
Discussing Housing Options in a RRH Program

DOH

October 2023

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Agenda

Goals of Rapid Re-Housing

Housing Options Overview

Defining Housing Options at initial meeting

- What are the Housing Options?
- Assessing Needs and Goals
- Developing a Housing Plan

Revisiting Housing Options at Month Three

Revisiting Housing Options at Month Six

RRH

Rapid Rehousing (RRH) provides **time-limited** rental assistance in connection with **services** for individuals and families experiencing homelessness to help them to secure **permanent** housing as quickly as possible.

The model described includes three core components: 1) housing location, 2) financial assistance, and 3) case management. RRH is a low-barrier intervention with no preconditions to enrollment other than documentation of homeless status.

*photo from New Haven Register

*description from DOH RRH operations guide



Housing Options

The expectation is that individuals and families will be able to maintain their housing at exit from the program

Many people come into the program with no income and a plan to get a voucher.

- Vouchers are hard to come by and PSH has strict eligibility criteria

Though RRH can go for up to a year most people need to have made progress toward their goal of income within six months usually three months.

This session strives to identify options that are used to house people and identify a process to access the housing



Housing Options



There are housing subsidies available through the PHA which maybe designated for homeless people, there are housing subsidies through the CoC. These subsidies are distributed through the Coordinated Access System and go to people most in need. There are few.

All PHAs have a list of applicants for Housing Choice Vouchers and Housing Authority owned properties. The list is often long though the length differs by area and Housing Authority owned properties often have shorter waiting lists. This is rarely an immediate option.

RAP Vouchers for People with Low incomes

<https://portal.ct.gov/DOH/DOH/Additional-program-pages/How-to-Apply-for-RAP-and-Section-8>

Low Income Tax Credit Properties: very limited and best to apply when they first open, turnover is low

https://www.lowincomehousing.us/det/brookside-estates7205_hh



Options

- Permanent Supportive Housing: limited supply and for people with a disabling condition who are in need of intensive services to remain in housing. Some units are only for people who qualify as chronically homeless others may not have that requirement. Referrals through coordinated access.
- Rent reasonable apartment subsidized by RRH. Plan must include how individual /family will afford the unit when they exit from the program. Prices often far out of reasonable budgets
- Shared Housing:
 - Bifurcate the unit with each tenant responsible for their portion of the unit. Can be subsidized under RRH. Can be rooming with someone not in the program. They would be responsible for 100% of their portion of the unit rent
 - Family Share: any person or persons can be a family. Everyone's income counts towards the rent. The person in RRH is the head of household. If it does not work, it is difficult to move someone else in. This would allow a single mother or father to live with a family member who may provide support.

Options Continued

Room Rental: Sometimes there are rooms for rent at a lower cost. Sometimes there are multiple rooms in an apartment or house. Costs vary but may be a viable option. Largely through newspaper ads and word of mouth.

Elder Housing: there are senior housing properties in CT. Applications are by project. Info is here:

<https://uwc.211ct.org/residential-options-for-older-adults/>

Sober Houses: <https://soberhousedirectory.com/state/connecticut/>

Rates vary but are generally about \$150 a week. These houses are for people in recovery who want the support of a sober community.



Initial Interview –negotiations start

Describing what RRH is

Do an assessment of housing history, legal, income, employment, health and family

Empathize with unmet goals and the shock they may be experiencing.

Looking for Housing goals:

- What if the goal is a subsidy
 - Explain the program is for up to one year and they will need to subsidy within that time.
 - There are eligibility criteria and prioritization criteria for Vouchers: explain this
 - They can get on the waiting list for Vouchers, and you can help with that, but they will need a back up plan
- What if plan is a job but person has no income and no experience.
 - Talk about how much it will take to maintain an apartment can use rent as 60% of income but explain how much will be left
 - Are there jobs they can access that pay that much, is there training available?
 - Talk about schedules and time.
 - Recognize that as a longer-term goal and offer assistance to connect to that
- **Housing Preferences Work Sheet:** [Link to Housing Preferences Worksheet](#)





Explain again what RRH is – temporary. Gives people a chance to access housing



The first place people live is rarely where they stay – acknowledge long term goals



Introduce other options such as shared housing, rooms, sober houses etc.



How will these options help them reach longer term goals?

Backup planning

Small Groups

What is your assessment of the situation. How would you begin? Keep in mind this can take more than one meeting.

A woman with two children under 4 has come to your program. She wants a house and a subsidy. You explain the options and she cries. This is not what she expected. She wants a house for her children. Now you tell her that is not possible. She has no job, limited experience and no childcare.

A man comes in and he wants supportive housing. He has lived in the shelter for six months. He wants something of his own. He is tired of living like this. He knows you can do this and he will only take his own apartment.

A woman comes in and she has fled a violent household. She can't go back there. She needs something of her own. She wants a subsidy. Hasn't she suffered enough?

Next Steps

This may take more than one meeting

The goal is to make a plan

People may insist on pursuing the employment goal and we support them BUT

We let people know we will reevaluate at three months to look at progress determined by the plan. We need to have a process of what happens when people do not follow the plan

We assertively outreach to people. We problem solve and go with them to job training or job interviews. We debrief the experiences. We renegotiate the plan if necessary, but we stick to the plan.

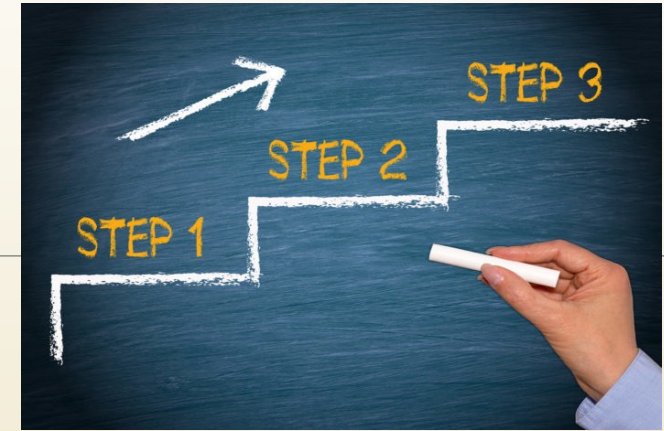
Working with systems to increase opportunities

The plan lays out what the case manager and the tenant will do with timeframes

If people are unable to do this, we reassess.

Review Plan

[CTI Informed Phase Plan](#)



At Three Months



Working the plan on every visit. This should not come as a surprise.

Every tenant understands the process and that this meeting is to gauge progress towards the goal of sustaining housing

Income and expenses are assessed

Options of different housing goals are discussed.

Talk tenant through an alternate plan. You may be able to afford the housing and solve the day care issue by asking a family member to move in. Perhaps they could live with a family member if we advocated for a larger apartment through the PHA. Reflect on long term goals and preferences work sheet.

If the tenant does not respond or is unable to respond, what is the process?

Some programs ask the tenant to meet with a supervisor to discuss revising housing option, path to goal of increasing income, assess the challenge to moving forward, even advocate for an alternate placement based on new information.



Discussion

What do you think?

Is this possible in your program?

What are the advantages in providing this structure?

What are the challenges?

What support do you need in order to make this possible?

Closing

Thank you! Please turn on your cameras to say goodbye

Next Sessions

November 15, 2023 --- Building a Housing Plan

December 20, 2023 ----Working towards Employment

January 17, 2024 -----Resources for Serving People with Mental Illness

February 21, 2024-----Supervisors Session

March 20, 2024 -----Connecting to Resources for a Network of Care