



DHHS: Housing Supports

The Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) provides assistance and support for individuals and families facing housing challenges through coordination of several programs administered throughout its branches and in collaboration with community partners.

Terms and Definitions

DHHS funding supports housing and homelessness programs that use specific definitions.

Housing First is a philosophy and an evidence-based State mandate. It is a homeless assistance approach that prioritizes providing permanent housing to people experiencing homelessness. After being housed, clients continue to be offered services to help further stabilize. Compliance with services plans is not a requirement to keep housing. California now requires all state-funded programs to follow Housing First principles.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) provides indefinite rental subsidies and supportive services such as case management.

Rapid Re-housing (RRH) provides temporary rental subsidies (24 months or less) and supportive services.

Continuum of Care (CoC): US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s CoC Program promotes community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness through regional planning bodies that coordinate housing and services funding for homeless families and individuals. DHHS is a CoC member.

Humboldt Housing and Homeless Coalition (HHHC): HHHC is Humboldt's CoC and is comprised of several organizations dedicated to ending homelessness. [The HHHC website is at humboldt.gov/HHHC.](http://humboldt.gov/HHHC)

Chronically Homeless as defined by HUD is a single individual (or head of household) with a disabling condition who has either experienced homelessness for longer than a year or experienced homelessness four or more times in the last three years. The full definition is lengthy and there are other potential scenarios.

files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Flowchart-of-HUDs-Definition-of-Chronic-Homelessness.pdf

Coordinated Entry System (CES) is a HUD-requirement used to prioritize households for HUD-funded homeless assistance. Prioritization in this real-time list is based on length of time homeless and severity of service needs. In Humboldt, individuals call 2-1-1 to enroll in the CES.

Housing, Outreach & Mobile Engagement (HOME)

DHHS's HOME Division has three goals: street outreach to persons experiencing homelessness, making DHHS services accessible in remote areas (Mobile Outreach Vehicle; brochure available), and working with customers to find, secure and maintain permanent housing. HOME's housing team works on PSH through HUD for persons with serious mental illness as well as expanded services due to success in working with landlords and assisting clients in obtaining long-term housing.

DHHS Programs for Individuals

Through various funding streams DHHS subsidizes the rent of qualified clients either directly for individual client leases with a landlord and/or through agreements for multiple units in an

apartment building. HUD funded clients must meet HUD's definition of chronic homelessness, among other requirements. The first step for a client that wishes to participate in a HUD-funded program is to enroll in the CES. Currently DHHS administers PSH for chronically homeless persons that meet criteria for specialty mental health services (defined by state law and Medi-Cal), chronically homeless transition-age youth that meet criteria for specialty mental health services, and chronically homeless persons living with HIV/AIDS.

DHHS also operates RRH programs, with shorter rental assistance. DHHS works to transition participants to programs that provide permanent rental subsidies such as Section 8. PSH participants are also transitioned to be able to assist more clients.

The General Relief (GR) program is a county-funded loan program with restrictive income and property limits for indigent adults. GR customers may be eligible for up to two hundred dollars (\$200) homeless deposit to secure permanent housing. Individuals with a disability who have not yet been determined disabled by the Social Security Administration may get housing assistance as well as advocacy services to pursue disability benefits through the Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP). Customers can call 1-877-410-8809 to talk to GR.

DHHS Programs for Families

CalWORKs families (families with minor children in the home receiving cash aid) have many options to receive support to find and remain in safe housing. There is an information sheet specifically on Housing Supports for CalWORKs families; ask for if not already provided. More information can be accessed by calling the DHHS Call Center at 1-877-410-8809.

RCAA's Parents & Children in Transition (PACT) and the Betty Kwan Chinn Homeless Foundation (BKCHF) partner with DHHS to provide services to families experiencing homelessness. PACT provides housing and intensive case management for up to thirteen families referred by CWS, Healthy Moms or CalWORKs for 90 days. BKCHF provides housing and intensive case management for up to ten families referred by the above programs.

Families involved with CWS may have additional housing challenges. Supportive housing services are sometimes provided to help the family achieve safety and stability. The Bringing Families Home program has a housing navigator that helps CWS-involved families find housing through partnerships with landlords and assisting clients with paperwork.

Other Housing Programs

DHHS administers two programs for transition-age youth. The Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP) is for foster and probation youth ages 16-18 years old, who are currently in the child welfare system, provides a safe living environment so youth can practice the skills necessary to live on their own upon leaving the foster care support system. Transitional Housing Placement Program Plus (THP-Plus) provides placement and services to youth ages 18-24 years old who were either emancipated dependents or wards of the court.

DHHS also administers two programs for persons living with HIV or AIDS. Housing Opportunity for People with AIDS (HOPWA) program assesses the housing needs of people living with HIV and provides supportive services with a goal of preventing homelessness. It provides financial assistance with direct housing costs. Project HART provides HUD-funded PSH to persons living with HIV or AIDS. Services include case management assistance with

housing needs. Both HOPWA and Project HART are administered through DHHS Public Health.

Partners in Housing

DHHS has worked with partners who have developed almost 200 new permanent housing units to date, including the Arcata Bay Crossing Housing Project, Bayview Heights and The Lodge in Eureka, Samoa Townhomes and River Bluffs in Rio Dell. The community gets more housing stock, developers get guaranteed rent (funding sources vary by project), and DHHS or other CES clients obtain safe, clean, affordable permanent housing. Current partners include Danco and Rural Communities Housing Development Corporation. DHHS also works with numerous landlords throughout the entire county, and over 60 DHHS clients have PSH or RRH in individual units. A brochure is available for prospective landlords.