

**Bridging Rental Assistance Program (BRAP)
Monitoring Report
Quarter 3 FY2010 (January, February, March 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 (March, June, September, and December 2009) 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 substantially decreased, down 19% from the previous quarter, to 82 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 remained the same from the previous quarter at 34 persons.
- Priority #2 applicants (Homeless) have decreased from 60 to 33 persons, down 45%

- Priority #3 applicants (Substandard Housing) have increased from 0 to 6 persons
- Priority #4 applicants (Community Residential Facility) have increased from 6 to 9 persons, up 50%
- Persons on the waitlist greater than 90 days have decreased from 160 to 57, down 64%.

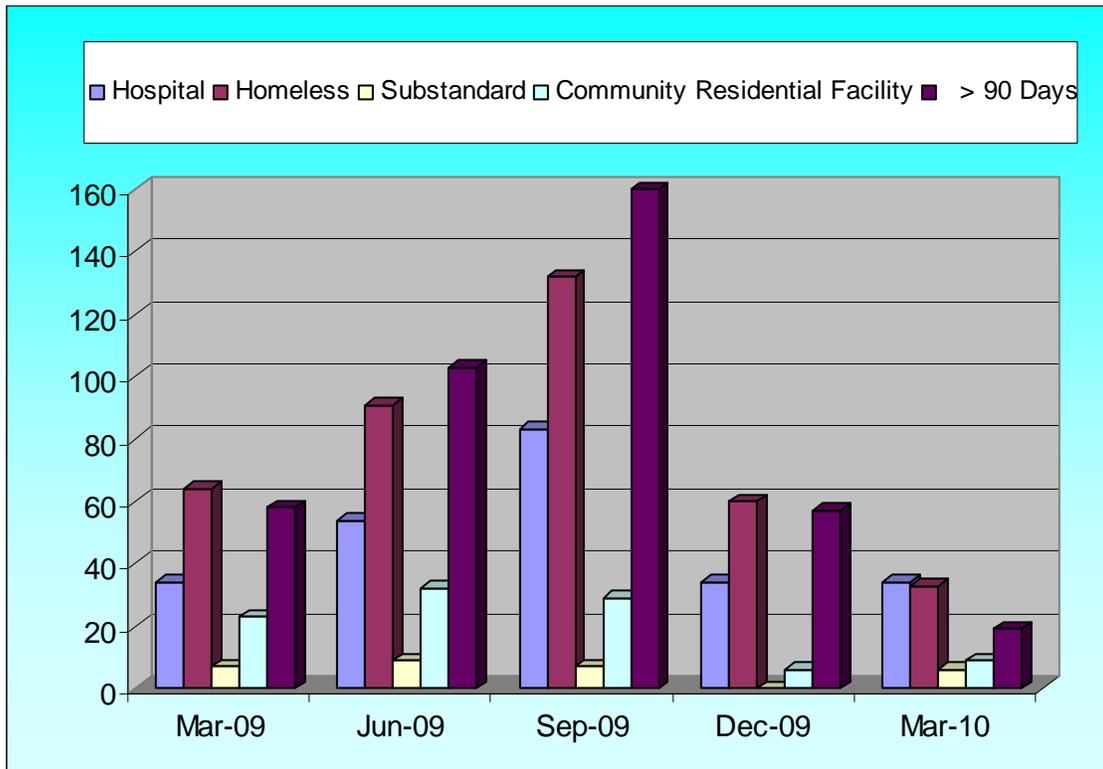
Since inception of the wait list, there has been a total of 961 BRAP vouchers awarded broken down as follows: Priority #1, 507; Priority #2, 351; Priority #3, 16; Priority #4, 85.

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. DHHS is working with the Maine State Housing Authority and other local Public Housing Authorities on applications to HUD for Non-Elderly Disabled Vouchers. Maine may be eligible for more than 200 such vouchers statewide.

Current census as of March 31st 2010 is 526 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.

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. As a result of documenting need through an active waitlist, the BRAP program received a significant increase of State General Fund dollars of \$405,000 which will house an additional 75 persons in FY2011. If we are going to eliminate the waitlist throughout FY2011 and meet historical growth patterns, we would need an additional \$1.4 million added to our base in FY2011.

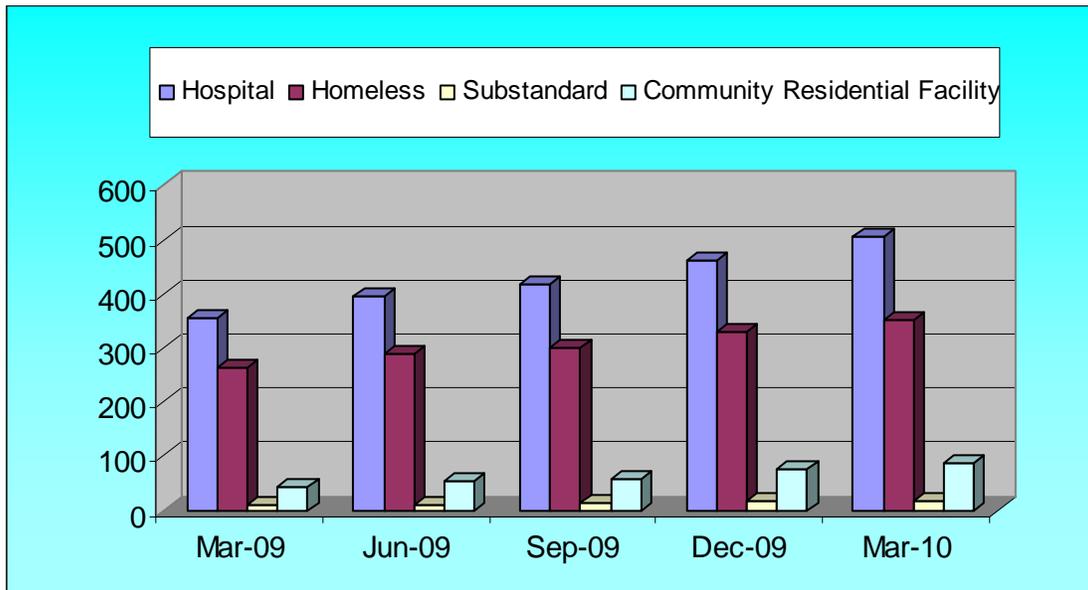
**BRAP Waitlist Status--Graph:
Detail by Priority Status to include those persons waiting longer than 90 Days**



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

Reporting Period	Mar-09	Jun-09	Sep-09	Dec-09	Mar-10	% Change relative to Last Report
Total number of persons waiting for BRAP	128	186	248	101	82	-19%
Priority 1—Discharge from state or private psychiatric hospital within last 6 months	34	54	83	34	34	0%
Priority 2—Homeless (HUD Transitional Definition)	64	91	132	60	33	-45%
Priority 3—Sub-standard Housing	7	9	7	0	6	0%
Priority 4—Leaving a Community Residential living facility	23	32	29	6	9	50%
Total number of persons on wait list more than 90 days awaiting voucher	58	103	160	57	19	-67%

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



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

Reporting Periods	Mar-09	Jun-09	Sep-09	Dec-09	Mar-10	% Change relative to Last Report
Cumulative number of persons awarded BRAP	671	745	788	885	961*	9%
Priority 1—Discharge from state or private psychiatric hospital within last 6 months	356	394	416	463	507	10%
Priority 2—Homeless (HUD Transitional Definition)	262	288	301	330	351	6%
Priority 3—Sub-standard Housing	10	11	12	16	16	0%
Priority 4—Leaving a DHHS funded living facility	43	52	59	76	85	12%

* Note: two persons awarded BRAP without a priority