

**Bridging Rental Assistance Program (BRAP)
Monitoring Report
March 31, 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 while 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 with housing assistance 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 (March, June, September, and December 2008) is provided so ongoing activity can be readily measured. Since the last report:

The number of persons waiting for a BRAP voucher has increased, up 41% from the previous quarter, to 128 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 increased from 19 to 34 persons, up 79%.
- Priority #2 applicants (Homeless) have increased from 51 to 64 persons, up 25%
- Priority #3 applicants (Substandard Housing) have increased from 4 to 7 persons, up 75%

- Priority #4 applicants (Community Residential Facility) have increased from 17 to 23 persons, up 35%
- Persons on the waitlist greater than 90 days has increased from 33 to 58, up 76%. CSN 6 accounts for 76% of the persons in this category with CSN 7 at 5%, CSN 3 at 12%, and the remaining CSNs at 7%.

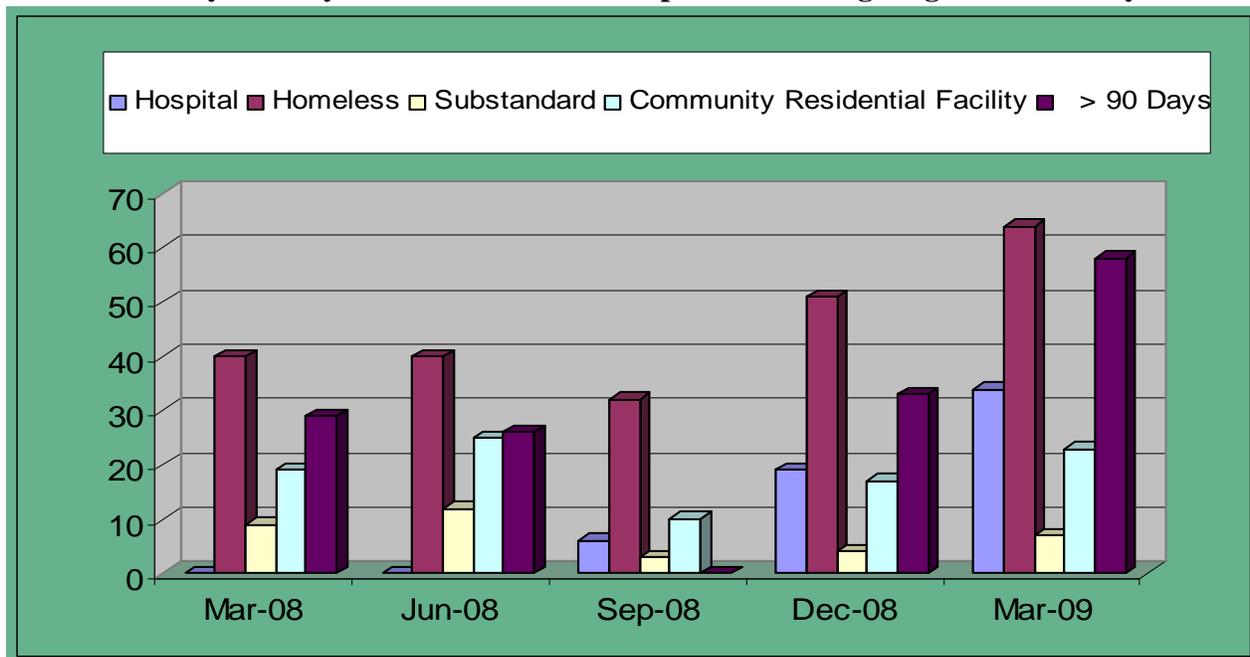
Since inception of the wait list, there has been a total of 671 BRAP vouchers awarded broken down as follows: Priority #1, 356; Priority #2, 262; Priority #3, 10; Priority #4, 43.

Page 5 depicts several charts and graphs detailing the status of the current BRAP voucher holders. One trend is the length of stay on BRAP which has witnessed 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.

The Bridging Rental Assistance Program funding has received much attention from the Court Master (Daniel Wathen), the Court Monitor (Elizabeth Jones), Consumers, and the Legislature. The Office of Adult Mental Health and the Commissioner's Office have made informational and budgetary presentations to the legislature. The Office of Adult Mental Health made an informational presentation to the Health and Human Services Committee regarding: the costs of homelessness and benefits of Supportive Housing; how the BRAP program meets the needs of persons with mental illness through rental subsidies and supports; and the status of the wait-list. In a presentation to the Legislature's Health and Human Services and Appropriations Committees at the end of March, the Commissioner described the status of the wait list, and explained the need for an additional \$3.5 million in each of the next two fiscal years to meet current and projected unmet needs within BRAP.

Without these increases, we will need to continue to reduce the BRAP census in order to absorb the annual increases to the Fair Market Rents (rents established by HUD on which subsidies are based). Our updated census projections call for a reduction in overall census to approximately 505 persons from the current level of 581. Under such a scenario, we can anticipate continued growth in wait list numbers across all BRAP priorities and a corresponding increase to the length of time that persons will be remaining on the waitlist.

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

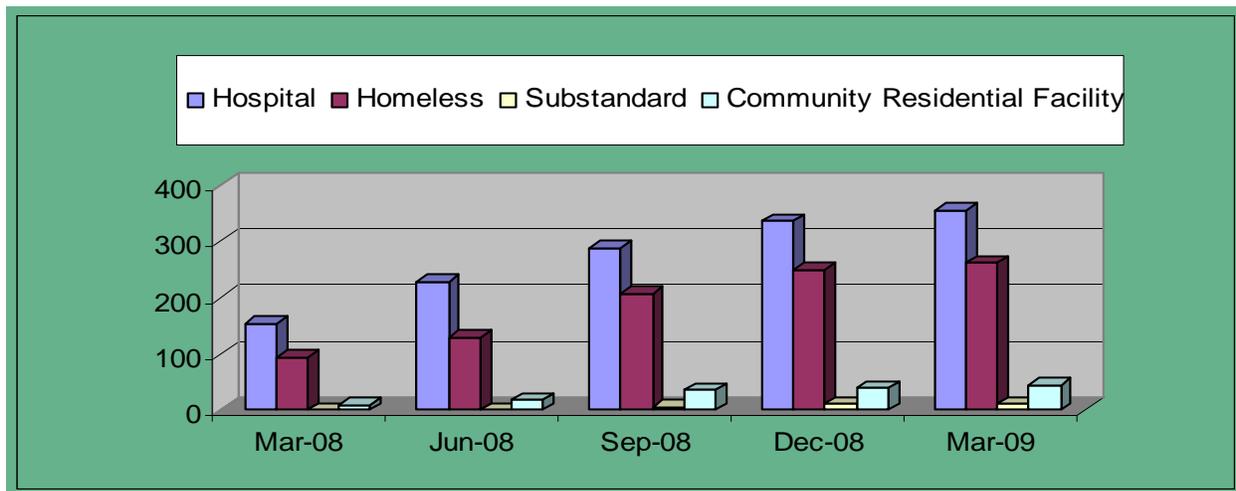


BRAP Waitlist Status—Table:
Detail by Priority Status to include those persons waiting longer than 90 Days

Reporting Period	Mar-08	Jun-08	Sep-08	Dec-08	Mar-09	% Change relative to Last Report ¹
Total number of persons waiting for BRAP	68	77	51	91	128	41%
Priority 1—Discharge from state or private psychiatric hospital within last 6 months	0	0	6	19	34	79%
Priority 2—Homeless (HUD Transitional Definition)	40	40	32	51	64	25%
Priority 3—Sub-standard Housing	9	12	3	4	7	75%
Priority 4—Leaving a Community Residential living facility	19	25	10	17	23	35%
Total number of persons on wait list more than 90 days awaiting voucher	29	26	0	33	58	76%

¹ Graph and corresponding table depict real-time numbers as of the reporting period indicated. Percentages are relative to the period, December 2008.

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

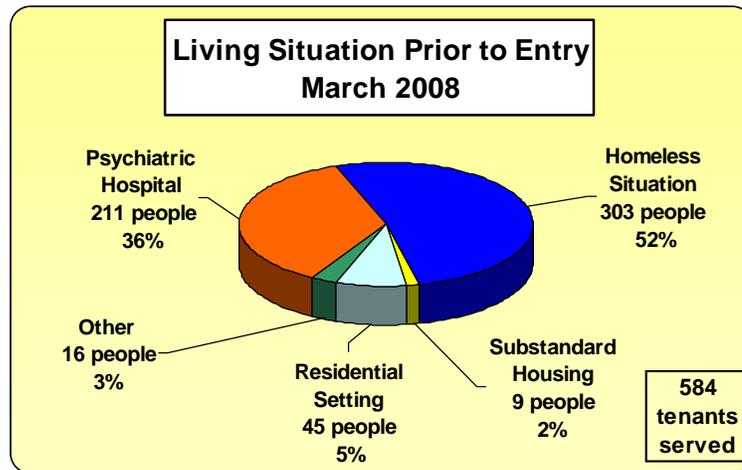
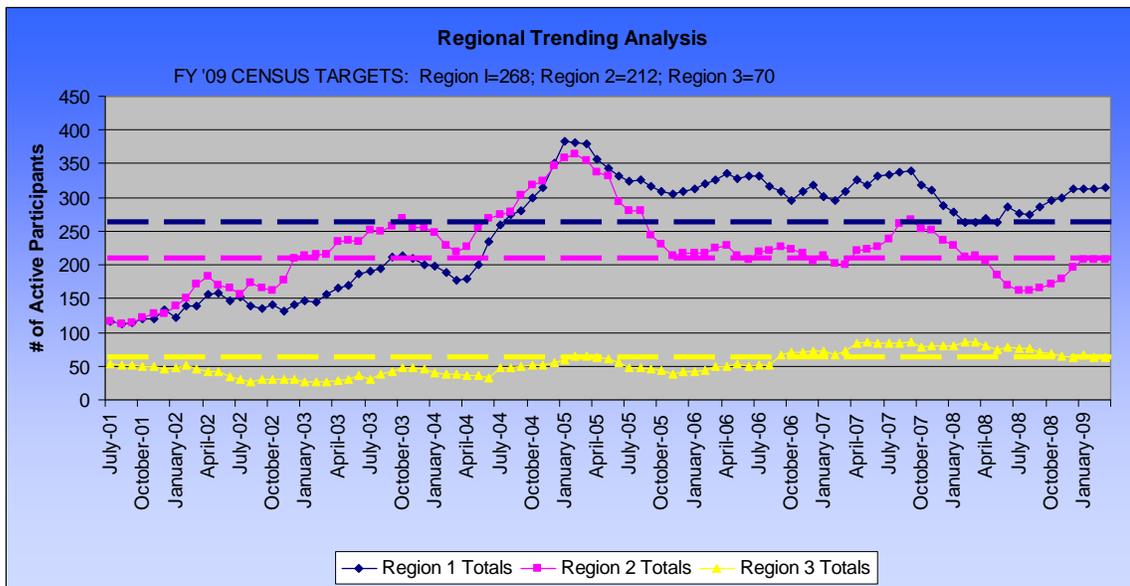
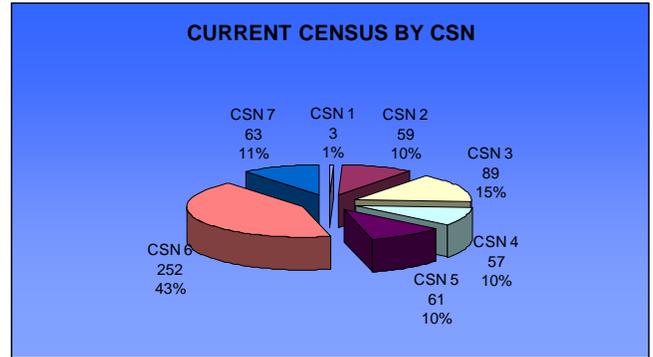
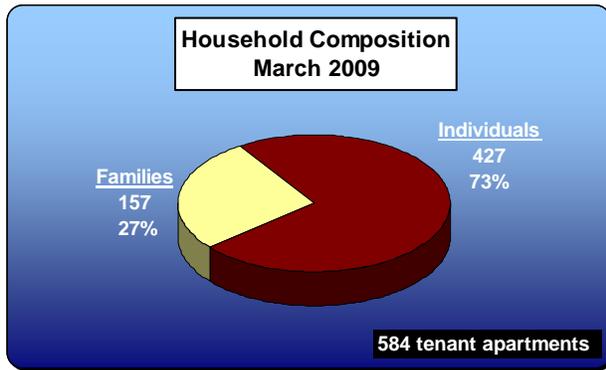


**BRAP Awards—Table
Cumulative Since Inception of Waitlist**

Reporting Periods	Mar-08	Jun-08	Sep-08	Dec-08	Mar-09	% Change relative to Last Report ²
Cumulative number of persons awarded BRAP	256	374	537	635	671	6%
Priority 1—Discharge from state or private psychiatric hospital within last 6 months	155	228	288	337	356	6%
Priority 2—Homeless (HUD Transitional Definition)	93	129	208	249	262	5%
Priority 3—Sub-standard Housing	0	0	6	10	10	0%
Priority 4—Leaving a DHHS funded living facility	8	17	35	39	43	10%

² Graph and corresponding table depicts cumulative activity based on data beginning with the inception of the Waitlist on July 13, 2007. We have depicted detail on the most recent five quarterly reports, which includes data carried forward from inception of the Waitlist. Percentages are calculated relative to December 2008.

Snap-shot status of Current BRAP voucher holders as of March 31, 2009:



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