

# **PHASE III – Individual Case Studies**

**Examination of the Costs of Homelessness and Issues  
Related to Determining the Cost-Effectiveness of  
Supportive Services and Housing in Washoe County, NV**

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**Prepared for:**

Washoe County

**Prepared by:**

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- € Individuals expressed desire for 1 place to register their homeless status and to receive "triage evaluation, referrals, and be assigned to 1 overall case manager as support".
  - € Individuals need a centralized site for personal storage, a mail box, and to receive phone messages in order to secure jobs.
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make the monthly rent payments. He states this is his only episode of being

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transportation. Transportation was identified as a large financial burden for Don. Prior to November, 2006 he was able to keep a vehicle and make the scheduled payments, but now relies on the public bus system.

sche26 Tw(Child support is also identified as a )Tj14.36 0 TD-.0001 Tw(financial burden. He

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us make it as fun as we can for the kids...like a sleepover. The church people are so nice, giving, and gracious.” He discussed how this arrangement is more secure for his family than being homeless and depending on friends for a “place to stay.”

HUD and Reno Housing Authority (RHA). Don applied in July, 2006 for RHA subsidized housing. However, he states that his previous landlord of two years, was contacted as a reference and asked if he was a good tenant and reliable to pay the rent. Since the reason he lost his residence was that he couldn't continue paying the rent, the landlord said no, but he would have him as a tenant again when he had a





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Transportation.Transportation for the children to get them back and forth to school has been a great challenge. Initially, Don had a vehicle, but that proved to be a barrier for the children to get supplemental transportation. He investigated programs such as the Children in Transition (CIT) for transportation for the children, but since he had a vehicle, he was told they could not assist the family. Yet, he felt frustrated when he asked why and no one could explain the rules and system to him. But when he lost the vehicle in November due to his inability to continue making the payments, he was able to get CIT transportation support. For two weeks, the children were transported in a van from their schools to Family Promise, and then a bus schedule was worked out for them all. Don described this challenge as, “very frustrating to realize that wh

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head of household. "It is so hard being a single homeless father in Nevada! I've talked with volunteer lawyers about how bad father's rights are.....I didn't know until I was the single homeless father that needs help! If things were reversed and my ex was the single parent trying to get help, divorced, and child custody she would pay \$250. But my costs are

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Permanent affordable residence. “Getting our own place is a priority now, and that will keep our family together and stable.” He spoke of helping other homeless families in the future because, “I have learned so much on my own about all of this and could help others.”

Hope for the future and faith in God. Don identified his personal philosophy of life, the helping actions of strangers, and his belief in God as foundations for his hope for his family to leave their homeless status. “There are people who are willing to do something nice for us just because they want to, and that is what gives me hope to plug away. I have patience and faith, ‘OK, God, give me courage to move forward.’”

***Participant Two: “Mark,” Single Male and Recent Washoe***

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He can't identify anyone he could contact for any further support or that would want to help him.

### **Financial Status**

Mark has no type of income at this time, and has not maintained any routine

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rough.....they know that some of us do see the glass as ½ full and that we aren't always this way.” He said that about 70% of his time in the past four years has been associated with this cent



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## ***Participant Three: "James," An Elderly Individual***

### **Background**

James volunteered as a participant while he was checking into the MDIC in order to "get a bed tonight because it is so cold." James is a 68 year old Caucasian man who walks with a cane, and states he has been homeless "this time for about 5 months." He states he just returned to Reno yesterday after a couple of weeks living with a friend in a Las Vegas half-way house. "That was a mistake, and I am back in Reno where it is better for me." James is a Viet Nam veteran (82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne with 38 jumps!) and a retired conductor from the Pennsylvania Rail Road, and then as a welder. He states that his physical health is good except for arthritis and scoliosis. However, he did say that walking can be hard and that "I used to have an automatic chair I could use, but it has been broken for weeks and is in a shop. I am doing pretty good anyway." He denies taking any medications, except

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Washoe County Senior Services. James states that he usually eats lunch at



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is a semi-skilled laborer and was told by people he met in Salt Lake City that Reno has better opportunities than other states. Jason is registered in "Casual Labor and three other temporary employment agencies".

### **Financial Status**

Jason said "I work for what money I get!" He is proud of his "flexibility and willing to work attitude." However, he said that earning \$8/hour is "getting harder to survive" because jobs are slowing down. He keeps all of his possessions with him in a back pack because he can't afford any storage spaces. Currently, he does not earn enough money on a consistent basis to look for a permanent residence. His priorities for his earni



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them you live on the streets or in a shelter." He said he wished there was a place in town where you could register

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Street on her way to check in for the night. The interview took place on a curb in the parking lot of the RSGM, so she could "stay outside while the



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***Participant Six: "Candace," Single Woman Previously Homeless and a Current Homeless Agency Staff Member***

**Background**

Candace is a single, 37 year old ethnic minority woman who experienced being homeless in Washoe County "several years ago." She is now employed as a staff person who works with homeless persons in a local service agency, but wanted to share her experiences for the study. She states she had one episode of being homeless after losing her job in a casino and ending up on the streets due to drug use and gambling. Her drug of choice



