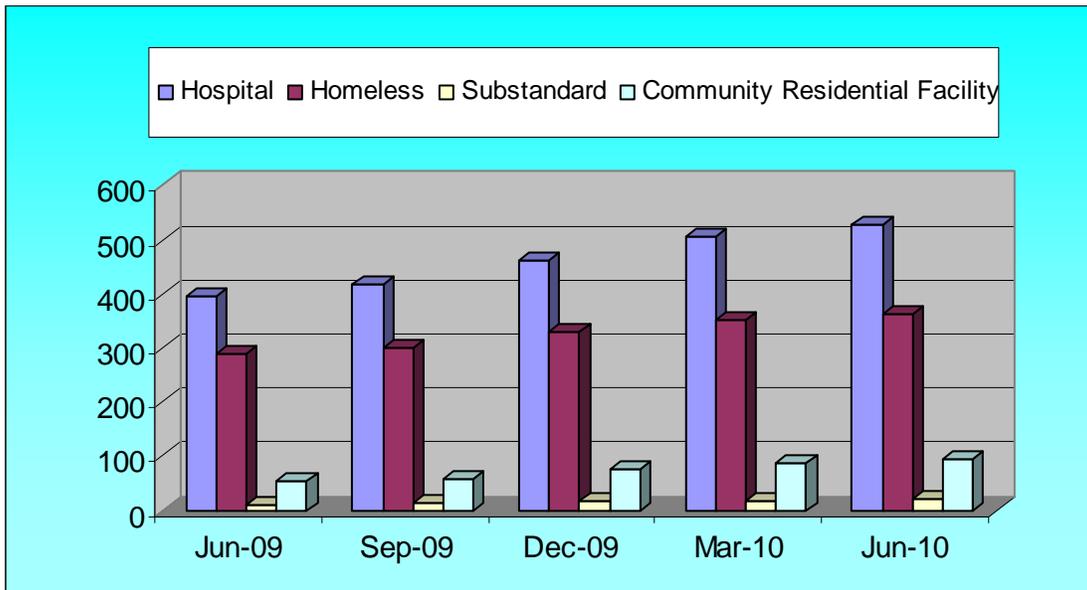
**BRAP Waitlist Status--Graph:
Detail by Priority Status to include those persons waiting longer than 90 Days**



**BRAP Waitlist Status—Table:
Detail by Priority Status to include those persons waiting longer than 90 Days**

Reporting Period	Jun-09	Sep-09	Dec-09	Mar-10	Jun-10	% Change relative to Last Report
Total number of persons waiting for BRAP	186	248	101	82	78	-5%
Priority 1—Discharge from state or private psychiatric hospital within last 6 months	54	83	34	34	23	-32%
Priority 2—Homeless (HUD Transitional Definition)	91	132	60	33	39	18%
Priority 3—Sub-standard Housing	9	7	0	6	4	-33%
Priority 4—Leaving a Community Residential living facility	32	29	6	9	12	33%
Total number of persons on wait list more than 90 days awaiting voucher	103	160	57	19	0	

**BRAP Awards—Graph
Cumulative Since Inception of Waitlist**



**BRAP Awards—Table
Cumulative Since Inception of Waitlist**

Reporting Periods	Jun-09	Sep-09	Dec-09	Mar-10	Jun-10	% Change relative to Last Report
Cumulative number of persons awarded BRAP	745	788	885	961	1012	5%
Priority 1—Discharge from state or private psychiatric hospital within last 6 months	394	416	463	507	528	4%
Priority 2—Homeless (HUD Transitional Definition)	288	301	330	351	361	3%
Priority 3—Sub-standard Housing	11	12	16	16	19	19%
Priority 4—Leaving a DHHS funded living facility	52	59	76	85	94	11%