

Breaking the cycle of Homelessness

The Housing Program

Our Housing program represents IHS' growing efforts to ensure that homeless persons transitioned back to housing from its shelters will maintain their housing and not fall back into the cycle of homelessness. The Housing program will focus on housing chronically homeless men and women with disabilities currently residing at the IHS shelters. Many of these men and women have used IHS services for multiple years and have lacked the income and support services to secure and maintain a permanent home.

Through funding provided by HUD, IHS can now augment rent payments made by the tenants to ensure that these individuals meet their lease commitments, while supporting on-going case management services to maintain their housing.



NEED INFORMATION?

Who do I contact to find out more information about IHS' Shelter Plus Care program?

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What Is Shelter Plus Care?

Answers to commonly asked questions about the nation's most successful program for ending homelessness.



What is Shelter Plus Care?

Shelter Plus Care is a federally funded program initiated in 1987 and designed to assist individuals, who are homeless and have a physical and/or mental disability, find and maintain permanent housing for five (5) years.

Who is eligible?

1) Anyone who is homeless and has a documented physical and/or mental disability; 2) and has been chronically homeless for the past 365 days or has had 4 homeless episodes within the last 3 years is eligible.

How is someone referred to the Shelter Plus Program?

A person must be referred by their case manager. The case manager will contact the housing office and request the referral paperwork, which is to be filled out and completed, along with needed documents.

What are the Housing Specialist responsibilities?

The Housing Specialist serves as the primary contact for the landlord/rental manager. The Housing Specialist develops and nurtures relationships that will provide housing opportunities for the program clients. The Housing Specialist works with the client's Case Manager to match the needs of each client with the available rental housing committed to the program.

The Housing Specialist conducts an inspection of each unit to ensure that it meets HUD standards. The Case Manager also works closely with the Landlord and client to ensure all parties are adhering to fair housing practices and other rules and regulations.



What is the role of the Case Manager?

The Case Manager develops a service plan with each client and works to provide long-term supportive services to ensure that the client maintains their housing. The Case Manager makes a minimum of two (2) monthly visits and works with the Housing Specialist to insure that the unit is kept in proper order and the lease requirements are fulfilled.

How is the Client's portion of the rent calculated?

The Housing Specialist uses HUD's formula to determine the client's portion of the monthly rent and security deposit. The Client's portion is equal to 30% of their total income less approved medical expenses.

Why is Shelter Plus Care a good program for a homeless person?

Unlike other housing programs, Shelter Plus Care is a permanent housing program focused on enabling people to live independently within their community with necessary wrap around and on-going supportive services.

What are the goals of the Shelter Plus Care program?

The anticipated outcomes of the housing program are: 1) 90% of participants will remain in housing for at least 6 months; (2) 50% of participants will increase their income within one year; (3) 90% of participants will be involved in treatment, and (4) 90% of participants will experience an increase in their quality of life.



Each year, Shelter Plus Care helps homeless persons find and maintain housing in the U.S.