

## **Bridging Rental Assistance Program Program Summary**

The Bridging Rental Assistance Program (BRAP) is a transitional rental subsidy program developed by the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS), Office of Adult Mental Health Services. BRAP has been established in recognition that recovery can only begin in a safe, healthy, and decent environment, a place one can call home. People with psychiatric disabilities are often unable to afford to rent housing of their choice in the community. BRAP is designed to assist individuals with psychiatric disabilities with housing assistance until they are awarded a Housing Choice Voucher (aka Section 8 Voucher), another federal subsidy, or alternative housing placement. All units subsidized by BRAP funding must meet the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Housing Quality Standards and Fair Market Rents. Following a Housing First model, initial BRAP recipients are encouraged, but not required to accept the provision of services to go hand in hand with the voucher.

Program participants pay 51% of their income for rent. BRAP subsidizes the remaining portion of the rent up to the Fair Market Rent.

### **BRAP ELIGIBILITY**

There are three components to BRAP eligibility as detailed below, ALL of which must be met to be considered for BRAP assistance.

#### **I. DHHS requires that recipients of BRAP meet the following criteria:**

1. Class Members of the AMHI Consent Decree; OR
2. Adults with Severe and Disabling Mental Illness who meet Eligibility For Care Criteria for Community Support Services as defined in most recent version at any given time of the Section 17.02 of the MaineCare Benefits Manual (see [Appendix 1](#)).

#### **II. DHHS requires that all recipients of BRAP also meet the following conditions:**

1. Adults who are receiving or are in the process of being (re-)instated for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or Social Security Disability Income (SSDI)—in cases where applicants have no current SSI/SSDI or other income source, documentation of General Assistance or another source of income (TANF, Employment, etc) must be in place or documentation of conditional approval must be present; A
2. Applicants must have previously applied for Federal Section 8 Rental Assistance through their local Public Housing Authority or other local Section 8 administering agency. If the wait list is closed, the applicant may be eligible for a waiver of this eligibility criterion provided that he/she agrees to and completes a Section 8 application at time of opening. Section 8 wait list status must be maintained to continue to receive BRAP assistance.

#### **III. DHHS will provide funds, as available, on a ranked basis as indicated below:**

1. Eligible adults who are leaving a State Institution (Riverview or Dorothea Dix); or a private psychiatric hospital bed; or has been discharged in the last 6 months from any of these institutions.
2. Eligible adults who are homeless as defined by the US Department of Housing & Urban Development:
  - is sleeping in places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, and abandoned or condemned buildings; or are sleeping in emergency shelters. This may include persons who ordinarily sleep in one of the above places but are spending a short time (90 consecutive days or less) in a hospital or other institution; OR
  - is graduating from transitional housing specifically for homeless persons; OR
  - is being evicted within the week from private dwelling units and
    - i. no subsequent residences have been identified; and
    - ii. they lack the resources and support networks needed to obtain access to housing; OR
  - is a person being discharged within the week from institutions in which they have been residents for more than 30 consecutive days; and
    - i. no subsequent residences have been identified; and
    - ii. They lack the resources and support networks needed to obtain access to housing.

3. Eligible adults who are living in substandard housing in the community. A unit is substandard if the unit: Is dilapidated; Does not have operable indoor plumbing; Should, but does not, have a useable flush toilet inside the unit for the exclusive use of the family; Should, but does not, have a useable bathtub or shower inside the unit for the exclusive use of the family; Does not have electricity, or has inadequate or unsafe electrical service; Does not have a safe or adequate source of heat; Should, but does not have a kitchen; and/or Has been declared unfit for habitation by an agency or unit of government.
4. Eligible adults who are moving from community residential programs and other behavioral health facilities, to more independent living arrangements.

Note: Providing the three eligibility criteria above have been met, any previous BRAP recipient may re-apply for subsidy, as long as he or she is in good standing with any housing subsidy program administered by DHHS (Bridging Rental Assistance Program &/or Shelter Plus Care). Applicants, who owe any DHHS subsidy program for back rent, damages, security, etc., may be considered for readmission providing that at least one of the following minimum criteria has been met:

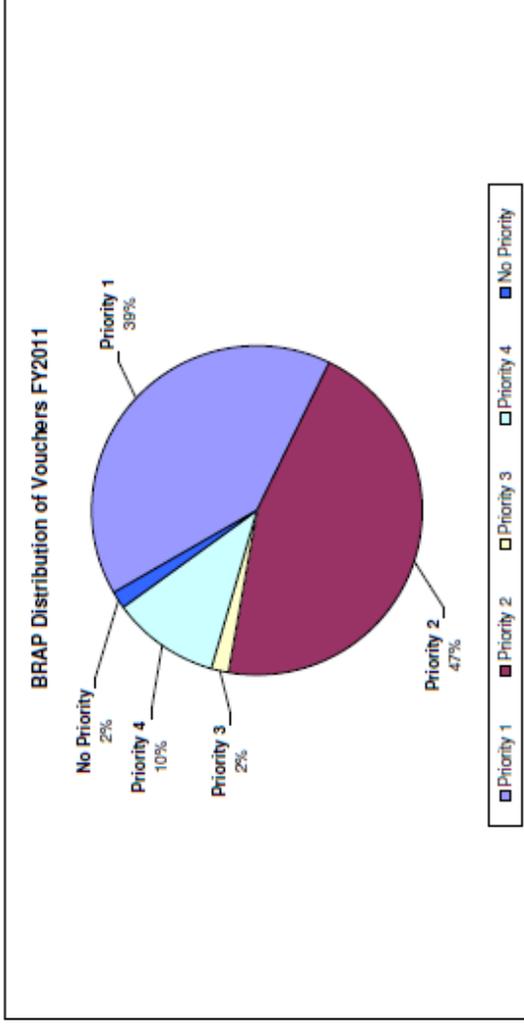
1. Repay 100% of any debt owed before a voucher is awarded OR
2. In lieu of 100% payment of debt, a tenant may establish themselves with a legally assigned Representative Payee and complete a documented payment plan not to exceed 12 months OR;
3. Charges may be adjudicated through the DHHS Appeals Procedure or DHHS Grievance Process.

BRAP and Shelter Plus Care LAA contact list		
<b>Penobscot, Washington, Hancock, Piscataquis Counties</b>	<b>Aroostook County</b>	<b>Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Waldo, Knox, Lincoln Counties &amp; Brunswick, Harpswell, Freeport</b>
Sandra Kimball Community Health and Counseling 42 Cedar St., PO Box 425 Bangor, ME 04402 207-947-0366 ext 520	James McClay AMHC Facilities, Inc. PO Box 1018 Caribou, Maine 04736 207-764-0759	Rita De Fio Sweetser MH 329 Bath Road #1 Brunswick, Maine 04011 207-373-3049
<b>Androscoggin, Franklin &amp; Oxford Counties</b>	<b>Kennebec &amp; Somerset Counties</b>	<b>Cumberland &amp; York Counties</b>
Karen Bate-Pelletier Common Ties 140 Canal Street PO Box 1319 Lewiston, ME 04240 207-795-6710 ext 101	Barbara Worthley Kennebec Behavioral Health 67 Eustis Parkway Waterville, Maine 04901 207-873-2136 ext 1256	Leanna Bruce Shalom House, Inc., 106 Gilman Street Portland, Maine 04102 207-874-1080
	<b>Central Administering Agent</b>	<b>* Bangor</b>
	Virginia Dill Shalom House 106 Gilman Street Portland, Maine 04102 207-874-1080	Awa Conteh City of Bangor Dept. of Health & Welfare 103 Texas Ave. Bangor, Maine 04401 207-941-0257
		<u>Updated 03/24/2011</u>

- Not a DHHS Local Administrative Agent. The City of Bangor also administers Shelter Plus Care

**7/1/2010 - 6/30/2011 BRAP PRIORITY CODES**

	Priority 1 Hospital	Priority 2 Homeless	Priority 3 Sub-Standard	Priority 4 Group Home	No Priority	Total All
ANDROSCOGGIN	7	56	1	0	2	66
ARDCOSTOCK	3	4	0	0	0	7
CUMBERLAND	150	133	1	27	6	317
FRANKLIN	1	2	0	0	1	4
HANCOCK	3	0	0	0	0	3
KENNEBEC	49	51	7	17	3	127
KNOX	8	14	1	0	1	24
LINCOLN	2	5	1	0	0	8
OXFORD	0	6	1	0	0	7
PENOBSCOT	66	30	1	30	1	128
PISCATAQUIS	0	0	0	1	0	1
SAGadahoc	11	21	1	0	0	33
SOMERSET	3	20	0	0	0	23
WALDO	7	4	0	0	0	11
WASHINGTON	0	0	0	0	0	0
YORK	41	50	1	17	0	109
<b>Total All</b>	<b>351 40.4%</b>	<b>396 45.6%</b>	<b>15 1.7%</b>	<b>92 10.6%</b>	<b>14 1.6%</b>	<b>868</b>



<b>Priority Codes</b>	
<b>Hospital</b>	Eligible adults who are leaving a State Institution (Riverview or Dorothea Dix); or a private psychiatric hospital bed; or has been discharged in the last 6 months from any of these institutions.
<b>Homeless</b>	Eligible adults who are homeless as defined by the US Department of Housing & Urban Development
<b>Substandard</b>	Eligible adults who are living in substandard housing in the community.
<b>Group Home</b>	Eligible adults who are moving from community residential programs and other behavioral health facilities, to more independent living arrangements.
<b>No Priority</b>	DHHS Waiver