

# CoC Transitional Housing Assistance

## A. Regulatory Citations

24 CFR 578.7(a)(9)(ii)

24 CFR 578.37(a)(ii)

## B. HUD Guidance Documents and Resources

- SNAPS in Focus: What About Transitional Housing?  
<https://www.hudexchange.info/news/snaps-weekly-focus-what-about-transitional-housing/>
- Recovery Housing Policy Brief  
<https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Recovery-Housing-Policy-Brief.pdf>
- Retooling Transitional Housing  
<http://www.endhomelessness.org/pages/retooling-transitional-housing>
- The Role of Long-Term, Congregate Transitional Housing in Ending Homelessness  
<http://www.endhomelessness.org/library/entry/the-role-of-long-term-congregate-transitional-housing-in-ending-homelessness>

## C. Policies and Procedures

### a) Transitional 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 transitional assistance.

Transitional housing is defined as housing where all program participants have a signed lease or occupancy agreement, the purpose of which is to facilitate the movement of homeless individuals and families into permanent housing within 24 months.

For some time now, HUD has recognized that people who have traditionally been assisted in long-term transitional housing may be served more efficiently in other program models such as Rapid Re-Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing. However, Transitional Housing may still be appropriate for persons who benefit from living in a congregate setting:

- Certain individuals and heads of households struggling with a substance use disorder;
- Individuals in early recovery from a substance use disorder who may desire more intensive support to achieve their recovery goals;

- Survivors of domestic violence or other forms of severe trauma who may benefit from the security and onsite services provided in a congregate setting; and
- Unaccompanied youth, pregnant youth or parenting youth (age 16-24) who are unable to live independently (e.g. unemancipated minors) or who prefer a congregate setting with access to a broad array of wraparound services to other available housing options.

For many years, using HUD funds for transitional housing was the only funding alternative for serving families and individuals that did not need permanent supportive housing. With rapid re-housing now eligible under both the CoC Program and the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program, there is an alternative and promising option for families with low-barriers that need shorter interventions. Rapid re-housing can be done with a lower cost per household – increasing the total number of households that can be served with the same amount of funding. If the majority of households served in a given transitional housing program are families with lower barriers, those programs should consider relocating those households into new rapid re-housing projects for families.

Long-term stays in congregate transitional housing programs should therefore be reserved for those individuals with severe or specific needs who choose transitional housing over other services that would help them more quickly reconnect to permanent housing. Programs serving these populations should have as few barriers as possible to program entry (e.g. sobriety requirements) and to continuation in the program.