

# HOUSING

## HRSA Description (10-22-2018)

*Housing* provides transitional, short-term, or emergency housing assistance to enable a client or family to gain or maintain outpatient/ambulatory health services and treatment, including temporary assistance necessary to prevent homelessness and to gain or maintain access to medical care. Activities within the Housing category must also include the development of an individualized housing plan, updated annually, to guide the client's linkage to permanent housing. Housing may provide some type of core medical (e.g., mental health services) or support services (e.g., residential substance use disorder services).

Housing activities also include housing referral services, including assessment, search, placement, and housing advocacy services on behalf of the eligible client, as well as fees associated with these activities.

## HRSA Program Guidance

HRSA RWHAP recipients and subrecipients that use funds to provide Housing must have mechanisms in place to assess and document the housing status and housing service needs of new clients, and at least annually for existing clients.

HRSA RWHAP recipients and subrecipients, along with local decision-making planning bodies, are strongly encouraged to institute duration limits to housing activities. HRSA HAB recommends recipients and subrecipients align duration limits with those definitions used by other housing programs, such as those administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which currently uses 24 months for transitional housing.

Housing activities cannot be in the form of direct cash payments to clients and cannot be used for mortgage payments or rental deposits<sup>1</sup>, although these may be allowable costs under the HUD Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS grant awards.

Housing, as described here, replaces PCN 11-01.

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<sup>1</sup> See sections 2604(i), 2612(f), 2651(b), and 2671(a) of the Public Health Service Act.

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## Qualifications

Competencies, Knowledge, and Skills	Evaluation/Documentation
<p>Staff persons should demonstrate competency, knowledge and skills in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ability to assess income, expenses and need, and to develop a permanent housing plan with the client;</li><li>• Ability to develop/review a budget with a client;</li><li>• Knowledge of local resources for case management services;</li><li>• Competency in delivering services to special populations including but not limited to: families, youth, transgender individuals, sexual minorities, and undocumented individuals; and</li><li>• Knowledge of housing providers</li></ul>	<p>Demonstrated competencies, knowledge and skills must be available upon request (e.g. participation in training, formal supervisory review, direct observation, case review, etc.)</p> <p>Documentation of housing referrals and outcomes; annual assessment; written housing plan that is updated annually and indicates if the client attained permanent housing</p>
<p>The agency has a procedure to protect client confidentiality when making payments for assistance, (e.g. checks that do not identify the agency as an HIV/AIDS agency).</p>	<p>Agency policy is available upon request</p>