



Homeless Program Criteria for the Housing Authority of the County of Kern

The Housing Authority of the County of Kern administers HUD's Shelter Plus Care/Single Room Occupancy Program(s) providing permanent rental housing assistance to eligible homeless and disabled clients. Criteria for eligible applicants/ participants are the following:

- 1) Applicants must be referred by partnering supportive service agencies that have a signed Memorandum of Understanding with the Housing Authority to ensure supportive services are provided to active participants receiving rental assistance for the duration of their participation in the program.
- 2) Applicants/participants must meet the eligibility requirements of the homeless and disabled definition pursuant to HUD regulations.

Criteria for Defining Homeless (Permanent Supportive Housing)

Individuals and families defined as Homeless under the following categories are eligible for assistance in Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) projects:

- Category 1 – Literally Homeless
 - A. Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:
 - i) Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation;
 - ii) 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); or
 - iii) Is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution

PSH projects have the following additional NOFA limitations on eligibility within Category 1:

- Individuals and Families coming from Transitional Housing must have originally come from the streets or emergency shelter
- Individuals and Families must also have an individual family member with a disability

Projects that are dedicated chronically homeless projects, including those that were originally funded as Samaritan Bonus Initiative Projects must continue to serve chronically homeless persons exclusively.

- Category 4 – Fleeing/Attempting to Flee DV
 - A. Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence;
 - B. Has no other residence, and
 - C. Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

3) Applicants may not have been previously terminated from any housing authority program within 3 years of applying for SPC/SRO rental assistance programs.

4) Applicants must be certified as homeless and disabled by the referring agency.

Documentation of certified applicants may be in the form of the following:

Homeless Certification

<u>Category 1 – Literally Homeless</u>	<u>Category 4 – Fleeing/Attempting to Flee DM</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written observation by the outreach worker; <u>or</u> • Written referral by another housing or service provider; <u>or</u> • Certification by the individual or head of household seeking assistance stating that (s)he was living on the streets or in shelter; • For individuals exiting an institution – one of the forms of evidence above <u>and</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Discharge paperwork <u>or</u> written/oral referral, <u>or</u> B. Written record of intake worker’s due diligence to obtain above evidence <u>and</u> certification by individual that they exited institution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>For victim service providers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An oral statement by the individual or head of household seeking assistance which states: they are fleeing; they have no subsequent residence; and they lack resources. Statement must be documented by a self-certification or a certification by the intake worker. • <i>For non-victim service providers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An oral statement by the individual or head of household seeking assistance that they are fleeing. This statement is documented by a self-certification or by the caseworker. Where the safety of the individual or family is not jeopardized, the oral statement must be verified; <u>and</u> ○ Certification by the individual or head of household that no subsequent residence has been identified; <u>and</u> ○ Self-Certification, or other written documentation, that the individual or family lacks the financial resources and support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

Disability Certification

- 1) Written verification of the disability from a professional licensed by the state to diagnose and treat the disability and his or her certification that the disability is expected to be long-continuing or of indefinite duration and substantially impedes the individual's ability to live independently;
- 2) Written verification from the Social Security Administration
- 3) The receipt of a disability check (e.g., Social Security Disability Insurance check or Veteran Disability Compensation);
- 4) Intake staff-recorded observation of disability that, no later than 45 days of the application for assistance, is confirmed and accompanied by evidence in paragraph © (1), (2), (3), or (4) of this section or
- 5) Other documentation approved by HUD

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