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New Haven nonprofit group to run anti-eviction program

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NEW HAVEN — New Haven Home Recovery, a nonprofit that provides emergency shelter for families, will administer an award-winning program that helps low-income families prevent evictions.

The Bridgeport Housing Authority and the Fairfield County Community Foundation oversee the Stable Families program, which identifies families at risk of eviction and connects them with services.

New Haven Home Recovery was selected to administer the Stable Families program, which recently received the Award of Merit in Housing and Community Development by the National Association of Housing Redevelopment Officials.

While homeless numbers among individuals continue a slow decline, family homelessness continues to rise.

Single women requesting shelter at New Haven Home Recovery's Martha's Place increased 58 percent, but at CareWays, the organization's family shelter for women and their children, requests increased 105 percent this year.

Lack of affordable housing is the biggest challenge facing homeless families. The length of stay at New Haven Home Recovery shelters increased 17 percent because families had difficulty finding affordable housing.

Thirty-eight percent of the people living in New Haven Home Recovery shelters this year were children, 45 percent under the age of 6.

"Stable Families is the first program of its kind in Bridgeport and has been welcomed by the community," said Kara Capone, New Haven Home Recovery's director of programs. "The program is creating change in the community and helping families stay housed."

Some of the participants enrolled in Stable Families live in public housing units in Bridgeport, while others reside in housing subsidized by Section 8 or newer developments that are replacing former public housing units.

According to the Bridgeport Housing Authority, Stable Families served more than 250 families last year.

Call Angela Carter at 203-789-5752. Follow her on Twitter @nhregister and @ReachAngi. To receive breaking news first, simply text the word nhnews to 22700. Standard msg+data rates may apply.

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