

Department of Housing

Housing and Homeless Services Program Listing

Emergency Shelter Services (ESS) – ESS provides housing services to persons that are literally homeless. ESS also provides case management services to homeless individuals, at least 18 years old or emancipated minors, and families. The ESS is a facility that meets the basic needs for food and shelter on an emergency and short-term basis. All services provided through the ESS shall be in accordance with C.G.S. §8-359a and also shall comply with the following provisions: Clients may not be denied services due to inability to pay a fee, nor may they be denied access to shelter for anything unless they pose a safety threat to themselves, other residents or staff. The Emergency Shelter will only take Clients in for intake and an emergency shelter bed by working with the Coordinated Access Network. All shelter discharges that may result in the Client continuing the homeless episode must be brought to the CAN for discussion and case conferencing for alternate solutions.

Housing for Persons with HIV/AIDS

The Department of Housing provides grants to house people with AIDS and provides grants for their operation. The HIV/AIDS Scattered Site Housing Program (SSHP) provides individual apartments with subsidy, or without subsidy. Clients are fairly independent, able to manage their activities of daily living (ADLs), and need some daily support and structure. Support Services may not exceed \$7,500 per household.

Rapid Rehousing (RRH) to help individuals or families living in shelters or in places not meant for human habitation move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing. Eligible costs also include utilities, rental application fees, security deposits, last month's rent, utility deposits and payments, moving costs, housing search and placement, housing stability case management, landlord-tenant mediation, tenant legal services, and credit repair.

Coordinated Access Networks (CAN)/HUBS DOH has implemented networks of community providers across the state to work with households experiencing homelessness. These networks form a statewide system for accessible, standardized, assessment and referral processes to community resources within 8 geographic regions for people experiencing a housing crisis or homelessness. To begin this process households must call 2-1-1 and dial #3 and #1 to speak to a contact specialist trained to assess for individual and family needs to prevent the need for emergency shelter. If a 2-1-1 contact specialist is unable to identify resources, an individual or family will be offered a CAN assessment appointment in a community of their choice. During the local CAN assessment, staff will again attempt to identify resources to divert individuals or families from shelter. If diversion from shelter is not an option, the individual or family will be placed on a shelter wait list if a shelter bed is not immediately available. CT is not a right to shelter state. Emergency shelter beds are not guaranteed. Completing a CAN assessment is not a guarantee of housing resources. The purpose of the CAN assessment is to identify an individual or family's needs to resolve their housing crisis. If a household is assessed and prioritized with a high need for housing with multiple barriers to acquiring housing on their own, the CAN community providers will include the household on the prioritized waiting list for housing. Housing resources available through the CAN are prioritized for individuals and families who meet the literal homeless definition of the federal government's Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Shelter Diversion (DIV) Shelter diversion is a strategy that prevents homelessness for people seeking shelter by helping them identify immediate alternate housing arrangements and, if necessary, connecting them with services and financial assistance to help them return to permanent housing. Shelter diversion

programs can reduce the number of households becoming homeless, the demand for shelter beds, and the size of program wait lists. Shelter diversion is distinct from homelessness prevention in that diversion efforts occur at the front door of shelter – when a household is seeking emergency shelter. Experience across the United States indicates that even at this point, households may have immediate housing options available to them. The goal of shelter diversion is to work with these families to explore all possible options. This strategy enables communities to reserve scarce emergency shelter units for those families who truly have no alternative to shelter.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) PSH services shall connect Clients who are homeless to housing, clinical, medical, social, educational, rehabilitative, vocational/employment and other services essential to achieving optimal quality of life and community living, based on an individual needs assessment. Services and supports shall be voluntary and available to individuals at the level of intensity needed and for as long as required.

Youth Transitional Living (YTLP) Contractors will provide YTLP, which is defined as a multi-family or single room residency program with intensive support services for homeless youth (18-24 years old at time of program entry) and/or families with the head of household aged between 18 to 24 years old at time of program entry. Clients may remain in the program for up to 2 years. The focus is to assist Clients with developing the skills and supports needed to quickly transition to independent living. Support services may include but are not limited to: case management services and other activities provided to assist Clients in gaining self-sufficiency and moving into permanent housing.

Homeless Street Outreach Activities designed to meet the immediate needs of unsheltered homeless people by connecting them with emergency shelter, housing, and/or critical health services. This may include, but is not limited to, mental health services, substance abuse treatment, medical care, financial assistance, child care, or employment services.

Security Deposit Guarantee Program

The Security Deposit Guarantee Program provides a guarantee to landlords of up to two month's rent instead of an actual payment. This program is available only to individuals and families that are chronically homeless and meet program criteria. DOH will guarantee payment of the signed agreed-upon, security deposit, in part or in whole, if the tenant moves out of the apartment and there is any damage caused by the tenant which requires repair, or if the tenant owes back rent.

Rental Assistance Program (RAP)

The State of Connecticut Department of Housing Rental Assistance Program is the primary state-supported program for assisting very-low-income families to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. Much like the federal Housing Choice Voucher program, RAP provides a portable rental assistance subsidy, which allows a tenant to move from one rental unit to another provided the unit meets program requirements. Participants that are issued a housing voucher are responsible for finding a suitable housing unit of the participant's choice where the owner agrees to rent under the program. Participants are able to select their own housing, including apartments, townhouses, and single-family homes. Rental units must meet minimum standards of quality and safety as defined by the State of Connecticut, which has adopted the federal Housing Quality Standards (HQS) as established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Participants pay 40% of their adjusted gross income (or 30% of adjusted gross income if the participant is elderly or disabled) toward the rent and the DOH rental subsidy (RAP) pays the remainder of the contract rent directly to the landlord. Currently over 6500 households utilize RAP certificates throughout the state.

DOH adheres to the State of Connecticut Administrative Plan for the Rental Assistance Program. The administrative plan is mandated by State Regulations, Section 17b-812 and is updated annually by the DOH.

The State of Connecticut realizes that finding affordable housing for clients of other state agencies is important to their success. Without affordable housing, clients of the Departments of Children and Families, Developmental Disabilities, Mental Health and Addiction Services and Social Services may be placed in inappropriate higher cost living situations that do not benefit the clients or the state. As a result, the State of Connecticut has created nine specialized housing programs that utilize Rental Assistance Program certificates and are managed by DOH. DOH accounts for each type of RAP separately and allocates funding in accordance with legislative mandate. The partnerships and programs are listed below.