



City of Farmers Branch Council

November 12, 2019



Impact Child Homelessness in Farmers Branch

Contract Executed April 3, 2019

Terminates September 30, 2020

Purpose (per contract): Provide support and direct services to children within Farmers Branch that will enable City's children to improve their quality of life

Progress: April-July

- 🌻 Benchmarked with other programs in DFW
- 🌻 Hired Program Manager: Victoria Mendoza
- 🌻 Developed program guidelines and eligibility requirements

Progress: July-October

- 🌻 Finalized school referral process & met with campus Homeless Liaisons
- 🌻 Enrolled 7 families & conduct weekly coaching appointments
- 🌻 Met city staff for updates
- 🌻 Constant evaluation of prospective families
- 🌻 Created program name: **Safe & Sound Housing Empowerment Program**



**FARMERS
BRANCH**

Safe & Sound

HOUSING EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

To provide housing support to families with children in Farmers Branch who are homeless or on the verge of homelessness by providing direct housing support in parallel with self-sufficiency services such as financial capability, employment coaching, and education/training.



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Eligibility

- ☀️ Live in Farmers Branch with at least one child
- ☀️ Be experiencing housing instability
- ☀️ Provide proof of housing crisis
- ☀️ Have legitimate source of income, or potential of income, to live independently once program ends
- ☀️ Be open and transparent with Program Manager
- ☀️ Be willing to set and accomplish individualized goals



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Family Profiles

- 🌻 7 families: 9 adults and 17 children
- 🌻 6 of 7 are single mother head of household
- 🌻 14 of 17 children are school age: CFBISD=10, DISD=3, Other-1
- 🌻 1 family in Villa Creek windstorm disaster of June 2019

Services Provided

- 🌻 Direct Aid: Rental assistance, medical/dental/behavioral health referrals, furniture assistance, food pantry, clothing vouchers
- 🌻 Financial Coaching: 41 Financial Coaching Sessions provided; topics included budgeting, cash flow management, spending tracking, savings strategy, financial goal-setting, credit awareness, debt reduction, banking awareness
- 🌻 Workforce: Wage negotiations, soft skills coaching, assistance finding employment



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Family Impact: August-October

- 🌻 Metrocrest Services has provided 626 nights of housing assistance to these 7 families
- 🌻 All current families are now in an apartment or rental home
- 🌻 1 family moved from a motel to apartment
- 🌻 5 out of 9 adults have obtained, maintained, or improved employment (i.e. higher wages, more hours)
- 🌻 All school-age children have remained in their home school
- 🌻 3 families have begun to save
- 🌻 1 family has reduced debt (by 32%)
- 🌻 1 student is in the process of returning to school to earn her diploma
- 🌻 1 family has 3 generations actively participating (a 4th generation has requested to receive financial coaching)



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Desired Program Outcomes

- ☀️ Family remains housed during program support and for 12 months thereafter
- ☀️ School-age children remain in their home school
- ☀️ Adults participate in financial coaching
 - Understand and utilize budgeting tools
 - Set achievable financial goals
 - Become credit aware and improve/establish credit score
 - Become aware of debt and eliminate or reduce debt
 - Accumulate sufficient savings to cover basic emergency
- ☀️ Improve employment/income
 - Household income becomes sufficient to pay rent and other expenses to live independently
 - Maintain or improve employment (wages, hours, benefits)



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Client testimonials:

- 🌻 At a recent financial coaching appointment, we asked a Client if anything felt different now that she had developed a plan to pay bills on time. She replied, "It's nice not to have to look over my shoulder to see if someone's coming after me for not paying my bills."
- 🌻 After making great strides in paying off debt, one Client remarked "I feel so proud of myself. I want to keep accomplishing more things!" and asked how soon she could enroll in our GED program.



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HOUSING EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

Collaborative Partners

- ☀️ CFBISD
- ☀️ Apartment Complexes, Motels
- ☀️ On the Road Lending
- ☀️ North Texas Food Bank
- ☀️ Healthcare: Physical, Dental, Mental, Vision
- ☀️ Dallas Furniture Bank
- ☀️ Metrocrest Hospital Authority

Funding Strategy

- ☀️ Foundation Opportunities: Dallas Foundation, Texas Women's Foundation
- ☀️ City Partners
- ☀️ Corporate Partners



Thanks!

