

## **Update**

### **Housing Support and Tenancy Program**

#### **Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living**

The Housing Support and Tenancy Program:

Provided assistance to 25 consumers

14 received financial support

6 consumers withdrew from the program

5 consumers are currently in process but have "timed out" of this grant funding cycle

The majority of this program's participants were referred by the Reno Housing Authority

In addition to providing direct consumer services this funding made it possible to design and print program information cards that continue to be distributed throughout Washoe county.

Two NNCIL staff members were able to attend a first of its kind, week long housing advocacy training in St. Louis, Missouri facilitated by NCIL and ILRU. In addition to informing the development of some of our services this training also provided the beginnings of our community engagement plan.

Of note after receiving housing search assistance the most urgent need was from consumers seeking financial support for security deposits and 1<sup>st</sup> month's rent. Housing searches were generally done by the consumers themselves or with the assistance of Reno Housing.

Funds were never issued to individuals directly. The minimum amount paid to a landlord was \$90.00 while the maximum was \$1105. Total grant funds used for consumer accommodation was \$5,700.

One of the program's success stories was that of RS a consumer with a TBI. In 2018, he had to get out of his apartment unit due to a bed bug infestation. He was forced to live in a motel for several weeks until he found an apartment unit. After one year, his rent significantly increased and RS could no longer afford to live there. RS sought the assistance of our IL Housing Advocate to conduct a housing search. With assistance RS found an apartment unit after a 6 month search. The problem was that he had one month of lease left at his old unit that he would have to pay to avoid a "nonpayment of rent" on his rental history. Through the Housing & Tenancy Program grant, we were able to help RS with that last month's rent at his old complex keeping his history clean. We were also able to help RS with some household goods as his previous apartment had been infested with bedbugs necessitating the disposal of his possessions.

NNCIL has elected to continue to provide the housing and tenancy support service. To date, we have received 12 more referrals from the Reno Housing Authority. We will be recommending that our Board reallocate a portion of our general fund assist 5-10 individuals in our next fiscal year.