



PAUL R. LEPAGE GOVERNOR, MARY MAYHEW COMMISSIONER

Department of Health and Human Services  
Adult Mental Health Services  
32 Blossom Lane  
# 11 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011  
Tel: (207) 287-4243  
Fax: (207) 287-1022; TTY: 1-800-606-0215

**Bridging Rental Assistance Program (BRAP)  
Monitoring Report  
Quarter 3 FY2012 (January, February, March 2012)**

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. According to a report issued by the Technical Assistance Collaborative, *Priced out in 2010*, in Maine, 98% of a person's SSI standard monthly payment is needed to pay for the average one-bedroom apartment statewide. In Cumberland County the amount is 104% and Sagadahoc 106%. In the City of Portland 126% of a person's SSI is necessary to pay for the average one-bedroom apartment and in the KEYS area (Kittery, Elliot, York and South Berwick) 125%.

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 Policy Development Unit 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 is provided so ongoing activity can be readily measured against longitudinal trends.

The Department is pleased to report that a legislative 'no lapse in funds' clause pertaining to the BRAP program has recently been approved by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. This will help keep the BRAP census more consistent between fiscal years and allow us to maximize the resources dedicated to this program.

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The adoption of the TANF limits earlier this year is estimated to impact the program in the amount of \$338,000 over the next several years. Cumulatively, this reduction in funding may result in a reduction in census of up to 65 vouchers. This factor, as well as potential changes to the General Assistance program will be monitored closely to ensure that program demand remains consistent with program funding.

The bullets below highlight some of the details regarding persons who are currently waiting for a BRAP voucher: The percentage terms reflect the percentage of relative change compared to the last report, the formula is  $((\text{Current Report Number} - \text{Previous Report Number}) / \text{Current Report Number})$ .

- 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 9 to 11 persons, up 18%.
- Priority #2 applicants (Homeless) have decreased from 40 to 31, down 29%
- Priority #3 applicants (Substandard Housing) have decreased from 1 to 0.
- Priority #4 applicants (Community Residential Facility) have increased from 4 to 7 persons, up 43%.
- Persons on the waitlist greater than 90 days have remained consistent at 3 persons.

Since inception of the wait list, there has been a total of 1,790 BRAP vouchers awarded broken down as follows: Priority #1, 796; Priority #2, 768; Priority #3, 26; Priority #4, 189. Note that 11 vouchers have been awarded to persons with no priority.

The current BRAP census as of March 31, 2012 is 749 vouchers. At the writing of this report, we have re-instated the Waitlist Protocol because the target census is 815 and there are more than 100 vouchers issued to persons looking to rent-up. We anticipate lifting the waitlist within three months, depending on the number of persons that activate their awarded voucher. 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.

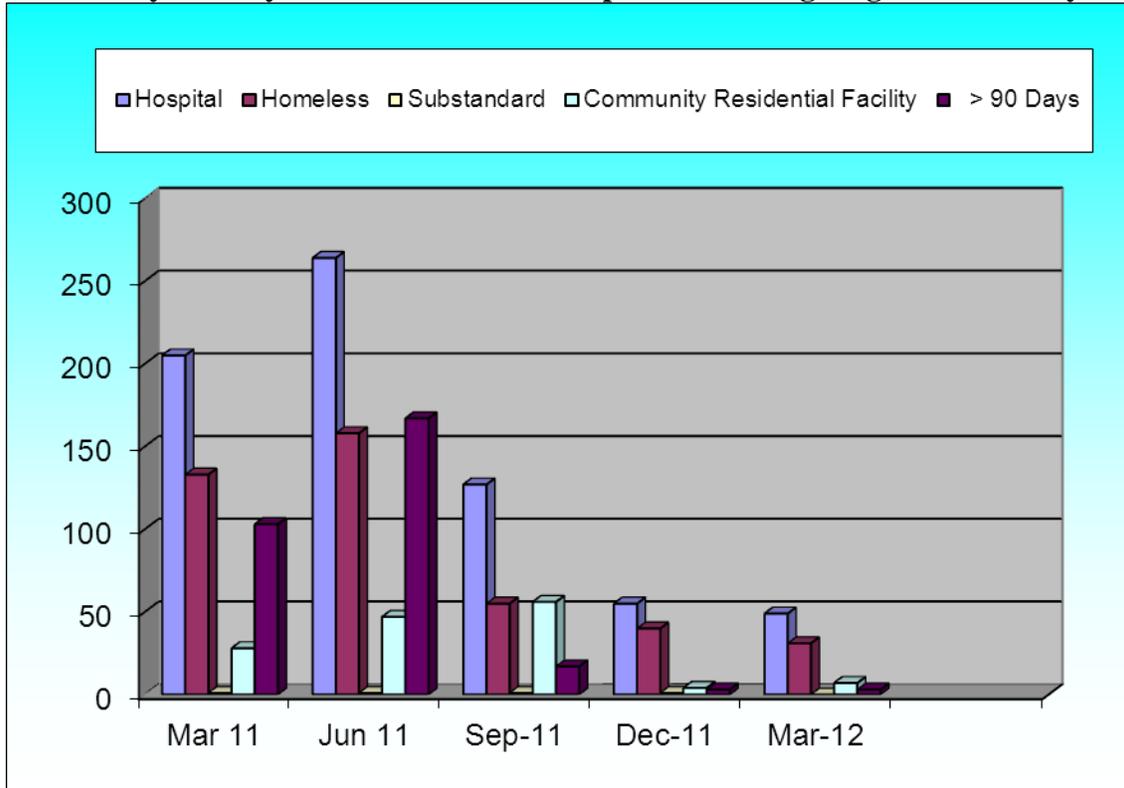
HUD has recently issued a second definition of homelessness which has a direct impact on the Shelter Plus Care program. We will consider implementing this new definition into the BRAP program beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, depending on availability of funds.

OAMHS also administers a substantial number of Shelter Plus Care vouchers, 883 as of March 31, 2011. This number is down from 915 in December 2011 due to the reduction across the state in the Fair Market Rents, this was not unexpected. This program is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and has seen significant growth over the last decade, the result of OAMHS aggressively applying for and receiving new grants each year. The FY2013 annual budget for Shelter Plus Care is \$7.1 million. The total dollars for all SPC grants (one year renewals to 5 year new contracts) currently administered by OAMHS is \$13,434,250. Shelter Plus Care (SPC) is designed to provide permanent rental subsidies (housing vouchers)

and supportive services (provided by MaineCare) to literally homeless individuals with: severe and persistent mental illness (63%), chronic substance abuse and mental illness (30%), and chronic substance abuse and HIV/AIDS (7%).

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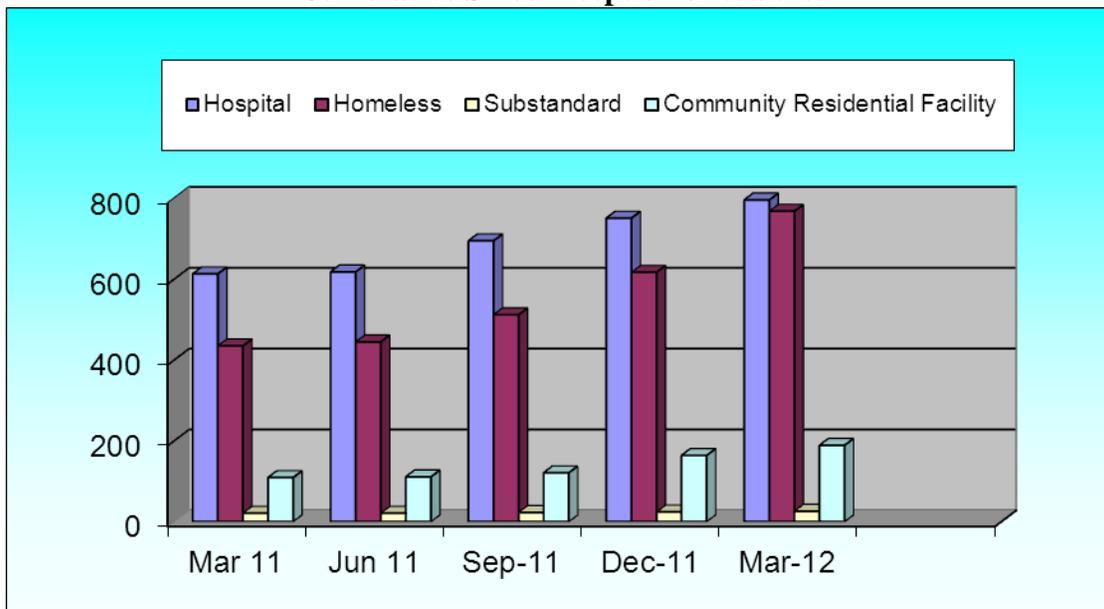
**BRAP Waitlist Status--Graph:  
Detail by Priority Status to include those persons waiting longer than 90 Days**



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

Reporting Period	Mar 11	Jun 11	Sep-11	Dec-11	Mar-12	% Change relative to Last Report
Total number of persons waiting for BRAP	205	264	127	55	49	-12%
Priority 1—Discharge from state or private psychiatric hospital within last 6 months	42	57	15	9	11	18%
Priority 2—Homeless (HUD Transitional Definition)	133	158	55	40	31	-29%
Priority 3—Sub-standard Housing	1	1	1	1	0	null
Priority 4—Leaving a Community Residential living facility	28	47	56	4	7	43%
Total number of persons on wait list more than 90 days awaiting voucher	103	167	17	3	3	0%

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



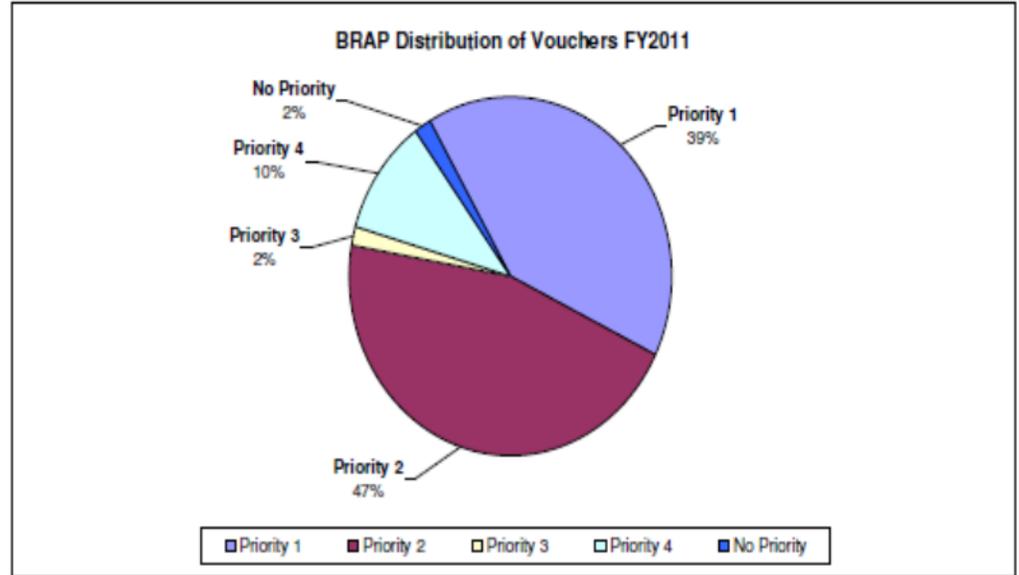
**BRAP Awards—Table  
Cumulative Since Inception of Waitlist**

Reporting Periods	Mar 11	Jun 11	Sep-11	Dec-11	Mar-12	% Change relative to Last Report
Cumulative number of persons awarded BRAP	1188	1205	1361	1566	1790	13%
Priority 1—Discharge from state or private psychiatric hospital within last 6 months	613	618	695	751	796	6%
Priority 2—Homeless (HUD Transitional Definition)	435	445	512	617	768	20%
Priority 3—Sub-standard Housing	21	21	23	24	26	8%
Priority 4—Leaving a DHHS funded living facility	109	111	121	164	189	13%

Note: 11 persons awarded with no priority

### 7/1/2010 - 6/30/2011 BRAP PRIORITY CODES

	Priority 1 Hospital	Priority 2 Homeless	Priority 3 Sub-Standard	Priority 4 Group Home	No Priority	Total All
ANDROSCOGGIN	7	56	1	0	2	66
AROOSTOCK	3	4	0	0	0	7
CUMBERLAND	150	133	1	27	6	317
FRANKLIN	1	2	0	0	1	4
HANCOCK	3	0	0	0	0	3
KENNEBEC	49	51	7	17	3	127
KNOX	8	14	1	0	1	24
LINCOLN	2	5	1	0	0	8
OXFORD	0	6	1	0	0	7
PENOBSCOT	66	30	1	30	1	128
PISCATAQUIS	0	0	0	1	0	1
SAGadahoc	11	21	1	0	0	33
SOMERSET	3	20	0	0	0	23
WALDO	7	4	0	0	0	11
WASHINGTON	0	0	0	0	0	0
YORK	41	50	1	17	0	109
<b>Total All</b>	351 40.4%	396 45.6%	15 1.7%	92 10.6%	14 1.6%	868



<b>Priority Codes</b>	
<b>Hospital</b>	Eligible adults who are leaving a State Institution (Riverview or Dorothea Dix); or a private psychiatric hospital bed; or has been discharged in the last 6 months from any of these institutions.
<b>Homeless</b>	Eligible adults who are homeless as defined by the US Department of Housing & Urban Development
<b>Substandard</b>	Eligible adults who are living in substandard housing in the community.
<b>Group Home</b>	Eligible adults who are moving from community residential programs and other behavioral health facilities, to more independent living arrangements.
<b>No Priority</b>	DHHS Waiver