



**Bridging Rental Assistance Program (BRAP)
Monitoring Report
Quarter 2 FY2011 (October, November, December 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 (December 2009 and March, June, September 2010) is provided so ongoing activity can be readily measured against longitudinal trends. Since the last report:

As a result of additional legislative funding in the amount of \$405,000, the waitlist was cleared in July of 2010. However, even with the additional capacity, by the end of the 1st quarter, the waitlist began to grow again due to the continued strong demand for this program outstripping available resources. By the end of the second quarter, this reporting period, that demand is even more dramatic, reflecting longitudinal trends dramatically outstripping available resources in the winter months. The number of persons waiting for a BRAP voucher has increased substantially, up 73 % from the previous quarter, to 209 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 increased from zero to 25 persons.
- Priority #2 applicants (Homeless) have increased from 49 to 158 persons, up 69%
- Priority #3 applicants (Substandard Housing) have increased from 4 to 5 persons, up 20%.
- Priority #4 applicants (Community Residential Facility) have increased from 4 to 20 persons, up 80%.
- Persons on the waitlist greater than 90 days have increased from zero to 53 persons.

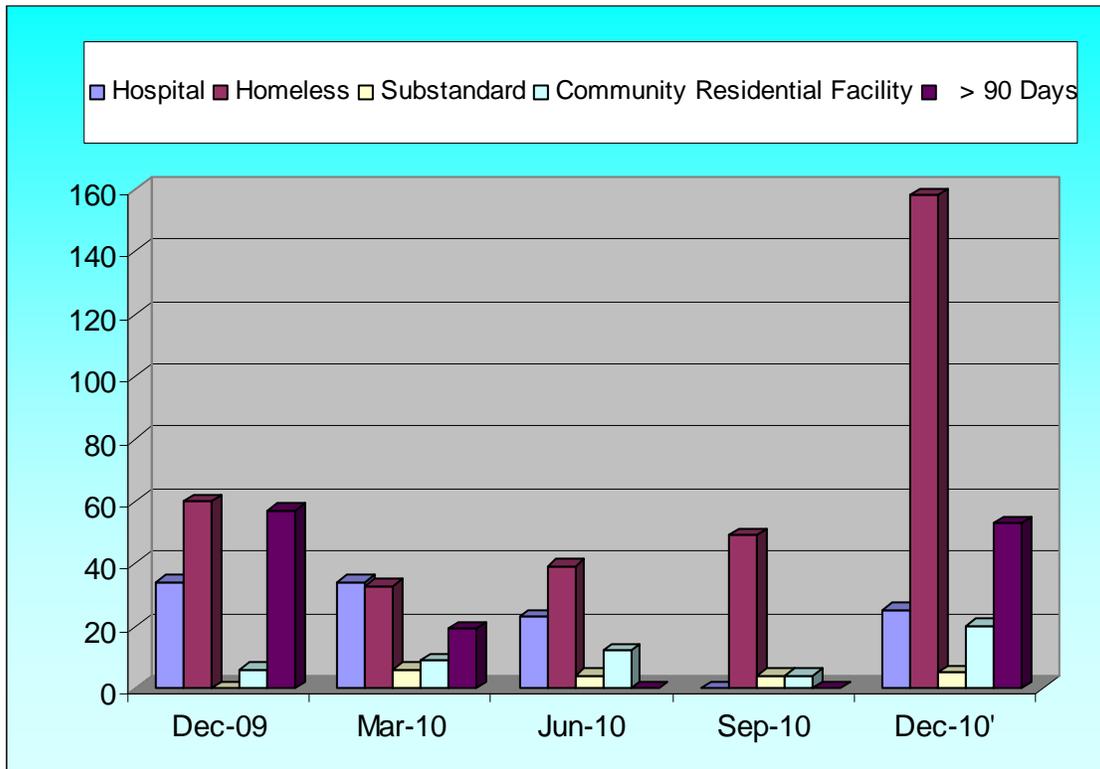
Since inception of the wait list, there have been a total of 1,132 BRAP vouchers awarded broken down as follows: Priority #1, 582; Priority #2, 416; Priority #3, 21; Priority #4, 103. Note that 10 vouchers have been awarded to persons with no priority.

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.

Current census as of December 31, 2010 is 647 vouchers. Eliminating the waitlist throughout FY2011 and meeting historical growth patterns would require an additional \$1 million dollars added to our base for FY2011.

The Office of Adult Mental Health Services also administers a substantial number of Shelter Plus Care (SPC) vouchers, 876 as of December 31, 2010. 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 current annual budget for Shelter Plus Care is \$6.1 million. The total dollars for all SPC grants (one year renewals to 5 year new contracts) currently administered by OAMHS is over \$10 million. Shelter Plus Care requires a person to be literally homeless with a disability, principally: mental illness, chronic substance abuse, dual-diagnosis, or HIV/AIDS. The majority of these vouchers are targeting persons with mental illness. For a detailed breakdown of the Shelter Plus Care program by disability type and CSN please see attached, *FY 2010 Shelter Plus Care Disability Categories*

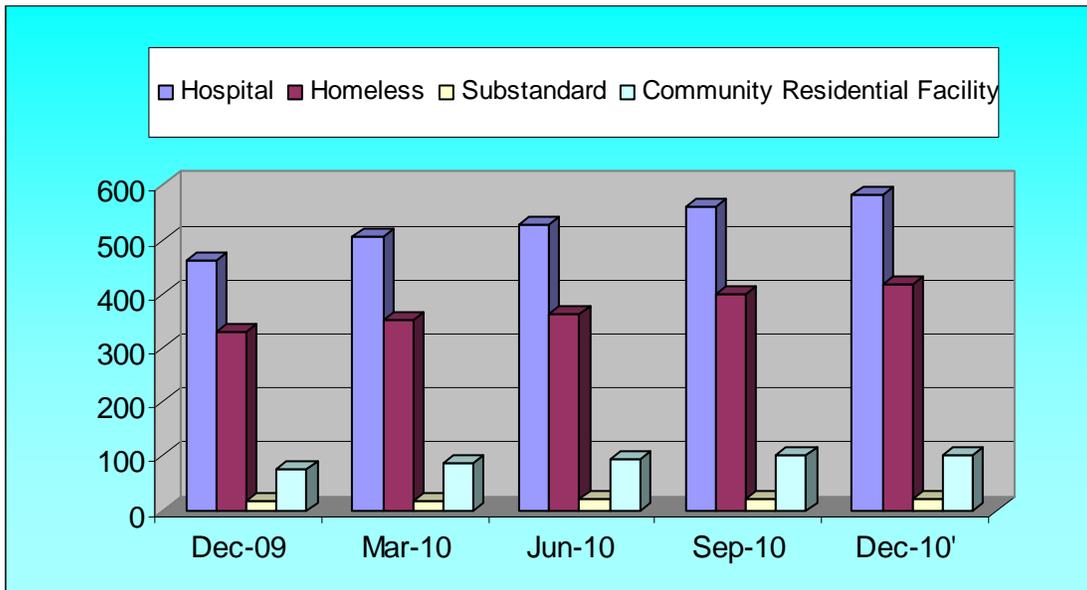
**BRAP Waitlist Status--Graph:
Detail by Priority Status to include those persons waiting longer than 90 Days**



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

Reporting Period	Dec-09	Mar-10	Jun-10	Sep-10	Dec-10'	% Change relative to Last Report
Total number of persons waiting for BRAP	101	82	78	57	209	73%
Priority 1—Discharge from state or private psychiatric hospital within last 6 months	34	34	23	0	25	100%
Priority 2—Homeless (HUD Transitional Definition)	60	33	39	49	158	69%
Priority 3—Sub-standard Housing	0	6	4	4	5	20%
Priority 4—Leaving a Community Residential living facility	6	9	12	4	20	80%
Total number of persons on wait list more than 90 days awaiting voucher	57	19	0	0	53	100%

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



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

Reporting Periods	Dec-09	Mar-10	Jun-10	Sep-10	Dec-10'	% Change relative to Last Report
Cumulative number of persons awarded BRAP	885	961	1012	1093	1132	3%
Priority 1—Discharge from state or private psychiatric hospital within last 6 months	463	507	528	561	582	4%
Priority 2—Homeless (HUD Transitional Definition)	330	351	361	400	416	4%
Priority 3—Sub-standard Housing	16	16	19	19	21	10%
Priority 4—Leaving a DHHS funded living facility	76	85	94	103	103	0%

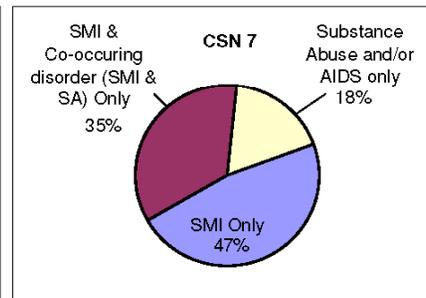
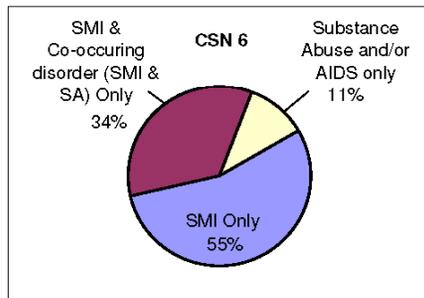
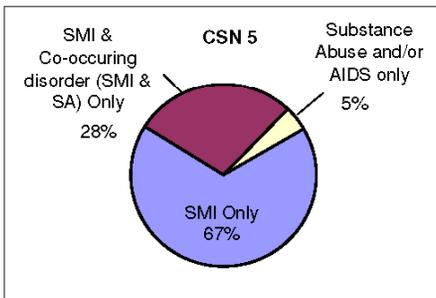
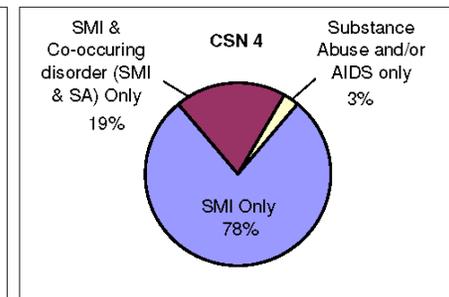
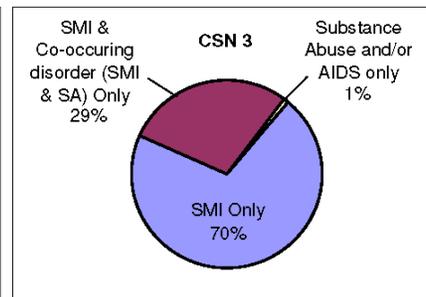
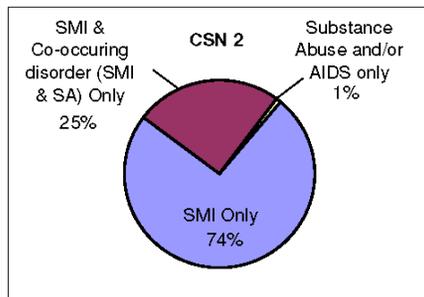
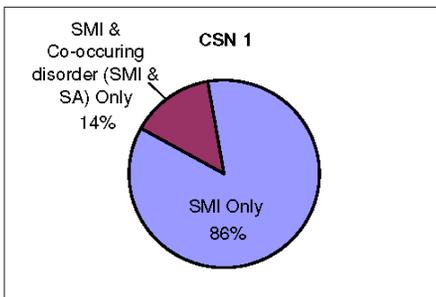
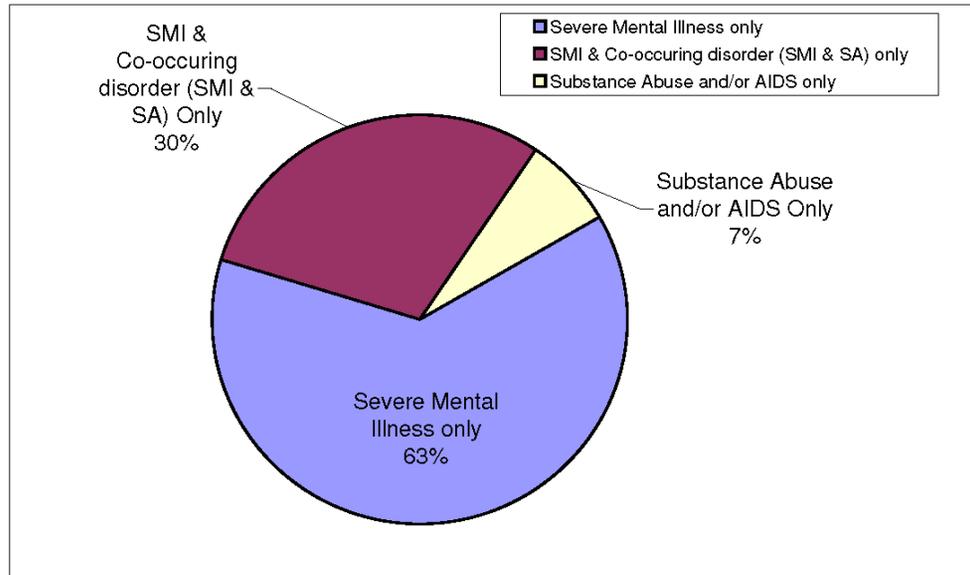
Note: 10 persons awarded with no priority

FY 2010 Shelter + Care Disability Categories

Disability Type	Count	Percentage
Severe Mental Illness only	641	63%
SMI & Co-occurring disorder (SMI & SA) only	301	30%
Substance Abuse and/or AIDS only	73	7%

Documented Diagnosis	Count	Percentage
Severe Mental Illness	942	93%
Chronic Alcohol Abuse	237	23%
Chronic Drug Abuse	186	18%
AIDS	13	1%
Physical Disability	27	3%

1015 Shelter Plus Care tenants
315 tenants had two or more documented diagnoses



	Region
CSN 1	Aroostook County
CSN 2	Hancock, Washington, Penobscot & Piscataquis
CSN 3	Kennebec & Somerset
CSN 4	Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc & Waldo
CSN 5	Androscoggin, Franklin & Oxford
CSN 6	Cumberland
CSN 7	York