

## **Overview of Guam's Continuum of Care (Guam Homeless Coalition)**

GHURA is the lead agency in the Guam Homeless Coalition (GHC). The Guam Homeless Coalition is a group of government agencies, non-profit organizations and the private sector that come together for the purpose of responding to the needs of homeless youth, families, and single adults. Members include the organizations that operate shelters for homeless youth, families, and single adults and mainstream agencies that provide supportive services that the homeless.

**GHC Vision:** To use a community based approach to significantly reduce, prevent and end homelessness and at risk homelessness on Guam including:

- Coordinating and /or integrating homeless-related programs for smooth transition throughout our continuum of care system.
- Implement an effective and efficient delivery system of services to prevent homelessness and to move homeless families into permanent housing;
- Develop an accessible and comprehensive system which receives individuals and families in need of care and move them through a system towards independent living and sustainability; and
- Developing of strong homeless programs/services with sustainable links.

**GHC Mission:** To empower individuals and families who are homeless and/or at risk of homelessness to achieve self-sufficiency, by providing supports through awareness, education and advocacy.

We will achieve this through:

1. Enhancing life skills,
2. Accessing to the resources to obtain and sustain permanent housing,
3. Providing the skills necessary to obtain employment.

**We will achieve our mission through:**

- Building relationships with those experiencing homelessness in our community and those at risk of becoming homeless
- Assessing the needs of those within our community and recommend strategies to address the gaps in services
- Sustaining of successful programs
- Insuring availability of adequate and appropriate housing for all
- Creating a strong foundation between all members of our community
- Open and inclusive planning
- Collaboration among all service providers
- Educating and advocacy

- Empowering individuals by providing access to supportive services to attain self sufficiency
- Improving prevention programs
- Evaluating effectiveness of current programs to ensure accountability and efficiency

The Guam Homeless Coalition is committed to ending homelessness through solution-oriented programs and services. To address the growing demand for homeless services, the GHC and GHURA have searched for and applied for funding. In December 2000 Guam became the first U.S. territory to receive Continuum of Care funds for the homeless from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to administer shelter operations and supportive services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Currently, Guam has ten (10) programs funded under with the total amount of \$1.8 million in HUD's Continuum of Care.

### **Guam Homeless Coalition Committees - General Roles and Responsibilities**

#### ***Executive Team:***

Members include the GHC Chair and Chairs of all of the committees

#### ***Information Technology:***

Oversight of the Homeless Management Information System

#### ***Advocacy and Education:***

Educates political leaders on issues related to homelessness and affordable housing. Coordinates training for service providers. Coordinates the Consumer Voice group. Conducts awareness activities throughout the year.

#### ***Planning:***

Coordinates the submission of the Annual HUD Continuum of Care application. Coordinates the Point in Time Count; Updates the Plan to End Homelessness

#### ***Organizational Development:***

Develops recommendation regarding legal status of the CoC. Recruits new members to the CoC, conducts orientation for new members and maintains attendance records.

#### ***Grants/Funding Resources:***

Works on researching funding opportunities to fill gaps in services within the Guam Continuum of Care.