

# FAMILY HOMELESSNESS SYSTEM

## REFINED PROGRAM MODELS

### Refined Model: Emergency Shelter

A crisis response for families experiencing homelessness, where emphasis is placed on rapid exit to permanent housing. The intervention is intended to provide a direct exit into appropriate permanent housing without moving families through a succession of programs. Families reside in shelter for the minimum time necessary to access appropriate housing. Focus is on rapid housing access and exit from homelessness. The support services in this model emphasize housing attainment through a housing-focused assessment and housing stability planning. Supports are person-centered and tailored to the individual goals of each family. Appropriate staffing levels to accommodate population and lowered screening criteria.

- HUD Definition of Homelessness
- Prioritization for families sleeping in places not meant for human habitation

**Average Length of Stay:** 30 days

**Exit directly to housing without additional program referral:** 10% of clients

**Remaining clients:** 90% of clients

- **Permanent Housing**
  - 75-85% Rapid Re-Housing & Permanent Affordable Housing w. tenant services for homeless families
  - 5-10% Permanent Supportive Housing
- **Transitional Housing** 10-15%

### Refined Model: Rapid Re-Housing Program

A short-term intervention for families experiencing homelessness. Services emphasize immediate efforts to address housing attainment, utilizing the minimum assistance needed to resolve each family's immediate housing crisis. Housing and employment navigation services begin in shelter and are coordinated with each family by shelter, rapid re-housing, and employment navigator staff. Once a family moves into permanent housing, short-term rental assistance (or subsidy for programs utilizing a transition-in-place, graduated rent structure approach) is provided for up to three months. Utilizing a Progressive Engagement approach, the necessity for assistance is assessed on a month to month basis, but for no longer than 12 months. All services are person-centered and tailored to the individual needs of each family.

- HUD Definition of Homelessness.
- Families residing in shelter and on the FHC Placement Roster.
- All families are eligible (focus on families with a FHC Housing Assessment score of 1), including families eligible for transitional housing or permanent housing with supports (family choice).

**Average Length of Assistance:** RRH clients will move to permanent housing within 30 days of entering shelter; average length of assistance/financial support 6 months

**Movement to other Homeless Housing Programs:** 5-10%

**Retain Permanent Housing at Exit:** 85%

## Refined Model: Transitional Housing

This intervention intended to provide assistance to families within specific, targeted populations who need more intensive or deeper levels of support services. Emphasis is still placed on rapid exit to permanent housing, but lengths of stay are flexible and tailored to the unique needs of each family. Support services in this model continue to emphasize housing attainment through a housing-focused assessment and housing stability planning. The goal is for families to be in transitional housing for the least amount of time necessary to access appropriate permanent housing. Supports are person-centered and tailored to the individual goals of each family. Programs should also demonstrate capacity and specialization in serving the specific, targeted populations.

- HUD Definition of Homelessness
- Families in life stage transition or repeat homeless episodes that do not need PSH **and** have barriers to rapidly accessing housing (minimum FHC Housing Assessment score of 2). This may include the following subpopulations that also meet the above criteria:
  - Very young families with children under 5
  - Persons in early recovery
  - Domestic Violence survivors
  - Recent immigrants
- Minimize additional screening criteria beyond eligibility related to target population.

**Average Length of Stay:** <12 months (system average not program “standard”)

**Exiting to Permanent Housing: 80-90%**

This may include:

- Market rate housing
- Permanent shared living situations
- Subsidized housing
- Permanent Supportive Housing: <5%

**Minimize exits to all other destinations.**

## Refined Model: Permanent Supportive Housing

Permanent housing for a household that is homeless and has a condition or disability, such as mental illness, substance abuse, chronic health issues, or other conditions that create multiple and serious ongoing barriers to housing stability. Households have a long-term need for housing stabilization services in order to meet the obligations of tenancy and maintain their housing. Tenants have access to a flexible array of comprehensive services, mostly on site, such as medical and wellness, mental health, substance abuse, vocational/employment, and life skills. Services are available and encouraged but are not to be required as a condition of tenancy. There is ongoing communication and coordination between supportive service providers, property owners or managers, and/or housing subsidy programs.

- HUD Definition of Homelessness
- Families with barriers to rapidly accessing housing (minimum FHC Housing Assessment score of 2 or 3), **and** have a persistent, disabling condition **and/or** have had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.
- Families residing in McKinney Permanent Supportive Housing programs must meet the HUD threshold.

**Average Length of Stay:** Permanent housing

## Refined Model: Permanent Affordable Housing – for homeless families

Permanent affordable housing with tenant services for homeless families with barriers to increasing and/or sustaining sufficient income to maintain independent housing. Like Rapid Re-Housing, emphasis is placed on rapid placement into this model from shelter (or homelessness) to support families in establishing permanent housing as quickly as possible. Rent obligations remain affordable by an established standard (based on fund sources). Supportive services are not required; however Tenant Services may be made available for families.

### **Tenant Services:**

Supportive services are made available for tenants residing in permanent, affordable housing for formerly homeless households on an as-needed basis. Services are tailored to the unique needs of each tenant and may include assistance in maintaining housing through limited crisis intervention, connections to community resources, and housing counseling. Tenant services are voluntary, light-touch and not meant to be long-term. As possible, programs can utilize tenant services across their portfolio of projects and do not need to be available 24-7 at each site.

- HUD Definition of Homelessness
- Prioritization for families residing in shelters (secondary will be families on the FHC placement roster not in shelter or as a progressive engagement approach from Rapid Re-Housing)
- Prioritization for families with barriers to increasing and/or sustaining sufficient income to maintain independent housing: such as households receiving SSI/SSDI and/or with children or family members with significant health risks. If no families can be identified on the placement roster with these needs, families with an FHC housing assessment score of '1' will be referred.

**Average Length of Stay:** Permanent housing