

HOUSING

HRSA Description (2-1-2016)

Housing services provide transitional, short-term, or emergency housing assistance to enable a client or family to gain or maintain outpatient/ambulatory health services and treatment. Housing services include housing referral services and transitional, short-term, or emergency housing assistance.

Transitional, short-term, or emergency housing provides temporary assistance necessary to prevent homelessness and to gain or maintain access to medical care. Housing services must also include the development of an individualized housing plan, updated annually, to guide the client's linkage to permanent housing. Housing services also can include housing referral services: assessment, search, placement, and advocacy services; as well as fees associated with these services.

Eligible housing can include either housing that:

- Provides some type of core medical or support services (such as residential substance use disorder services or mental health services, residential foster care, or assisted living residential services); or
- Does not provide direct medical or support services, but is essential for a client or family to gain or maintain access to and compliance with HIV-related outpatient/ambulatory health services and treatment. The necessity of housing services for the purposes of medical care must be documented.

Key Service Components

The purpose of Housing Services is to provide clients with safe and secure housing that will enable them to enroll in and/or maintain participation in medical care while a long-term housing placement plan is developed and implemented.

RWHAP recipients and sub-recipients must:

- Have mechanisms in place to allow newly identified clients access to housing services;
- Assess every client's housing needs at least annually to determine the need for new or additional services;
- Develop an individualized housing plan for each client receiving housing services and update it annually; and
- Provide HAB with a copy of the individualized written housing plan upon request.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines transitional housing as up to 24 months.

Housing services funds cannot be in the form of direct cash payments to clients and cannot be used for mortgage payments.

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Qualifications

| Competencies, Knowledge and Skills | Evaluation/Documentation |
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| <p>Staff persons should demonstrate competency, knowledge and skills in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ability to assess income, expenses and need, and to develop a permanent housing plan with the client;• Ability to develop/review a budget with a client;• Knowledge of local resources for case management services;• Competency in delivering services to special populations including but not limited to: families, youth, transgender individuals, sexual minorities, and undocumented individuals; and• Knowledge of housing providers | <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> |