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**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **HAND PROGRAM HELPS LOW-INCOME WHO ARE HOMELESS OR AT RISK OF BEING HOMELESS WITHIN THE CITY OF MIAMI**

(Miami, FL) – Funding assistance is currently available via the Housing Assistance Network of Dade (HAND Program) to **very low-income\*** persons who have received *a court filed eviction from a unit located within City of Miami limits* and are at risk of being homeless or who are currently homeless. The HAND Program provides eligible applicants with temporary rental assistance towards the person/family's rehousing.

In order to be eligible for the assistance, the person and/or family **must** qualify as very low income, defined as having a household income at 50% or below of area median income (AMI), as set annually by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). **Please see chart below.** The applicant must demonstrate that they are at risk of being homeless or currently homeless by providing a copy of a court filed eviction notice from a unit located within City of Miami limits or obtaining proof of homelessness from a local homeless program.

Those interested in applying for HAND assistance must call the Homeless Helpline at **1-877-994-4357**. The Helpline will refer eligible callers to the nearest provider, so that applicants can call and schedule an appointment to review their case. Funding is awarded on a first-come, first-eligible, first-served basis, while funding is available.

The HAND program is funded by Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP) dollars, via U.S. HUD, as provided by the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The HPRP offers: (1) relocation assistance to an income-eligible person/family that is being evicted from a City of Miami residence or; (2) short-term (up to 3 months) or medium-term (six months) rental/utility assistance to keep them from being evicted.

The Housing Assistance Network of Dade is a multi-agency effort providing a variety of other services in addition to rent assistance to persons with a housing emergency. Eligible participants may also be helped with costs related to moving and storage, motel stay, utility bills, and security deposits. Legal assistance and credit counseling is also available. Legal Services of Greater Miami provides legal advice to tenants. Camillus House operates the Helpline. Various other City, County and private agencies also provide services.

HPRP assistance payments will **not** be made directly to households, but only to third parties such as landlords and/or utility companies. HPRP grants will **not** provide mortgage assistance to homeowners facing foreclosure or who require long-term support. The City of Miami is working with Citrus Health Network, Inc. to administer the program.

This is an Equal Housing Opportunity. Persons in need of assistance in applying for this program can contact the Helpline 1-877-994-4357 to request assistance.

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City of Miami – 50% Area Median Income (AMI) 2009 Limits								
# of persons in Household	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Maximum Income	\$23,600	\$26,950	\$30,350	\$33,700	\$36,400	\$39,100	\$41,800	\$44,500

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