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CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA – As of January 1, Willis Dady Homeless Services is able to offer small amounts of limited financial assistance for apartment rental fees and security deposits for those who qualify based on need.

The program is called Rapid Re-Housing. Willis Dady received funding for this program from a state and federally funded grant.

“Imagine losing your job, depleting your bank account and being evicted,” says Phoebe Trepp, executive director. “You then arrive at an emergency shelter where you receive support to find new housing and look for a job. But what a shock to realize the expense of moving into your new housing: Rental application fees, security deposit, first (and sometimes second) month’s rent,” said Phoebe Trepp, executive director.

“This is a challenge faced by many individuals and families who are striving to leave homelessness. Saving up the money for these necessary expenses can lengthen homelessness and delay reaching stability.

Rapid Re-Housing provides limited, short-term financial assistance with one-on-one case management in the early months of new housing. This helps clients get back to normal sooner. Rapid Re-Housing shortens the trauma of homelessness and gives clients support to get back on their feet. By getting people out of shelter faster, it makes room for new clients who are experiencing homelessness.

“Not every client needs this assistance, but for those who do, it makes a difference,” says Trepp. “Moving out of shelter and into housing quickly is essential for them to begin rebuilding their lives and contributing to our community. We are excited to be able to offer this service.”

Historically, Willis Dady clients have been able to access Rapid Re-Housing dollars from other agencies in Linn County, including Waypoint and HACAP.

Willis Dady Homeless Services was founded in 1987. Its mission is to provide shelter and prevention services to the homeless and near-homeless with the vision of empowering clients to break the cycle of homelessness and become self-sufficient.

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