

Barrier Busters Network

Founded in 2004, Barrier Busters is a group of over 60 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 10 public and private funds that provide 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 homelessness 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

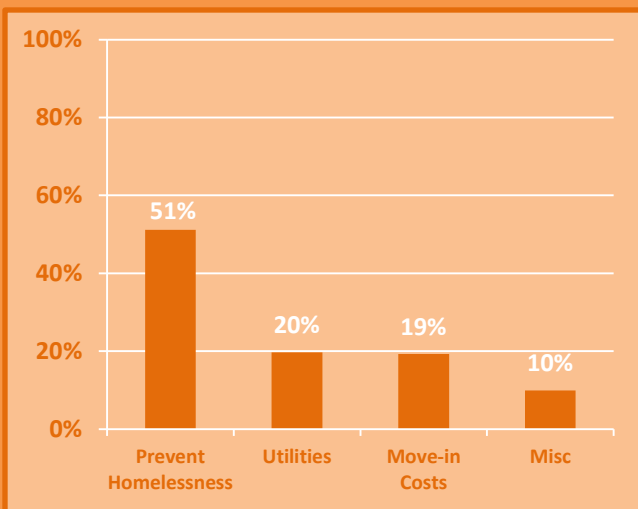


Figure 1. 2013 Funding Percentages, by Request Type

2013 Barrier Busters Funding

\$253,588

2013 Barrier Busters Requests

327

In 2013, Barrier Busters made over \$250,000 in payments to third parties, the majority of which prevented homelessness by covering the cost of rent (see Figure 1).

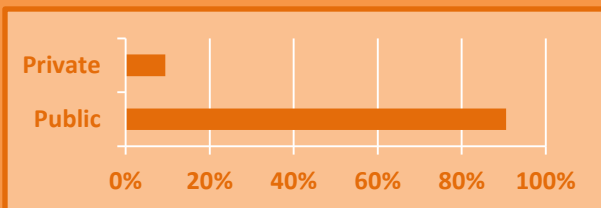


Figure 2. 2013 Funding Percentages, by Sector

In 2013, over one-third of all Barrier Busters requests and almost 50 percent of all Barrier Busters payments were funded by Washtenaw County (see Figure 3). In total, public sector funding accounted for over 90 percent of Barrier Buster payments (see Figure 2).

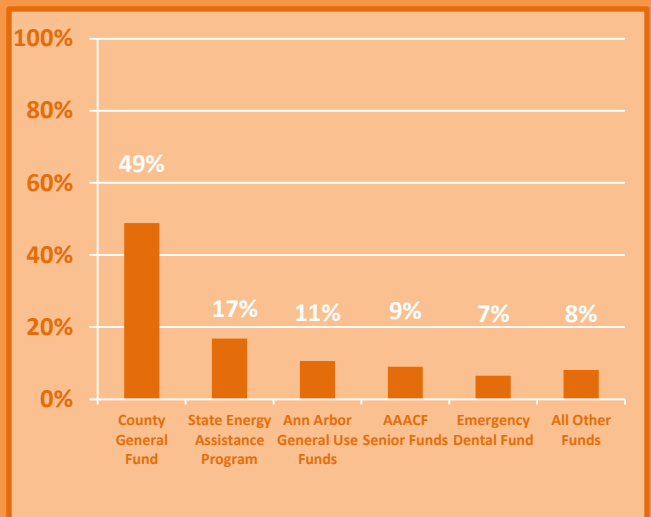


Figure 3. 2013 Funding Percentages, by Source

Barrier Busters Network

The Face Behind a Barrier Buster Request

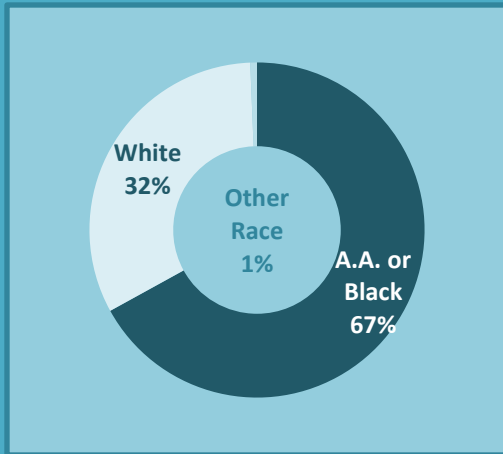


Figure 4. 2013 Request Percentages, by Race

Average Annual Household
Income of Recipients, 2013

\$12,446

In 2013, two-thirds of Barrier Buster payments were made to African-American or black households (see Figure 4) even though over 58 percent of County residents in poverty are white.

Two-thirds of all Barrier Busters funding was distributed to residents in Ypsilanti (see Figure 5), and almost three-fourths of all requests were made for women (see Figure 6).

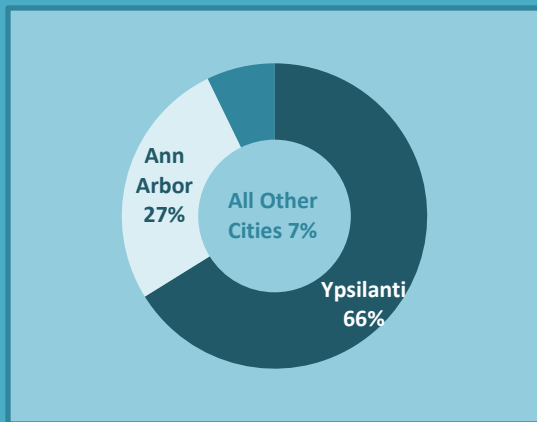


Figure 5. 2013 Funding Percentages, by Resident Location

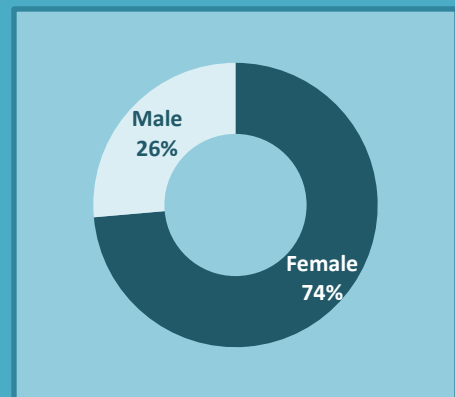


Figure 6. 2013 Request Percentages, by Gender

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 2013, 70 percent of the households that received housing assistance were still current on their payments six months later (see Figure 7). Of all households that requested assistance, 74 percent were still current on their utilities six months later (see Figure 7). Barrier Busters continues to prove itself as a successful prevention program for Washtenaw County residents.

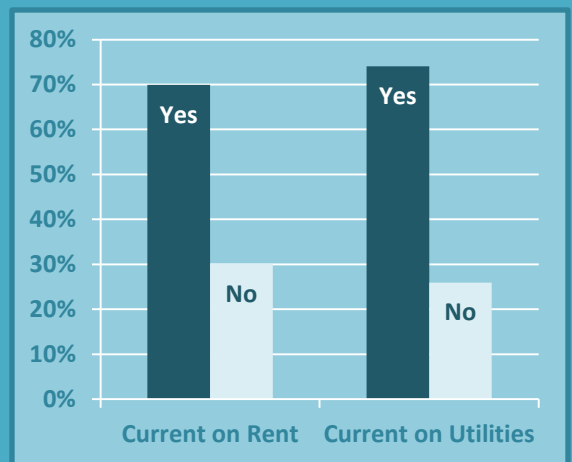


Figure 7. 2012 6-Month Outcome Percentages