

This is from Natalie Evans, LBSW

I wanted to send this email out to give SVdP volunteers a better understanding of our City of Plano Homeless Prevention grant. We recently had to deny an applicant for this grant. She was somewhat agitated that she was denied and I have spent 3 phone calls explaining the decision to her. The client called a chapter of SVdP in Plano (not sure which one, I would assume SEAS as she lives in 75023) and was told to call us back because we may have made a mistake. Every person that calls for that program (calling our help line and leaving a voicemail on option 4) speaks to me personally. I want to assure you that if we have to deny someone, there is a reason behind it and we can't make exceptions as it is HUD funding and has strict guidelines we must follow or risk losing funding. So I just wanted to send this email to provide more information about the program in case any SVdP volunteer wants a more detail so they can have a better understanding.

Qualifications:

1. City of Plano resident
2. Must have eviction notice (3 day notice to vacate is fine)
3. Gross household income cannot exceed 50% AMI for Dallas HUD Metro area
 - a. 1 person- \$25,100 2 ppl- \$28,700 3 ppl- \$32,300 4 ppl- \$35,850 5 ppl- \$38,750
6 ppl- \$41,600 7 ppl- \$44,500 8 ppl- \$47,350

4. Base monthly rent cannot exceed Dallas area fair market rent

	Efficiency	1BR	2BR	3BR	4BR
75023	\$820	\$980	\$1,210	\$1,640	\$2,090
75024	\$860	\$1,030	\$1,270	\$1,720	\$2,200
75025	\$850	\$1,020	\$1,260	\$1,700	\$2,180
75026	\$790	\$950	\$1,170	\$1,580	\$2,020
75074	\$750	\$900	\$1,110	\$1,500	\$1,920
75075	\$720	\$870	\$1,070	\$1,450	\$1,850
75086	\$790	\$950	\$1,170	\$1,580	\$2,020
75093	\$820	\$980	\$1,210	\$1,640	\$2,090
75094	\$1,020	\$1,220	\$1,510	\$2,040	\$2,610

5. Must past risk factor assessment (screens out clients with multiple factors that jeopardize housing stability such as past evictions, history of sporadic or no income, unable to work and not receiving

disability benefits, no high school diploma, etc etc). One of these factors alone will not screen someone out. Vast majority of clients pass the risk factor assessment.

6. Cannot have been served by the HPP grant in one of the past 3 grant years (so for this year, if served Oct 1, 2013 or later, we cannot serve). This is regardless of whether they received just one month or multiple months of assistance. (*this was the reason for the denial of the client who spoke to someone at SVdP*).
7. The program cannot pay the previous months' arrears (for example, in October, we cannot pay for Sept rent). We usually will not meet with a potential client unless they have paid the arrears.
8. Lease must be in a household member's name.

How the program works:

1. The applicant has to call 972-422-1850 and leave a message on option 4. They will get a call back in 1-2 days.
2. If they qualify, they will get an appointment usually within the next few days. They bring in documentation of crisis, income, lease, notice to vacate, IDs for all household members, etc. If they report 0 income, they have to bring in something showing how they've made it to this point (bank statements showing declining savings, letters from friends/family/agencies that have helped, statement showing exhausted unemployment benefits, etc).
3. At the appt, we complete paperwork, discuss strategies to regain stability, come up with a housing stability plan and offer all of our other programs and services.
4. We can pay up to the full amount due for the first month. If they client has a portion, we pay less. We then pay a portion of the 2nd and sometimes 3rd month, depending on the client's situation. Not every client is guaranteed a certain amount of money or # of months of rent assistance. It is all dependent on their situation. The client must follow through on steps of their stability plan (such as attending budget class, talking to consumer credit counseling, coming to job seekers class, applying to x number of jobs/week, etc) in order to receive help with the subsequent month of rent. The steps on the plan are agreed upon between the case manager and client and make sense according to the client's situation.

I hope this gives a better understanding of the program. Please feel free to send this out to your volunteers!

Let me know if you have any questions.

Natalie Evans, LBSW

Program Director

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Help Line: [972-422-1850](tel:972-422-1850) Office: [972-422-1125](tel:972-422-1125) Fax: [972-422-1855](tel:972-422-1855)



Visit our website at: <http://www.assistancecenter.org/>