

CoC Rapid Re-housing Assistance

A. Regulatory Citations

24 CFR 578.7(a)(9)(iii)-(iv)

24 CFR 578.37(a)(1)(ii)

B. HUD Guidance Documents and Resources

- Rapid Re-Housing Brief
www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Rapid-Re-Housing-Brief.pdf
- Rapid Re-Housing Performance Benchmarks and Program Standards
www.endhomelessness.org/library/entry/rapid-re-housing-performance-benchmarks-and-program-standards
- Rapid Re-Housing: ESG vs. CoC
www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Rapid_Re-Housing_ESG_vs_CoC.pdf
- SNAPS in Focus: Rapid Re-Housing as a Model and Best Practice
www.hudexchange.info/news/snaps-in-focus-rapid-re-housing-as-a-model-and-best-practice/

C. Policies and Procedures

a) Background

Rapid Rehousing (RRH) projects are designed to provide flexible programming that will expedite a household's ability to become self-sufficient through time-limited rental subsidy programs. Rapid Re-Housing has been recognized by all federal funders as one of the most critical and cost-effective strategies to end homelessness.

The following section provides guidelines for operating local RRH programs. Although RRH programs are funded under various federal programs with different regulations, these guidelines have been developed with general best practices in mind that can be applied to different programs regardless of their funding source. The overall goal is to ensure consistent program delivery to strengthen our local efforts and to notably reduce Travis County homeless population by providing effective services.

b) Rapid Re-Housing Prioritization

Per 24 CFR part 578.37(a)(1)(ii), CoCs must establish policies and procedures for determining and prioritizing which eligible individuals and families will receive rapid rehousing assistance.

Local RRH programs should adopt and follow our federally mandated CoC Coordinated Assessment (CA) process through which all clients are identified, assessed and triaged. Refer to the Coordinated Assessment chapter for more details on this process.

Rapid re-housing is a Housing First intervention meaning that the primary focus is moving households into housing quickly without preconditions. In other words, programs should not be screening out households based on criteria that are assumed to predict successful

outcomes, such as income, employment, criminal history, mental health history, medical history, or evidence of “motivation.” Additionally, housing first programs do not require sobriety or medication/treatment compliance as a condition of housing condition or detainment.

c) Determining Amount and Duration of Rental Assistance.

Per 24 CFR part 578.37(a)(1)(ii), CoCs must establish standards for determining 1) what percentage or amount of rent each program participant must pay while receiving rapid rehousing assistance, 2) the maximum amount or percentage of rental assistance that a program participant may receive; 3) the maximum number of months that a program participant may receive rental assistance; and 4) the maximum number of times that a program participant may receive rental assistance.

While our CoC is leaving to each program the discretion to set its own caps and conditions related to the amount and duration of rental assistance, local RRH programs should follow the following principles when deciding their standards either at the program or client level:

- *Housing Stability Plan with Exit Strategy:* Program staff should develop with each client a housing plan with the amount and duration or standards for determining the amount or duration of rental assistance each client will receive and a program exit strategy with plans to reduce the client’s financial assistance over time. To do so, program staff should consider the participant’s current or expected income and expenses; other public or private assistance for which the program participant will be eligible and likely to receive; and the relative affordability of available housing in the area.
- *Progressive Engagement:* Program staff should adopt a ‘progressive engagement’ approach, wherein households experiencing homelessness are given a basic level of financial and services supports and ongoing monitoring and periodic reassessment help program staff determine if and when the basic level of assistance should be increased, decreased or discontinued once households enter permanent housing. This crisis-related, lighter-touch (typically six months or less) approach allows financial and staff resources to be directed to as many individuals/households experiencing a housing crisis as possible. At the same time, depending upon funder flexibility, programs should be designed to allow households to return for more assistance if needed.
- Other than the ESG rule stating that the participation period shall not exceed 24 months within three years, local providers have the discretion to determine the maximum number of times assistance may be provided.

D. Other Recommended RRH Standards and Benchmarks

On 9/09/2015, the Membership council adopted the “RRH Community Wide definition” which outlines a series of principles local RRH providers should follow when implementing RRH programs (refer to the Appendix section for a copy of the RRH Community Wide Definition). In addition, local RRH programs should follow all applicable standards and benchmarks as outlined on the [Rapid Re-Housing Performance Benchmarks and Program Standards](#)

document. Specifically, local RRH programs must actively work towards and measure their progress in achieving the goals of:

- 1) Reducing the length of time program participants spend homeless;
- 2) Exiting households to permanent housing, and
- 3) Limiting returns to homelessness within a year of program exit.

Additional desired outcomes for Rapid-Rehousing programs include increasing income during program enrollment, obtaining mainstream benefits.