

Report to the 2020 Hawaii State Legislature:

Pursuant to Act 39, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018,
Requesting the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development
Corporation to Conduct a Study of Housing Waitlists for
Individuals with Access and Functional Needs.

Prepared by:
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism



December 2019

Act 39, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, appropriated \$50,000 for the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) to conduct a study of housing for individuals with access and functional needs, including frail elderly individuals, individuals with physical or severe mental disabilities, individuals transitioning from incarceration, emancipated foster youth, individuals with an alcohol or drug addiction, individuals with HIV/AIDS, and victims of domestic violence, who are in need of housing. The Act requires HHFDC to conduct a study of housing waitlists to:

- (1) Estimate the number of individuals with access and functional needs who are in need of housing;
- (2) Identify supportive services required by individuals with access and functional needs and inventory providers of such supportive services;
- (3) Develop an information system to forecast and monitor individuals with access and functional needs who are seeking affordable housing; and
- (4) Develop strategies to assist these individuals to access and retain affordable housing in independent settings.

The Act also requires HHFDC to consult with community stakeholders to identify any other issues that should be included in the scope of work for the study and submit a written report of findings and recommendations to the 2019 Legislature. HHFDC did not meet the legislative deadline for submitting a written report as we were still in the consultation process.

HHFDC consulted with the community stakeholders listed in Table 1, *supra*, asking the following questions:

- (1) Do housing wait lists for government-assistance programs (e.g., federal and state public housing, housing first, Section 8, rent supplement) identify individuals with access and functional needs?
- (2) Is there an inventory of supportive service providers?
- (3) Do providers of support services maintain lists of individuals with access and functional needs who have a need for or desire housing in independent settings?
- (4) Are there standards for, or agreement on, supportive services for individuals with access and functional needs?
- (5) Could HMIS be the information system or the starting point for an information system?
- (6) Are there studies which estimate the number of individuals with access and functional needs who need housing in independent settings?
- (7) What is the area of focus for the study?
- (8) What type of consultant do we need?

Table 1. List of Consulted Community Stakeholders

Department of Human Services, Benefit, Employment & Support Services Division,
Homeless Programs – Harold Brackeen III / Judy Ishida
State Homeless Coordinator – Scott Morishige
City Housing Office – Marc Alexander
Hawaii Public Housing Authority – Barbara Arashiro
County housing agencies – Gail Kaito, Neil Gytoku, Will Spence/Buddy Almeida,
Kanani Fu

Department of Health (DD, ID, frail elderly, mental health, alcohol/drug abuse) – Lynn Fallin, Eddie Mersereau
Disability and Community Access Board – Debbie Jackson
EPIC Ohana – Jeanne Hamilton
Hale Kipa - Jaque Kelly-Ueoka
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development – Jesse Wu
MedQuest – Madi Silverman / Judy Mohr Peterson
Hina Mauka – Dr. Alan Johnson
UH-CDS - Pat Morrissey, Joann Yuen, Christy Nishita, Lisa Maetani
Department of Health – State Council on Developmental Disabilities - Daintry Bartoldus
HMIS Consultant (Bridging the Gap) - Carlos Peraro

Many of the community stakeholders recommended consulting with the University of Hawaii Center on Disability Studies (UH-CDS). Based on discussions with UH-CDS, HHFDC found it has the experience and proficiency to conduct the study and, therefore, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding dated September 19, 2019 to retain their services.

The UH-CDS submitted a status report which is provided as Exhibit A.

**Status Report to the Legislature: 2019 Housing Needs Study
Submitted December 17, 2019**

In response to Act 039 (2018), the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) contracted with the University of Hawaii Center on Disability Studies (UH CDS) to develop a housing report to quantify the need for housing among individuals with access and functional needs. The MOU between HHFDC and UH CDS was executed on September 12, 2019.

As indicated in Act 039, the target groups include:

1. Frail elderly individuals
2. Individuals with physical or severe mental disabilities
3. Transitioning from incarceration
4. Emancipated youth
5. Individuals with alcohol or drug addictions
6. Individuals with HIV/AIDS
7. Victims of domestic violence

The following provides a status report on the housing needs study:

The UH CDS team met in September to develop a project plan to gather housing needs data from agencies and organizations statewide and create needed documents. These documents included:

- Drafted an email message template to agencies/organizations re: background on Act 039 and the request for data on the number of individuals with housing as well as functional and access needs
- Developed internal protocols for contacting and following up w/ agencies and organizations statewide
- Drafted a housing data tracking form to track demographics of individuals who need housing, preferred housing types, barriers to housing (e.g., poor credit) in calendar year 2019.
- Developed a tracking form to list barriers/challenges faced noted by agencies and organizations in gathering data on individuals with housing needs. This tracking form will be used in the final report to describe barriers, lessons learned, and recommendations.
- Created a list of agencies/organizations that represent the different target populations. The UH CDS team sent out initial rounds of emails on 9/20/19 to agencies/organizations representing ALL target populations. Second and third rounds of reminder emails were sent out. UH CDS team members were available by phone to answer questions about the data needed.

The following agencies/organizations were identified and approached for data:

Aloha Care
Access to Independence
Adult Mental Health Division
Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii
Bridging the Gap
Catholic Charities Hawaii
City and County of Honolulu
Department of Education
Department of Public Safety
Developmental Disabilities Division
Domestic Violence Action Center
Executive Office on Aging
Harm Reduction Services Branch, DOH
Hawaii County Office of Housing and Community Development
Hawaii Disability Rights Center
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
HMSA
Kaiser Health Plan
Kauai County Housing Authority
Maui County Department of Housing and Human Concerns
Ohana Health Plan
Partners In Care
Steadfast Housing
United Health Care
Veteran's Affairs

Challenges

The common challenge reported by agencies and organizations is that they do not collect the level of detail that was requested by UH CDS on the individuals who need housing. Their data systems do not capture all of the information requested, which included demographics, housing preferences, and housing challenges. But these organizations do have some aggregated numbers and other detail as available.

In our response to agencies/organizations, UH CDS acknowledged that there may be challenges in reporting data. But UH CDS indicated that it is important to capture information on barriers and challenges, in order to make policy recommendations within the final housing needs study report.

Current Status and Next Steps

As of December 17, 2019, we received data back from 80% of agencies/organizations. We will work to achieve a 100% response rate.

After that, UH CDS will begin going through the data to look at the different methods that the agencies/organization track and report data on their clients/members with housing needs. The data will be aggregated and analyzed for the final report. The final report will include the numbers of individuals with housing needs by target group, system gaps and challenges, lessons learned, and policy recommendations for creating a system-wide database to track housing needs.