

**Department of Health and Human Services
Office of Adult Mental Health Services (OAMHS)
Bridging Rental Assistance Program (BRAP) Wait List Monitoring Report
As of Friday January 18, 2008:**

The monitoring of the Bridging Rental Assistance Program (BRAP) is the responsibility of the OAMHS and particularly the Director of Housing Development within the OAMHS. Since the last report, there have been significant operational and financial activities that will impact the BRAP program.

As of July 2007, the number of persons with BRAP vouchers was 41 over the 600 maximum that the program can afford at current funding levels. As a result the BRAP Wait List Protocol was fully activated. The wait list protocol is the mechanism by which OAMHS regulates the flow of new vouchers so that the new vouchers are below the discharges from the program. Persons leave the program when they obtain Section 8 vouchers or make other housing arrangements. The BRAP census as of December 31, 2007 had decreased to 604. The following details the numbers since the full activation of the wait list protocol in July. We have also provided the numbers from the previous report (October 26, 2007) so ongoing progress can be readily measured. Beginning on January 11, 2008 we doubled the number of weekly awards from five to ten. This increase was made possible as a result of carefully monitoring the balance between our existing resources and needs of the applicants.

A few other significant findings culled from the tables below reveal that, when compared to the October report:

- the overall number of persons waiting for a BRAP voucher has gone down seven percent, from 103 to 96;
- the number of persons waiting with a Priority 1 (coming from a hospital setting within the last six months) has gone down by 100% and is now at zero;
- the number of persons waiting with a Priority 2 (coming from homeless situations) has gone down by 3% and is now at 78;
- the number of persons on the wait list more than 90 days has gone up 98% from 1 to 46—this is a result of many homeless applicants coming into the wait list in August and September who did not hit the 90 day mark in the last report.
- the overall number of persons awarded a BRAP voucher has increased 49% from 75 to 146.

Finance:

The Governor's Supplemental budget, presented to the Legislature in January, proposes to shift the source of funds for the BRAP program from the General Fund to the HOME fund administered by Maine State Housing Authority. This change would result in a savings to the General Fund while maintaining the program. Included in the budget is this statutory provision: As the first priority, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009 and annually thereafter, at least \$2,972,414 shall be provided to the Department of Health and Human Services for the costs of the Bridging Rental Assistance Program. This directs MSHA to issue payments to DHHS for the BRAP program and further provides that BRAP will be in first position for receipt of these funds.

While this change may change some of the decision makers involved in future allocation requests, we believe it is appropriate for a well run housing program to be funded through the state's HOME fund—a mechanism traditionally used to fund housing related activities.

The FY 2009 funding level for BRAP reflects the previously approved increase of \$180,000. The request submitted by the Department in October 2007 for an additional \$475,000 was not included in the Governor's proposed Supplemental budget. To eliminate the wait list, provide for some additional growth in the program and accommodate projected increases in fair market rents an additional \$500,000 would be required.

Summary (July 13, 2007 to January 18, 2008):	Jan 2008	Oct 2007	% Change
Total number of persons tracked on wait list	265	185	+30%
Total number of BRAP awards	146	75	+49%
Total number of Shelter Plus Care awards given to persons on wait list	3	3	0
Total number of persons who found other housing options	19	4	+79%
Total number of deceased applicants	1	NA	NA
Total number of persons waiting for a BRAP voucher	96	103	-7%

Detail (July 13, 2007 to January 18, 2008):	Jan 2008	Oct 2007	% Change
Total number of persons awarded BRAP by Priority	146	75	+49%
Priority 1—Discharge from state or private psychiatric hospital within last 6 months	110	57	+48%
Priority 2—Homeless (HUD Transitional Definition)	32	15	+53+
Priority 3—Sub-standard Housing	0	0	0
Priority 4—Leaving a DHHS funded living facility	4	3	+25%

Detail (July 13, 2007 to January 18, 2008):	Jan 2008	Oct 2007	% Change
Total number of persons waiting for a BRAP voucher by Priority	96	103	-7%
Priority 1—Discharge from state or private psychiatric hospital within last 6 months	0	10	-100%
Priority 2—Homeless (HUD Transitional Definition)	78	80	-3%
Priority 3—Sub-standard Housing	7	5	+29%
Priority 4—Leaving a DHHS funded living facility	11	8	+27%
Total number of persons on wait list more than 90 days	46	1	+98%