

**Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County (HCCSC)  
Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO) –  
Housing Now for Homeless Families  
Policies Governing Eligibility, Prioritization to Receive Assistance and Standards for Administering Assistance**

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Purpose. In July 2020, ODJFS awarded COHHIO an initial \$15,000,000 to provide Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) and Homeless Prevention (HP) assistance to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) eligible families with children who are experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness. ODJFS / COHHIO funds are meant to be flexible and can be spent on supportive services or financial assistance for eligible households. The Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County (HCCSC) has established access, prioritization and standards for administering assistance policies for this funding opportunity that expires on June 30, 2021.

**Section - I. Eligibility, Eligible Uses of Funding and Prioritization for COHHIO / TANF – Housing Now for Homeless Families - Homelessness Prevention**

1. Eligibility for Homeless Prevention. To be eligible for homelessness prevention services operated by participating agencies, individuals and families must:
  - a) Be residents of Stark County;
  - b) Be ineligible for system diversion;
  - c) Meet Homeless Navigation Pre-Screen eligibility;
  - d) Be eligible for TANF assistance in Ohio
    - Must be a household with at least one minor child or, be a woman who is at least six months pregnant
    - Total household income cannot exceed 200% of the federal poverty level
  - e) Be at-risk of homelessness
    - At-risk of homelessness – household will imminently lose their primary residence AND has no subsequent residence identified AND has no resources or support networks to identify alternative housing<sup>1</sup>
  
2. Eligible Uses for Homeless Prevention COHHIO / TANF Funds<sup>2</sup>
  - a) Financial Assistance
    - i. Rental assistance and arrearages (not to exceed a total of four months of rent)
    - ii. Security deposits (not to exceed two months of rent)
    - iii. Assistance with moving costs
    - iv. Utility deposits and payments
    - v. Utility arrearages (up to four months of utility arrears)

Financial Assistance Additional Guidance<sup>3</sup>

- a. Participants can receive both 4 months of rental assistance and 4 months of utility assistance.
- b. Funds can be applied to past due rent within public housing for the tenant portion of the rent<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> COHHIO Final Program Guidelines for to Administer Housing Now for Homeless Families

<sup>2</sup>COHHIO Final Program Guidelines for to Administer Housing Now for Homeless Families

<sup>3</sup> Frequently Asked Questions for Housing Now for Homeless Families RFP And Risk Mitigation Fund RFP

<sup>4</sup> COHHIO Final Program Guidelines for to Administer Housing Now for Homeless Families

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- b) Supportive Services
  - i. Assessment of service needs
  - ii. Case management
  - iii. Housing search and counseling services
  - iv. Transportation

3. Prioritization for Homeless Prevention. The following rules will be followed in prioritizing households for homeless prevention services:

- a) Prioritization for households that have custody of at least one minor child versus being a single woman who is at least 6 months pregnant. Households that have custody of at least one minor child will be prioritized before a single woman who is at least 6 months pregnant.
- b) Prioritization based on susceptibility to homelessness. Households who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence will be prioritized before lease holder households.

**Section - II. Eligibility, Eligible Uses of Funding and Prioritization for COHHIO / TANF – Housing Now for Homeless Families – Rapid Rehousing**

1. Eligibility for Rapid Rehousing. To be eligible for rapid rehousing services operated by participating agencies, individuals and families must:

- a) Be residents of Stark County;
- b) Be ineligible for system diversion;
- c) Meet Homeless Navigation Pre-Screen eligibility, complete HMIS intake and SPDAT assessment process;
- d) Be eligible for TANF assistance in Ohio
  - Must be a household with at least one minor child or, be a woman who is at least six months pregnant<sup>5</sup>
  - Total household income cannot exceed 200% of the federal poverty level<sup>6</sup>
- e) Have custody of at least one minor child *or* be a single woman who is at least 6 months pregnant<sup>7</sup>;
- f) Be Homeless
  - Homeless – either living in an emergency shelter, in a hotel paid for by charitable or public organization, or in a place not meant for human habitation.

2. Eligible Uses for Rapid Rehousing COHHIO / TANF Funds<sup>8</sup>

- a. Financial Assistance
  - i. Rental assistance and arrearages (not to exceed a total of four months of rent)
  - ii. Security deposits (not to exceed two months of rent)

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<sup>5</sup> COHHIO Final Program Guidelines for to Administer Housing Now for Homeless Families

<sup>6</sup> COHHIO Final Program Guidelines for to Administer Housing Now for Homeless Families

<sup>7</sup> COHHIO Final Program Guidelines for to Administer Housing Now for Homeless Families

<sup>8</sup> COHHIO Final Program Guidelines for to Administer Housing Now for Homeless Families

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- iii. Assistance with moving costs
- iv. Utility deposits and payments
- v. Utility arrears (up to four months of utility arrears can be covered)

Financial Assistance Additional Guidance<sup>9</sup>

- a. Participants can receive both 4 months of rental assistance and 4 months of utility assistance;
- b. Funds can be applied to past due rent within public housing for the tenant portion of the rent<sup>10</sup>.

b. Supportive Services

- i. Assessment of service needs
- ii. Case management
- iii. Housing search and counseling services
- iv. Transportation

3. Prioritization for Rapid Rehousing. The following rules will be followed in prioritizing households for rapid rehousing assistance:

- a) Prioritization for households that have custody of at least one minor child versus being a single woman who is at least 6 months pregnant. Households that have custody of at least one minor child will be prioritized before a single woman who is at least 6 months pregnant.

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<sup>9</sup> Frequently Asked Questions for Housing Now for Homeless Families RFP And Risk Mitigation Fund RFP

<sup>10</sup> COHHIO Final Program Guidelines for to Administer Housing Now for Homeless Families