

Provide a summary of the public comments regarding this substantial amendment. Include a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons for non-acceptance.

**Response:** A public hearing was conducted on April 29, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. at 2020 Hampton Street, County Council Chambers, Columbia, South Carolina. There were 14 attendees at the Public Hearing. Some of the comments made during the discussion or feedback section of the hearing were:

- The consensus appeared to be that the attendees want to see a large percentage of funds being directed to prevention of homelessness.
- Collaboration piece important for legal, financial, etc. Suggested a “one-stop” to have Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing located at the same place. Center Place was a one-stop place to go to for services years ago, but this program no longer exists in Richland County.
- Legal services is an integral piece for eviction defense (i.e., to work out private evictions and negotiate with landlords). The role of legal service is to have a network to assist with other needs that may create crisis. Other legal assistance would include domestic violence; expungement (i.e., erasing an arrest or conviction on criminal record; driver’s license issues and other support legal services). There should be stabilization of clients by providing direct client services. This would include working with landlord and educating client on legal rights.
- Emphasized the importance of a holistic approach.
- Be sure that the benefits last past the funding period of three (3) years.
- Emphasized counseling as an integral piece in assisting those at risk or homeless. Homelessness involves other unmet needs such as physical, economic and social. Therefore, there is an impact of stress from other entities including credit card debt; unemployment; other financial issues, etc.
- A plan to address long term assistance when housing is not affordable.
- Ensuring that CoC also addresses the needs of the working poor.