

# Barrier Busters Network

Barrier Busters is a group of over 50 social service provider agencies that are committed to increasing their communication and coordination, and improving services for Washtenaw County residents in need. Each member agency identifies at least one point of contact (their “Barrier Buster”) and facilitates case management between member agencies. Member agencies also have access to the Barrier Busters Emergency Unmet Needs Fund, which is a collection of 14 public and private funds that provides direct service providers with access to emergency assistance funds on behalf of their clients. This community fund provides agencies with a more efficient way to prevent evictions and utility shut-offs, and assist with other emergency costs that threaten Washtenaw County residents’ housing and financial stability.



## A Current Snapshot of the Program

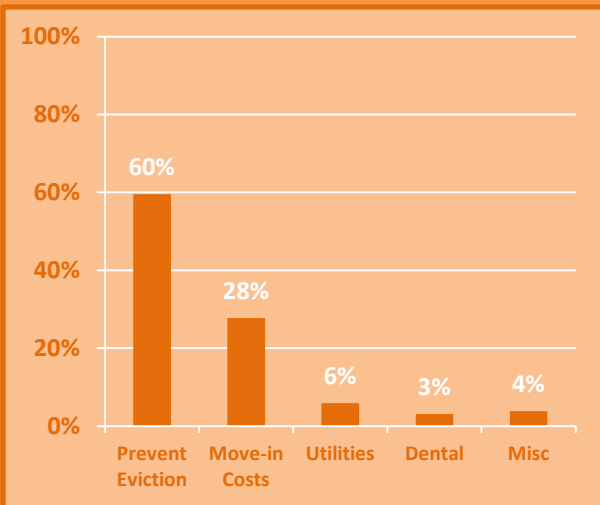


Figure 1. 2012 Funding Percentages, by Request Type

2012 Barrier Busters Funding

**\$312,209**

2012 Barrier Busters Requests

**390**

In 2012, Barrier Busters made over \$300,000 in payments to third parties, the vast majority of which prevented evictions by covering the cost of rent (see Figure 1).

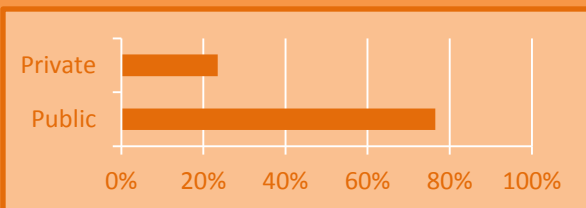


Figure 2. 2012 Funding Percentages, by Sector

In 2012, over one-third of all Barrier Busters requests and almost 50 percent of all Barrier Busters interventions were funded by Washtenaw County (see Figure 3). In total, public sector funding accounted for over three-fourths of Barrier Buster payments (see Figure 4).

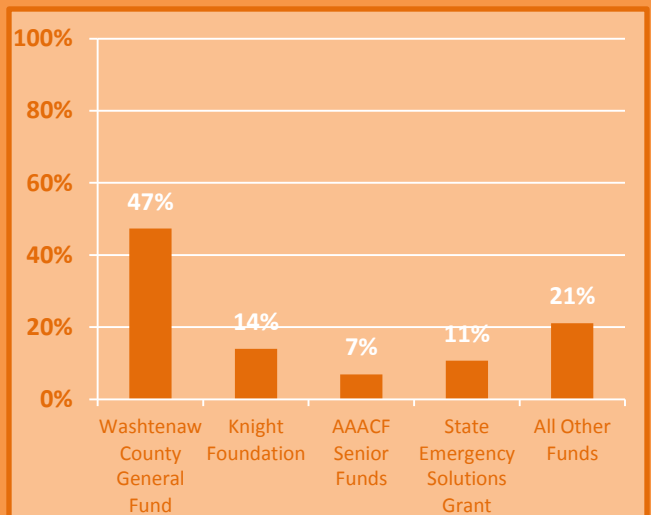


Figure 3. 2012 Funding Percentages, by Source

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## The Face Behind a Barrier Buster Request

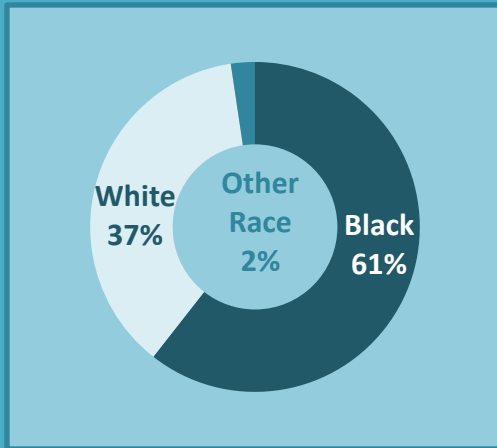


Figure 3. 2012 Request Percentages, by Race

Average Annual Household  
Income of Recipients, 2012

**\$10,586**

In 2012, 61 percent of Barrier Buster payments were made to black or African-American households (see Figure 3) even though over 60 percent of County residents in poverty are white.

Three-fourths of all Barrier Busters funding was distributed to residents in Ypsilanti (see Figure 4), and two-thirds of all requests are made for women (see Figure 5).

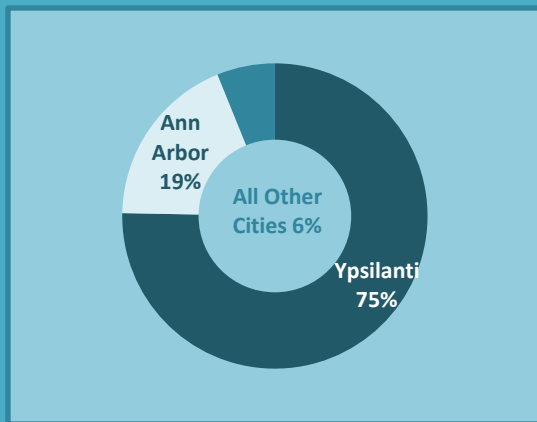


Figure 4. 2012 Funding Percentages, by Resident Location

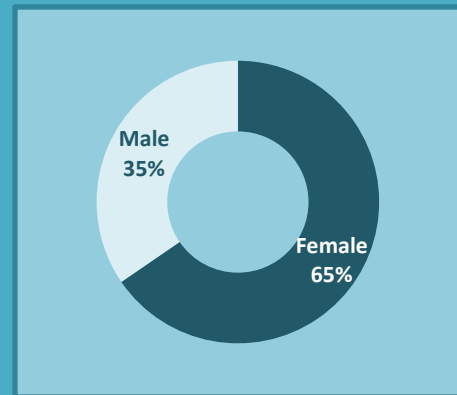


Figure 5. 2012 Request Percentages, by Gender

## Barrier Buster Requests Are Showing Lasting Results

Barrier Buster assistance provides the one-time emergency support that allows County residents to remain stably and safely housed. In 2012, almost three-fourths of the households that received housing assistance were still current on their payments six months later (see Figure 6). Of the households that requested utility assistance, 84 percent were still current six months later (see Figure 6). Barrier Busters continues to prove itself as a successful prevention program for Washtenaw County residents.

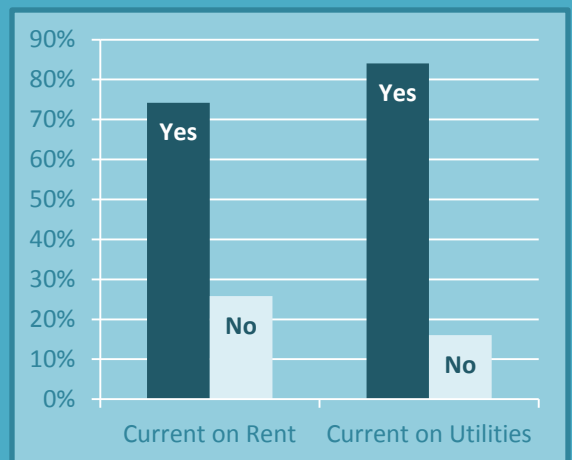


Figure 6. 2012 6-Month Outcome Percentages