

July 2020 through January 2021

**Housing RELIEF Fund Overview**

The Housing RELIEF Fund (HRF), funded through the Charlottesville Affordable Housing Fund (CAHF), was created in order to provide short-term financial assistance in the form of rent payments for tenants and landlords in the City of Charlottesville who were negatively impacted by COVID-19. From July 2020 to January 2021, the HRF provided over one million dollars in assistance to:



Individuals residing in the City who were recently released from a correctional institution



Individuals and households in the City that were experiencing homelessness



Landlords who have rental tenants that reside in the City and were at risk of experiencing homelessness due to nonpayment of rent

The HRF was administered by a **10-member team from the Office of Economic Development, Downtown Job Center, and Home to Hope**. In addition to distributing the funds, this small team also provided countless hours of supportive services to HRF participants to provide them with the tools needed to be successful upon completion of the program. These services included: peer recovery services, job search/job placement assistance, and financial literacy training.

**Housing RELIEF Fund Data**



Total Rent Relief Distributed within the City of Charlottesville over 6 Months

**\$1,056,000**



**Housing RELIEF Fund Supportive Services**

Supportive Services Provided Through the Housing RELIEF Fund



Peer Recovery Services and Support Groups through Home to Hope



Job Search and Placement Assistance through the Downtown Job Center



Financial Literacy Sessions through Bank On

**Supportive Services Numbers**



56 Home to Hope Peer Support Groups

total # in attendance: **783**



12 Downtown Job Center Job Clubs

total # in attendance: **50**



7 Bank On Financial Literacy Training Sessions

total # in attendance: **262**

**# of Housing RELIEF Participants Engaging in Supportive Services**



**139**

Home to Hope Peer Recovery Services



**111**

Job Center Job Search/Placement Services



**170**

Bank On Financial Literacy Training

**Quotes from Housing RELIEF Fund Participants**



Kwanasia W.

“ Since I've been in this program, it's helped a lot with financial things and not only that; things I NEED to know to help me find resources I need during this time and also helped me a lot with learning how to save and manage my money better. It's really helped me with paying my housing so I can catch up on things I need to get done and I'm becoming more successful from the help of you guys. Since COVID-19 is cutting back hours from jobs and even closing them, this program has stepped up and helped me big time. I'm super happy that I've joined this with you guys. Y'all are amazing! ”



Brittany C.

“ The City of Charlottesville Housing RELIEF Fund has helped me more than I can explain. When everything was going wrong and I felt like there was no getting ahead on bills or life, the Housing RELIEF fund made it so I was able to save that money that would have been used to pay high monthly rent, (that I didn't have at that time) to get back on my feet and back on track and make sure I was able to get ahead in the future. I am very grateful for that. ”



Jeff O.

“ Without the Housing RELIEF Fund, I would be homeless today. I'm very grateful to all the staff. They really do care about their clients and offer us an avenue to improve our lives through the jobs resources, food program, and so many other things. All they ask in return??? To attend meetings designed to help us even more! God Bless you ALL!! ”



Carroll D.

“ The Housing RELIEF Fund helped me so much. I was living at an Oxford House with a lot of bills and no way to save money to get out. The Housing RELIEF Fund helped me get a place, and I was able to save money to purchase a car and start my own transportation company. The Housing RELIEF fund changed my life in ways that I never thought would be possible. ”