

Advantage Programs

Where We Are & Where We Are Going

May 24, 2007

Robert Hess, Commissioner

Program	Work Advantage	Children Advantage/ Fixed Income Advantage	Short-term Advantage
Criteria for Eligibility	Working clients with income below 150% of Federal Poverty Level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum of 20 hours per week at minimum wage or greater ▪ Eligible after 90 days in shelter ▪ Households must be on PA/Single Issue at the time of shelter exit 	Special needs populations eligible for Section 8 priority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Households with SSI/SSD or federally recognized benefits ▪ Households with an active ACS case ▪ Households must be on PA/Single Issue at the time of shelter exit ▪ Eligible after 90 days in shelter 	Clients with income between 150 and 200% of Federal Poverty Level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eligible after 60 days in shelter ▪ Households must be on PA/Single Issue at the time of shelter exit
Duration	One year with option to renew for second year if program criteria are met	Up to 12 months or until Section 8 obtained, whichever comes first	One-time
Program Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guaranteed rent payment to landlord (12 months in designated account) ▪ Client contributes 10-20% of rent to savings account (to be matched at completion of program) ▪ Client pays \$50 each month directly to landlord (to be matched at completion of program) ▪ Up to 1 year extension conditioned on continued financial need, demonstrated work, successful savings, and consistent rent payments ▪ Section 8 inspections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Up-front payment to landlord (12 months in designated account) ▪ Section 8 priority application submitted after client moves into apartment ▪ Section 8 not guaranteed ▪ HomeBase supports transition to Section 8 ▪ Section 8 inspections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Up-front 4-month rent payment to landlord, security deposit and broker's fee

Advantage Approval Timeline

- State Approval Received by DHS April 24th
- Providers were briefed on program details April 25th
 - At the providers' briefing, eligibility letters for clients were distributed
 - 1,750 targeted eligibility letters distributed: approximately 750 Work Advantage; 1,000 Children Advantage/Fixed Income
- Adult Singles & Adult Families together are allocated 1,000 Work Advantage placements
- First Work Advantage lease signing: April 27th!



NYC Department of Homeless Services



Keys to Program Model Success

- Partner with HRA to enhance employment opportunities under Work Advantage
- Pro-active identification of eligible families
- Work with Department of Consumer Affairs' Office of Financial Empowerment to promote financial literacy and savings

Transition from HSP to Work Advantage

- HSP-certified clients can utilize HSP until June 30, 2007
- If a client receives an Advantage eligibility letter they should use that even if they are HSP-certified
- Currently developing a transition plan for clients residing in HSP apartments.
 - HSP clients will have an opportunity to flip to Work Advantage
- No new clients will be certified under the HSP program