

RBHA Housing Report – May 2026 - Part 2 of 4

Responding to the Crisis: How RBHA Is Supporting Housing Stability

In our first report, we highlighted a clear and urgent reality: **housing instability is the most significant and consistent need among those we serve - and a primary driver of behavioral health crises.**

While housing is not the sole focus of RBHA's services, it has become increasingly central to our work. Every day, our teams are responding to individuals whose behavioral health needs cannot be addressed without first stabilizing their living situation.

Across programs and services, RBHA is actively working to meet this need - often in ways that extend beyond traditional behavioral health care.

A System Responding in Real Time

Housing Needs Are Reshaping Behavioral Health Services

RBHA's programs are designed to support behavioral health stabilization. However, as housing instability continues to rise, our teams are increasingly responding to needs that extend beyond clinical care.

Crisis response teams, care navigators, and case managers are routinely addressing housing challenges in real time - often without immediate or appropriate housing resources available.

Behavioral Health stabilization increasingly requires addressing housing first.

Providing Direct Housing Support

RBHA delivers direct housing assistance through multiple programs designed to support individuals and families with the highest needs.

Core Housing Programs (Q1 & Q2 FY2026 Data)

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH): 202 individuals served

Pregnant and Parenting Women (PPW) program: 23 families served

Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH): 91 individuals engaged through community outreach

These programs provide more than housing - they create the conditions necessary for recovery, stability, and long-term engagement in care.

Preventing Homelessness Through Financial Support

RBHA also plays a critical role in preventing individuals and families from entering homelessness through financial assistance and targeted stabilization services.

➡ Region 4 + RBHA Programs: Housing Stabilization

- **77 housing stabilization requests** processed for RBHA clients (FY25)
- **\$143,373 in housing support distributed**
- **81 emergency housing requests submitted**, exceeding allocated funding

Supports include:

- Rent and rent arrears
- Security deposits
- Utilities
- Emergency hotel/motel stays

➡ Developmental Services Housing Supports

- **52 individuals received rental assistance** to prevent eviction
- **36 individuals supported in independent living**

➡ Substance Use Disorder Services Housing Supports

- **Men's Residential Treatment Center (MRTC)** provides transitional housing
- **North Campus Housing Coordinator** supports transitions to independent housing

These interventions represent critical “last line” supports - often preventing eviction, reducing returns to homelessness, and stabilizing individuals before a crisis escalates.

Supporting Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness

Through targeted, community-funded programs, RBHA provides short-term housing and stabilization for families experiencing homelessness.

- **14 households served in FY26 Q2 through Community Development Block Grant-funded programming**
 - Services include:
 - Short-term housing placement
 - Transition to permanent housing
 - Connection to employment and financial support

The majority of households served were extremely low income, and many lacked required documentation - delaying access to permanent housing and highlighting systemic barriers beyond housing availability alone.

Responding in the Moment of Crisis

Even with these structured supports, staff are frequently required to respond when no immediate housing options exist.

Across programs, teams report:

- Coordinating temporary hotel stays
- Transporting individuals to shelters
- Navigating after-hours systems with limited availability
- Supporting individuals through nights without placement

In many cases, staff are working within significant system constraints - **bridging gaps in real time to ensure safety.**

A Story of Stability

For years, Mrs. Brown and Mr. Brown lived without a home.

Mrs. Brown had worked for much of her life, but after losing her job, she struggled to find stable employment again. Over time, that instability led to homelessness. Mr. Brown, after being released from incarceration without a housing plan, found himself in the same situation.

They met several years ago while both were living on the streets. Together, they tried - again and again - to find housing, but each attempt fell short. Over time, their situation became a cycle that seemed impossible to break.

RBHA's Outreach Team knew them well.

For five years, outreach workers encountered the Browns regularly. Each time, they offered support, shared resources, and encouraged them to engage in services.

But like many individuals experiencing long-term homelessness, the Browns did not trust “the system.” Outreach workers understood that building trust takes time. So, they continued to show up - consistently, respectfully, and without pressure.

And each time, the Browns declined.

Until one day, something changed.

During a Point in Time Count, an outreach worker again connected with the Browns. As he had done many times before, he offered his card and invited them to come to RBHA the next day.

This time, they came.

Early the next morning, the Browns walked into the RBHA lobby and asked for help.

What followed was a rapid, coordinated response. They met with an intake worker, completed the necessary steps, and – critically - had the documentation needed to move forward. With the support of RBHA and bridge funding provided by Richmond Behavioral Health Foundation (RBHF), they were placed in a local hotel while permanent housing was secured.

Seven days later, they signed a lease.

For the first time in years, they had a place to call home.

During the holidays, they invited outreach staff to visit. Inside their home, they proudly showed off their Christmas tree - a symbol of stability, of belonging, of something they had worked toward for years.

Now, they are thinking about adopting a dog.

After years of instability, the Browns are no longer surviving - they are building a life.

Conclusion

RBHA is responding to the housing crisis every day - through direct services, financial support, outreach, and real-time crisis intervention.

However, **the scale and complexity of the need are reshaping the role of behavioral health services**, requiring expanded resources, stronger partnerships, and continued system innovation.

Looking Ahead

While RBHA plays a critical role in supporting individuals experiencing housing instability, we cannot address this challenge alone.

In our next report, we will explore how community partnerships are essential to addressing housing needs - and where gaps in coordination continue to impact outcomes.