

CITY OF PASADENA

EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS

PROGRAM

WRITTEN STANDARDS

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INTRODUCTION

The City of Pasadena (THE CITY) has developed the following standards for providing assistance with Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) funds as required by 24 CFR 576.400 (e). These standards were created in coordination with the Houston/Harris County Continuum of Care which includes Harris County, the City of Houston, Fort Bend County and the City of Pasadena, and Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs funding within the CoC geographic area. They are in accordance with the interim rule for the Emergency Solutions Grants Program released by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on December 4, 2011 and the final rule for the definition of homelessness also released by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on December 4, 2011.

The City of Pasadena expects that the standards will adjust as the THE CITY gains more experience with and collects more data from services provided with the Emergency Solutions Grants program. The Standards serve as the guiding principles for funding programs.

STANDARDS APPLICABLE TO ALL PROGRAM COMPONENTS

ELIGIBLE ESG PROGRAM COMPONENTS

There are four (4) ESG Program Components:

1. Rapid Re-Housing
2. Emergency Shelter,
3. Homelessness Prevention and
4. Street Outreach.

Funds for ESG can be used to support any of the eligible components. The CoC gives priority to funding that supports securing housing options for homeless households and to support the expansion of rapid re-housing.

COORDINATING ASSESSMENT & SERVICES AMONG PROVIDERS

Designate staff members for CoC Provider Input forum: Each agency will assign two representatives to the input forum, where at least one member has decision making capacity for the program. CoC Provider Input Forums will meet quarterly, or more often as required by current CoC policies, where providers give and receive information regarding CoC strategies and policies.

Participate in any standardized training as designated by ESG funders and offered through CoC . The CoC will provide a vetted and standardized training curriculum for all housing stability case managers that will be available for all agencies providing case management for housing based services. The curriculum and standards will be developed as a part of and in partnership with the Continuum of Care Technical Assistance from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. This will focus on the requirements of maintaining stable housing and ensure access to mainstream resources that will provide ongoing, continued and necessary support for households to gain and maintain stable housing.

COORDINATING WITH MAINSTREAM AND TARGETED HOMELESS PROVIDERS

The City of Pasadena expects that every agency that is funded through ESG will coordinate with and access mainstream and other targeted homeless resources. The City of Pasadena will evaluate performance of each provider based on the outcomes achieved toward housing models adopted through the CoC Steering Committee. These outcome measures will be used to evaluate program success annually. The City of Pasadena will use this and other performance metrics to guide funding decisions for ESG funded programs. Required outcomes for each intervention around accessing mainstream resources will match the outcomes approved by the CoC Steering Committee annually.

STANDARDS SPECIFIC TO EMERGENCY SHELTER

ELIGIBILITY: HOMELESS STATUS

Homeless clients entering into the shelter system must meet the HUD criteria for homelessness as either literally homeless (Homeless Category 1), at imminent risk of homelessness (Homeless Category 2), homeless under another federal statute (Homeless Category 3), or fleeing/attempting to flee domestic violence (Homeless Category 4).

For additional details related to the HUD definition of Homeless and applicability to each program component, see Appendix A and Appendix C.

ELIGIBILITY: INTAKE AND ASSESSMENT

Specific to Emergency Shelter,

- Any new client entering into a shelter must also undergo a complete assessment to understand client needs and barriers and match the client to the most appropriate services provider. The standard assessment accounts for length and frequency of homelessness, physical and mental health status, criminal history, veteran status, domestic violence experience, substance abuse conditions and employment history.
- Clients will be prioritized within the emergency shelter system based on need, available resources, and geographic area.
- Emergency shelters are responsible to assess an individual or family's initial need for emergency shelter and must re-assess their need on an ongoing basis to ensure that only those individuals or families with the greatest need receive ESG-funded emergency shelter assistance. Shelters that serve families must serve all eligible families and may not refuse services based on the age of children or the size of the family.

ELIGIBILITY: PRIORITIZATION & REFERRAL POLICIES

Emergency shelters will prioritize individuals/families that:

- Cannot be diverted; and
- Are literally homeless; and
- Can be safely accommodate in the shelter; and
- Not in need of emergency medical or psychiatric services or danger to self or others.

Also note the following:

- Emergency Shelters cannot discriminate per HUD regulations.
- There are no requirements related to ID, income or employment.
- Transgender placement based on gender self-identification.

STANDARDS SPECIFIC TO HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND RAPID RE-HOUSING

ELIGIBILITY: STATUS AS HOMELESS OR AT-RISK OF HOMELESSNESS

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

Individuals/families, who meet the HUD criteria for the following definitions, are eligible for Homelessness Prevention assistance:

- At Risk of Homelessness
- Homeless Category 2: Imminently at-risk of homelessness
- Homeless Category 3: Homeless under other federal statute and
- Homeless Category 4: Fleeing/attempting to flee DV (as long as the individuals/families fleeing or attempting to flee DV are **not** also literally homeless. If the individuals/families are also literally homeless they would actually qualify for rapid re-housing instead. See below.)

Additional eligibility requirements related to Homelessness Prevention include:

- **Proof of residence** within the City of Pasadena service area.
- **Total household income below 30 percent of Area Family Income (AFI)** for the area at initial assessment. Clients must provide documentation of household income, including documentation of unemployment and zero income affidavit for clients without income.

RAPID RE-HOUSING

Individuals/families, who meet the HUD criteria for the following definitions, are eligible for Rapid Re-Housing assistance:

- Homeless Category 1: Literally homeless
- Homeless Category 4: Fleeing/attempting to flee DV (as long as the individuals/families fleeing or attempting to flee DV are **also** literally homeless).

For additional details related to the HUD definition of Homeless and At Risk of Homelessness and applicability of these definitions to each program component, see Appendix A, B and C.

ELIGIBILITY: INTAKE AND ASSESSMENT

All clients must have an initial eligibility assessment and triage for appropriate housing by a specially trained housing assessor. All clients are assessed using housing triage tool in HMIS. The standard assessment accounts for length and frequency of homelessness, physical and mental health status, criminal history, veteran status, domestic violence experience, substance abuse conditions and employment history.

TARGETED POPULATIONS: CLIENT PRIORITIZATION

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

Note that all targeted individuals and families described below have to meet the minimum HUD requirements for eligibility to HP.

RAPID RE-HOUSING

The City of Pasadena may provide assistance to individuals who are currently homeless but not in need of permanent supportive housing as eligible for rapid re-housing. This can include, but is not limited to individuals and households who,

- are first time homeless;
- have few recent episodes of homelessness; or
- are part of a family that is homeless.

It should be noted, rapid re-housing funds are directed to individuals with income or work history and skills that indicate employability.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

DURATION AND AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE

- All clients are assessed to determine initial need and create a budget to outline planned need for assistance.
- Agencies cannot set organizational maximums or minimums but must rely on the CoC wide tools to determine household need.
- Through case management, client files are reviewed monthly to ensure that planned expenditures for the month validate financial assistance request.
- The City of Pasadena expects that households will receive the minimum amount of assistance necessary to stabilize in housing.

Clients cannot exceed 24 months of assistance in a 36 month period.

PARTICIPANT SHARE

Participant share will be determined by use of common assessment and budgeting tools. Clients will participate in the development of their individual housing plan with a case manager based on client goals and shared goals for achieving housing stability. Financial assistance is available for households with zero income.

HOUSING STABILIZATION AND RELOCATION RELATED ASSISTANCE AND SERVICES

REQUIRED SERVICES: CASE MANAGEMENT & CASE LOADS

Homelessness prevention clients must have an initial home visit when first approved for assistance and subsequent house visits with each recertification every three months. It is expected that case managers will conduct office visits with homelessness prevention clients between home visits, at least once per month. Case managers and program managers are encouraged to provide more than the minimum required services through case management.

Case management includes home and office visits determined by client need and supported by the housing plan.

As required by the Continuum of Care Housing Models, case managers are expected to follow up with clients that have successfully exited rapid re-housing case management at a minimum of 30 days after exiting the program. Clients who remain in housing for 90 days after exiting rapid re-housing, identified through HMIS, are categorized as stably housed.

Case management staff must have an updated copy of the Rental Assistance Agreement and ensure that the fiscal agent is informed of any changes to the participant rent share as indicated in the Housing Stabilization Plan.

REQUIRED SERVICES: HOUSING LOCATION SERVICES

Any subrecipient of ESG assistance must also have a dedicated housing navigation and location specialist for households receiving rapid re-housing, rather than the expectation that clients must navigate the system on their own. This specialized position will be dedicated to finding appropriate housing and developing relationships with affordable housing providers. This process facilitated by this position ensures ESG clients have greater housing choice. Housing navigators for rapid re-housing may have expertise based on location and type of housing.

REQUIRED SERVICES: INSPECTION AND LANDLORD AGREEMENT

Any unit that receives financial assistance through rapid re-housing must pass a Housing Quality Standards Inspection as outlined in the ESG regulations. The inspections will be conducted by a qualified agency with expertise in inspection.

Any unit that receives rental assistance payments through rapid re-housing must have an agreement in place between the financial assistance fiscal intermediary and the property. The rental assistance agreement details the terms under which rental assistance will be provided.

INELIGIBLE SERVICES: CREDIT REPAIR AND LEGAL SERVICES

The City of Pasadena will not allow ESG funds to be used for credit repair and legal services to be eligible activities. The City of Pasadena has found limited access to this resource by clients and providers and will instead encourage the use of mainstream service providers and establish them as part of the system of providers with formal relationships.

OPTIONAL SERVICES: SECURITY/UTILITY DEPOSITS

Rental and utility deposits can be included in housing stabilization services as dictated by the housing stabilization plan. Rental and utility deposits can be included in lieu of or in combination with rental assistance for a unit.

Security deposits can cover up to two months of rent.

OPTIONAL SERVICES: RENTAL APPLICATION FEES

The City of Pasadena expects that rapid re-housing navigation and location specialists will work closely with housing providers and establish trusting relationships among landlords in a way that will encourage property owners and managers to waive application fees for rental properties. To that end, application fees can only be provided for one application at a time; but note that this only limits the number of applications that require application fees. Case managers and housing specialists can and should work with clients and landlords to process as many free applications as possible.

ELIGIBILITY: PERIODIC RE-CERTIFICATION

All case managers are required to re-certify clients based on the following schedule. At that time, a case manager may decide to extend, decrease or discontinue providing assistance.

Program Component	Schedule	Re-certification Criteria
Homelessness Prevention	Every 3 months	For both HP and RRH, to continue to receive assistance, clients must <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be at or below 30% AFI AND• lack sufficient resources and support networks necessary to retain housing without ESG assistance. Families are required to provide information on income, assets greater than \$5,000, deductions, and family composition during the annual recertification process.
Rapid Re-Housing	Annually	

STANDARDS SPECIFIC TO STREET OUTREACH

ELIGIBILITY: HOMELESS STATUS

Individuals/families who meet the HUD criteria for the following definitions are eligible for Street Outreach services:

- Homeless Category 1: Literally Homeless
- Homeless Category 4: Fleeing/attempting to flee DV (where the individuals/families also meet the criteria for Category 1)

In addition, individuals and families must be living on the streets or other places not meant for human habitation **and** be unwilling or unable to access services in an emergency shelter.

TARGET POPULATION

Although the homeless population is considered a vulnerable population, street outreach activities should target those who are extremely vulnerable including youth and chronically homeless persons.

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ENGAGEMENT/COLLABORATION

The City of Pasadena requires that agencies conducting street outreach activities must engage with unsheltered homeless persons for the purpose of providing immediate support, intervention or connections with mainstream social service programs. The connection of any unsheltered person to an emergency shelter, supportive housing, and/or referral to social service agencies will serve as immediate support and intervention for housing stabilization or critical services.

Agencies are encouraged to use evidenced based practices for their street outreach efforts; including the Housing First Model that quickly connects individuals to permanent housing in the face of acute barriers to entry into housing programs. Additionally, the agencies will participate in the local Continuum of Care's Street Outreach Workgroup and utilize the Coordinated Access Assessment to identify barriers to housing.

ELIGIBILITY: INTAKE AND ASSESSMENT

The City of Pasadena requires that agencies conducting street outreach activities must provide individuals and families with an assessment and enter data into HMIS or a comparable database for DV providers. The City of Pasadena encourages providers to develop relationships with unsheltered homeless persons that will help connect them with emergency shelter and housing services primarily through a referral to Coordinated Access.

APPENDIX A: HUD DEFINITION FOR HOMELESS

HUD CRITERIA FOR DEFINING HOMELESS	Category 1	Literally Homeless	<p>Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation; • Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs); <u>or</u> • Is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less <u>and</u> who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution
	Category 2	Imminent Risk of Homelessness	<p>Individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance; • No subsequent residence has been identified; <u>and</u> • The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing
	Category 3	Homeless under other Federal statutes	<p>Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are defined as homeless under the other listed federal statutes; • Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing during the 60 days prior to the homeless assistance application; • Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during in the preceding 60 days; <u>and</u> • Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time due to special needs or barriers
	Category 4	Fleeing/ Attempting to Flee DV	<p>Any individual or family who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence; • Has no other residence; <u>and</u> • Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing

APPENDIX B: HUD DEFINITION FOR AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS

HUD CRITERIA FOR DEFINING AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS	Category 1	Individuals and Families	<p>An individual or family who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Has an annual income below <u>30%</u> of median family income for the area; <u>AND</u> (ii) Does not have sufficient resources or support networks immediately available to prevent them from moving to an emergency shelter or another place defined in Category 1 of the “homeless” definition; <u>AND</u> (iii) Meets one of the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Has moved because of economic reasons 2 or more times during the 60 days immediately preceding the application for assistance; <u>OR</u> B. Is living in the home of another because of economic hardship; <u>OR</u> C. Has been notified that their right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated within 21 days after the date of application for assistance; <u>OR</u> D. Lives in a hotel or motel and the cost is not paid for by charitable organizations or by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals; <u>OR</u> E. Lives in an SRO or efficiency apartment unit in which there reside more than 2 persons or lives in a larger housing unit in which there reside more than one and a half persons per room; <u>OR</u> F. Is exiting a publicly funded institution or system of care; <u>OR</u> G. Otherwise lives in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness, as identified in the recipient’s approved Con Plan
	Category 2	Unaccompanied Children and Youth	A child or youth who does not qualify as homeless under the homeless definition, but qualifies as homeless under another Federal statute
	Category 3	Families with Children and Youth	An unaccompanied youth who does not qualify as homeless under the homeless definition, but qualifies as homeless under section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, and the parent(s) or guardian(s) or that child or youth if living with him or her.

APPENDIX C: CROSS WALK OF HUD HOMELESS AND AT RISK DEFINITIONS AND ELIGIBILITY TO ESG PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Eligibility by Component	Emergency Shelter	<p>Individuals and families defined as Homeless under the following categories are eligible for assistance in ES projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: Literally Homeless • Category 2: Imminent Risk of Homeless • Category 3: Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes • Category 4: Fleeing/Attempting to Flee DV
	Rapid Re-Housing	<p>Individuals and families defined as Homeless under the following categories are eligible for assistance in RRH projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: Literally Homeless • Category 4: Fleeing/Attempting to Flee DV (if the individual or family is also literally homeless)
	Homelessness Prevention	<p>Individuals and families defined as Homeless under the following categories are eligible for assistance in HP projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 2: Imminent Risk of Homeless • Category 3: Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes • Category 4: Fleeing/Attempting to Flee DV (if the individual or family is NOT also literally homeless) <p>Individuals and families who are defined as At Risk of Homelessness</p> <p>Additionally, HP projects must only serve individuals and families that have an annual income BELOW 30% AMI</p>

APPENDIX D: ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND PRIORITIZATION TOOL FOR HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION SYSTEM

Eligibility Requirements

All potential clients will be screened for the following:

Income – Only households with income below 30% of the Area Median Income are eligible for Homelessness Prevention services (see Attachment A for income limits)

PLUS

Trigger Crisis – An event has occurred which is expected to result in housing loss within 30 days due to one of the listed reasons (see Attachment B for qualifying trigger crises)

PLUS

No resources or support network to prevent homelessness –No other options are possible for resolving this crisis. “But for this assistance” this household would become literally homeless—staying in a shelter, a car, or another place not meant for human habitation

OR

Unaccompanied children and youth who qualify as homeless under another Federal statute – See Runaway and Homeless Youth Act definition or Documentation for school district certification of homelessness (see Attachment C for other definitions of homelessness)

OR

Families with children or youth who qualify as homeless under another Federal statute –See Runaway and Homeless Youth Act definition or Documentation for school district certification of homelessness (see Attachment C for other definitions of homelessness)

APPENDIX E: EMERGENCY TRANSFER PLAN FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING

Emergency Transfers

[Insert name of ESG Subrecipient or Provider], ESG Provider, is concerned about the safety of its Program Participants who receive rental assistance, and such concern extends to the Program Participants who have experienced domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. In accordance with the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA),¹ ESG Provider allows Program Participants who have experienced domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to request an emergency transfer from the Program Participant's current unit to another unit. The ability to request a transfer is available regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.² The ability of ESG Provider to honor such request for Program Participants currently receiving assistance, however, may depend upon a preliminary determination that the Program Participant is or has experienced domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and on whether ESG Provider has another dwelling unit that is available and is safe to offer the Program Participant for temporary or more permanent occupancy.

¹ Despite the name of this law, VAWA protection is available to all victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

² Housing providers cannot discriminate on the basis of any protected characteristic, including race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability, or age. HUD-assisted and HUD-insured housing must be made available to all otherwise eligible individuals regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.

This plan identifies Program Participants who are eligible for an emergency transfer, the documentation needed to request an emergency transfer, confidentiality protections, how an emergency transfer may occur, and guidance to Program Participants on safety and security. This plan is based on a model emergency transfer plan published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Federal agency that oversees that Emergency Solutions Grants is in compliance with VAWA.

Eligibility for Emergency Transfers

A Program Participant who has experienced domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, as provided in HUD's regulations at 24 CFR part 5, subpart L is eligible for an emergency transfer, if: the Program Participant reasonably believes that there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if the Program Participant remains within the same unit. If the Program Participant has experienced sexual assault, the Program Participant may also be eligible to transfer if the sexual assault occurred on the premises within the 90-calendar-day period preceding a request for an emergency transfer.

A Program Participant requesting an emergency transfer must expressly request the transfer in accordance with the procedures described in this plan.

Program Participants who are not in good standing may still request an emergency transfer if they meet the eligibility requirements in this section.

Emergency Transfer Request Documentation

To request an emergency transfer, the Program Participant shall notify HP's management office and submit a written request for a transfer to [ESG Subrecipient or Provider to insert location].

ESG Provider will provide reasonable accommodations to this policy for individuals with disabilities. The Program Participant's written request for an emergency transfer should include either:

1. A statement expressing that the Program Participant reasonably believes that there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if the Program Participant were to remain in the same dwelling unit assisted under the ESG Provider's program; OR
2. A statement that the tenant was a sexual assault victim and that the sexual assault occurred on the premises during the 90-calendar-day period preceding the tenant's request for an emergency transfer.

ESG Provider must keep records of all requests and outcomes of such requests, which will be reported to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

Confidentiality

The ESG Provider will keep confidential any information that the Program Participant submits in requesting an emergency transfer, and information about the emergency transfer, unless the Program Participant gives ESG Provider written permission to release the information on a time limited basis, or disclosure of the information is required by law or required for use in an eviction proceeding or hearing regarding termination of assistance from the covered program. This includes keeping confidential the new location of the dwelling unit of the Program

Participant, if one is provided, from the person(s) that committed an act(s) of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking against the Program Participant. See the Notice of Occupancy Rights under the Violence Against Women Act For All Program Participants for more information about HP's responsibility to maintain the confidentiality of information related to incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Emergency Transfer Timing and Availability

ESG Provider cannot guarantee that a transfer request will be approved or how long it will take to process a transfer request. ESG Provider will, however, act as quickly as possible to move a Program Participant who is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to another unit, subject to availability and safety of a unit. If a Program Participant reasonably believes a proposed transfer would not be safe, the Program Participant may request a transfer to a different unit. If a unit is available, the transferred Program Participant must agree to abide by the terms and conditions that govern occupancy in the unit to which the Program Participant has been transferred. ESG Provider may be unable to transfer a Program Participant to a particular unit if the Program Participant has not or cannot establish eligibility for that unit.

If ESG Provider has no safe and available units for which a Program Participant who needs an emergency is eligible, ESG Provider will assist the Program Participant in identifying other housing providers who may have safe and available units to which the Program Participant could move. At the Program Participant's request, ESG Provider will also assist Program

Participants in contacting the local organizations offering assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that are attached to this plan.

If ESG Provider assists through project-based rental assistance and if a Program Participant qualifies for an emergency transfer, but a safe unit is not immediately available for an internal emergency transfer, that Program Participant shall have priority over all other applicants for tenant-based rental assistance, utility assistance, and units for which project-based rental assistance is provided.

For families receiving tenant-based rental assistance, the following actions will be taken for the non-transferring family member(s), if the family separates in order to effect an emergency transfer: **[ESG Subrecipient or Provider insert actions here]**.

Safety and Security of Program Participants

Pending processing of the transfer and the actual transfer, if it is approved and occurs, the Program Participant is urged to take all reasonable precautions to be safe.

Program Participants who are or have been victims of domestic violence are encouraged to contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233, or a local domestic violence shelter, for assistance in creating a safety plan. For persons with hearing impairments, that hotline can be accessed by calling 1-800-787-3224 (TTY).

Program Participants who have been victims of sexual assault may call the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network's National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800-656-HOPE, or visit the online hotline at <https://ohl.rainn.org/online/>.

Program Participants who are or have been victims of stalking seeking help may visit the National Center for Victims of Crime's Stalking Resource Center at <https://www.victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/stalking-resource-center>.

For questions regarding VAWA, and/or if you need to move due to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking please contact the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs at 512-475-3800 or 800-475-3800 (Relay Texas 800-735-2989) for assistance in locating other available housing (note, this is not a domestic violence hotline. Depending on your location, the Department may also have a listing of local service providers and advocates who can help you move to a safe and available unit. For more information regarding housing and other laws that may protect or provide additional options for survivors, call the Texas Council on Family Violence Policy Team at: 1-800-525-1978.

Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking Resources

To speak with an advocate and receive confidential support, information and referrals regarding domestic violence 24 hours a day, every day, contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 or, for persons with hearing impairments, 1-800-787-3224 (TTY). You may also visit the Texas Council on Family Violence website for a listing or local domestic violence services providers: http://tcfv.org/service-directory/?wpbdp_view=all_listings.

For confidential support services and referral to a local sexual assault crisis center 24 hours a day, every day, contact RAINN: Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network: Hotline: 1-800-656-HOPE. You may also visit the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault to find local crisis centers: <http://taasa.org/crisis-center-locator/>.

For information regarding stalking visit the National Center for Victims of Crime's Stalking Resource Center at <https://www.victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/stalking-resource-center>.

Victims of a variety of crimes may find referrals by contacting the Victim Connect Resource Center, a project of the NCVC, through calling Victim Connect Helpline: 855-4-VICTIM (855-484-2846) or searching for local providers at <http://victimconnect.org/get-help/connect-directory/>.

Legal Resources

TexasLawHelp.org

www.texaslawhelp.org

TexasLawHelp.org is a website that provides free, reliable legal information on a variety of topics such as; family law, consumer protection and debt relief, health and benefits, employment law, housing, wills and life planning, and immigration. The website offers interactive and downloadable legal forms, self-help tools and videos on legal issues, and can assist in locating local free legal services.

[Texas Advocacy Project, A VOICE](#)

1.888. 343.4414

Advocates for Victims of Crime (A VOICE), a project of Texas Legal Services Center, provides free direct legal representation and referrals to victims of violent crime, and providing education about crime victim's rights and assistance with Crime Victims Compensation applications. Note: callers will most likely leave a message and their call will be returned by an attorney.

[Legal Aid for Survivors of Sexual Assault \(LASSA\)](#)

1-844-303-SAFE (7233)

The LASSA Hotline is answered by attorneys seven days a week. The Hotline attorneys provide sexual assault survivors with legal information and advice about legal issues that may arise following a sexual assault including crime victim's rights, housing, and safety planning.

Family Violence Legal Line

[800-374-HOPE](#)

Texas Advocacy Project. Offers the HOPE Line, Monday -Friday 9am-5pm, staffed by attorneys can help you with a variety of legal concerns related to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Attachment A**30% Area Median Income (2017)**

Income Level	1 Person	2 Persons	3 Persons	4 Persons	5 Persons	6 Persons	7 Persons	8 Persons
0 - 30%	\$15,050	\$17,200	\$20,420	\$24,600	\$28,780	\$32,960	\$37,140	\$41,320

Attachment B

Trigger Crisis

Will lose housing within 30 days due to one of the following:

- Moved twice or more in the past 60 days
- Living in the home of another person because of economic hardship
- Notified that right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated within 21 days after date of application
- Living in hotel or motel and cost is not paid for by charitable organization or government program for low-income people
- Living in SRO or efficiency where more than 2 people live; or in a larger housing unit with more than 2 people per room
- Exiting a publicly funded institution or system of care
- Exiting a publicly or privately funded inpatient substance abuse treatment program or transitional housing program
- Living in rental housing that is being condemned by a government agency and tenants are being forced to move out

Attachment C

Other Definitions of Homelessness

- **Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C 5701 et seq.)**

Runaway and Homeless Youth funding is administered by the Family and Youth Services Bureau within the Administration for Children & Families (ACF) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Information about Runaway and Homeless Youth program grantees is available online at <http://www2.ncfy.com/locate/index.htm>.

- **Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.)**

Head Start funding is administered by the Office of Head Start (OHS) within ACF/HHS. A listing of Head Start programs, centers, and grantees is available online at <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/HeadStartOffices>

- **Violence Against Women Act of 1994; subtitle N (42 U.S.C. 14043e et seq.)**

Violence Against Women Act established the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) within the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). OVW administers financial and technical assistance to communities across the country that are developing programs, policies, and practices aimed at ending domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Currently, OVW administers one formula grant program and eleven discretionary grant programs, all of which were established under VAWA and subsequent legislation. More information about OVW is available online at <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/>.

- **Public Health Service Act; section 330 (42 U.S.C. 254b)**

The Public Health Service Act authorized the Health Center Program, which is administered by the Bureau of Primary Health Care within the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of HHS. Information about local Health Centers can be found online at <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/index.html>

- **Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.)**

Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 relates to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps. SNAP is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). More information about SNAP can be found online at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/>

- **Child Nutrition Act of 1966; section 17 (42 U.S.C. 1786)**

Child Nutrition Act of 1966 authorized numerous programs related to school lunches and breakfasts and funds for meals for needy students. For more information about these programs, contact the local School Department.

- **McKinney-Vento Act; subtitle B of title VII (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.)**

McKinney-Vento Act authorized the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program, which is administered via the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education within the U.S. Department of Education. More information about this program is available online at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/homeless/index.html>. Also, contact the local School Department.