

**Bridging Rental Assistance Program (BRAP)  
Monitoring Report  
Quarter 2 FY2010 (October, November, December 2009)**

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 (December 2008 and March, June, September 2009) is provided so ongoing activity can be readily measured against longitudinal trends. Since the last report:

There has been a substantial clearing of the waitlist in this quarter. The number of persons waiting for a BRAP voucher has dramatically decreased, down 59% from the previous quarter, to 101 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 from 83 to 34 persons, down 59%.
- Priority #2 applicants (Homeless) have decreased from 132 to 60 persons, down 55%

- Priority #3 applicants (Substandard Housing) have decreased from 7 to 0 persons, down 100%
- Priority #4 applicants (Community Residential Facility) have decreased from 29 to 6 persons, down 79%
- Persons on the waitlist greater than 90 days have decreased from 160 to 57, down 64%.

It should be noted that we have issued 147 award letters in this reporting period to persons on the waitlist, beginning with the longest lengths of stay. As predicted in the previous report, persons waiting for a BRAP voucher did indeed dramatically decrease.

Since inception of the wait list, there has been a total of 885 BRAP vouchers awarded broken down as follows: Priority #1, 463; Priority #2, 330; Priority #3, 16; Priority #4, 76.

There has also been a substantial increase in the number of persons on the program for greater than 24 months, now representing 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.

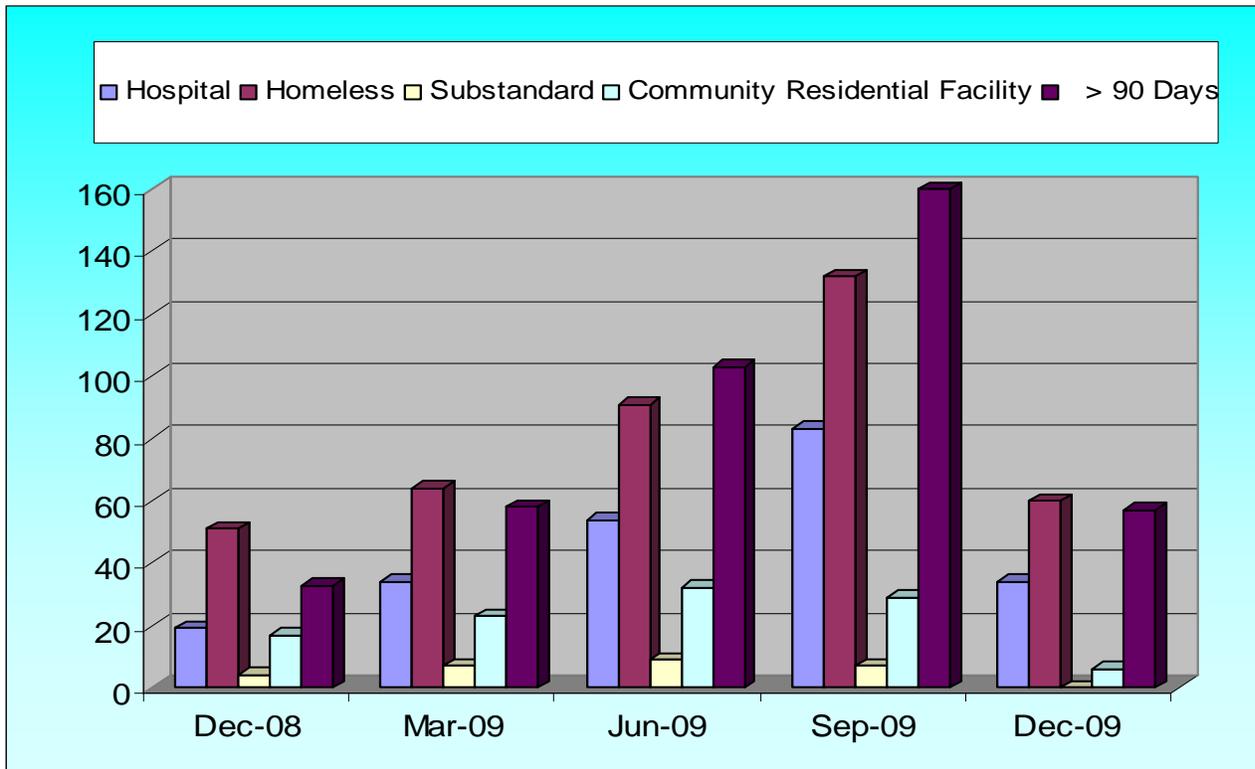
Current census as of December 31<sup>st</sup> 2009 is 512 persons. As we continue to issue more awards over the next quarter, we can anticipate another reduction in the overall numbers of persons on the waitlist.

Since we began longitudinal tracking of the BRAP census in 2001, the average growth rate in periods without a waitlist is 2% per month. Meeting this growth rate for the priority populations within BRAP (Leaving a state psychiatric institution or private psychiatric hospital bed; Homeless; Substandard housing; Leaving a group home to more independent settings) in the future and eliminating the current waitlist will require additional funds.

In order to meet the existing housing needs for the 101 persons remaining on the waitlist, we would need an additional \$290,000 of Emergency Supplemental funds now. If we were going to eliminate the waitlist in FY2011 and meet historical growth patterns, we would need an additional \$1.4 million added to our base in FY2011.

The BRAP program is one of two in the Office of Adult Mental Health that have not been subject to budget cuts. The Office of Adult Mental Health recognizes the primacy of stable housing as an essential element in the recovery process.

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

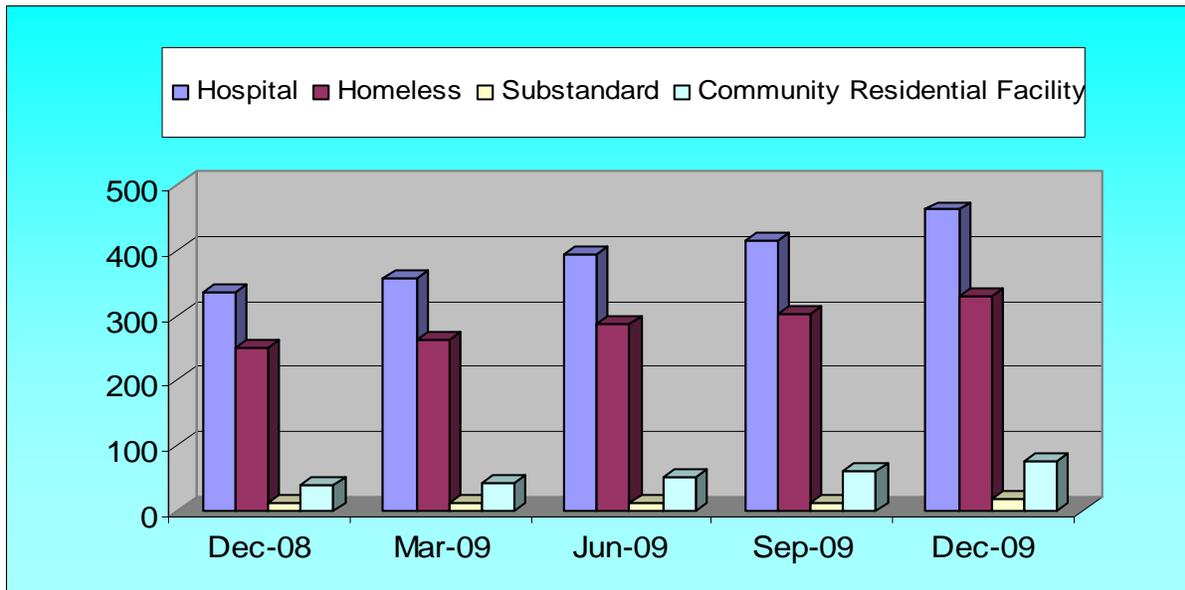


**BRAP Waitlist Status—Table:  
Detail by Priority Status to include those persons waiting longer than 90 Days**

Reporting Period	Dec-08	Mar-09	Jun-09	Sep-09	Dec-09	% Change Sep-Dec 2009
Total number of persons waiting for BRAP	91	128	186	248	101*	-59%
Priority 1—Discharge from state or private psychiatric hospital within last 6 months	19	34	54	83	34	-59%
Priority 2—Homeless (HUD Transitional Definition)	51	64	91	132	60	-55%
Priority 3—Sub-standard Housing	4	7	9	7	0	-100%
Priority 4—Leaving a Community Residential living facility	17	23	32	29	6	-79%
Total number of persons on wait list more than 90 days awaiting voucher	33	58	103	160	57	-64%

\*One person on waitlist without a BRAP priority.

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



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

Reporting Periods	Dec-08	Mar-09	Jun-09	Sep-09	Dec-09	% Change Sep-Dec 2009
Cumulative number of persons awarded BRAP	635	671	745	788	885	12%
Priority 1—Discharge from state or private psychiatric hospital within last 6 months	337	356	394	416	463	11%
Priority 2—Homeless (HUD Transitional Definition)	249	262	288	301	330	10%
Priority 3—Sub-standard Housing	10	10	11	12	16	33%
Priority 4—Leaving a DHHS funded living facility	39	43	52	59	76	29%