



BRAP

Bridging Rental Assistance Program

Updated May 2020

What is BRAP?



- Bridging Rental Assistance Program
- Transitional Housing Subsidy for adults with severe and persistent mental illness
- Subsidy program helps to pay for the rent of an independent apartment
 - While on the program, BRAP tenants pay 40%** of their gross monthly income to rental costs

**Effective 5/1/2020.



Who Can BRAP Help?

Adults with a Severe and Disabling Mental Illness who meet Eligibility For Care Criteria for Community Support Services as defined by the Section 17 of the MaineCare Benefits Manual who also:

- Receive SSI/SSDI benefits or have applied but are in the appeals process; **and**
- Have applied for a Section 8 Housing Voucher; **and**
- Meet one of BRAP's three (3) priorities

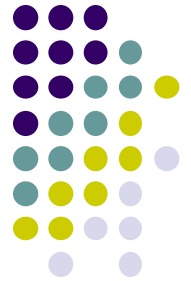
BRAP Priority Criteria



1. Applicant is leaving a State Institution, or a private psychiatric hospital bed; or a state funded residential treatment program (MH PNMI) or has been discharged within the last 30 days from any of these institutions.
2. Applicant is being released within the next 30 days or has been released within the past 30 days from a correctional facility; or has been adjudicated through a mental health treatment courts and meets Section 17 criteria.
3. Applicant is literally homeless as defined by HUD.

**Please note that as of April 2018, evictions from private dwellings or residing in Substandard Housing are no longer eligible priorities for BRAP.*

How to Apply for BRAP



1. Complete an application and gather all the required attachments / verifications

- Verification of income from or application to Social Security
- Verification of application for Section 8 housing
- Verification of priority status
- Verification of Section 17 eligibility (KEPRO verification or BRAP enrollment form)

2. Submit the completed application and all attachments to the LAA who covers the desired town/county where the applicant wants to reside.

Disability Documentation



IF Applicant is enrolled in Section 17 (Community Integration) or Section 97 (PNMI) services:

- Attach KEPRO verification which includes active enrollment date

OR

IF Applicant is not enrolled in SAMHS services:

- Attach a completed BRAP Enrollment Form with a diagnosis given date (within 90 days of application submission) and LOCUS score.

Priority 1 – Psychiatric Hospitalization / PNMI



- Applicants who are being discharged from Riverview (RPRC) or Dorothea Dix (DDPC), or private psychiatric hospital after a 72-hour or greater admission, or who have been discharged in the past thirty (30) days from any of such institutions. Also, BRAP Applicants who are moving, or have been discharged in the past thirty (30) days from a State funded Residential Treatment program (Mental Health PNMI) to less restrictive accommodations, to allow for appropriate discharges from the institutions mentioned above.
- When applying: attach documentation on hospital or program letterhead that clearly indicates admission date and actual (or anticipated) program discharge date.

Priority 2 – Correctional Facility



- Applicant is being released in the next 30 days, or has been released within the past 30 days from a correctional facility and they lack the resources and support networks needed to obtain access to housing
 - When applying: attach a letter on agency letterhead which indicates:
 - Name of facility
 - Entry Date
 - Anticipated Release Date

OR

- Applicant has been adjudicated through a Mental Health Treatment court and no subsequent residences have been identified and they lack the resources and support networks needed to obtain access to housing
 - When applying: attach documentation of adjudication through mental health treatment court

Priority 3 – Literal Homelessness



- Applicant is literally homeless as defined by HUD (i.e. emergency shelter, sleeping on the streets, motel stay with emergency funds, transitional housing, etc.):
 - When applying: attach verification of current living situation written on agency letterhead stating location, length of stay and dates of homelessness; include title of person completing the verification. Last documented incidence must be dated within fourteen (14) days of application submission.
 - *Please note: staying with friends or family does not qualify (i.e. couch surfing)*

Income Source



- All applicants must be receiving SSI/SSDI or have another form of income to be eligible for BRAP (*i.e. SSI/SSDI, TANF, Child Support, Employment, General Assistance, etc.*)
 - All household income verifications must be dated within the last 120 days.
- All applicants must attach current SSI/SSDI verification to their application
 - Documentation of current application for, or appeal of SSI/SSDI denial.

Section 8



- All applicants applying for BRAP must apply for Section 8 to be considered eligible. When applying, please submit:
 - Copy of application with date/time stamp; **or**
 - Letter from Housing Authority regarding current status on the waitlist.
 - If applicant is not eligible for Section 8 waitlist, please submit verification of the denial from Housing Authority.



Shelter Plus Care (SPC)

What is Shelter Plus Care?



- Permanent Supported Housing Subsidy for adults with a severe disability who are experiencing homelessness
- Subsidy program helps to pay for the rent of an independent apartment
 - While on the program, tenants pay 30% of their adjusted monthly income towards rental costs.



Shelter Plus Care (SPC)

- SPC vouchers are prioritized for the Severe and Persistent Mentally Ill, Chronic Substance Abuse, Co-Occurring Disorders, and HIV/AIDS according to the following homeless priorities:
 - 1) HUD defined Chronic Homeless
 - 2) Maine defined Long Term Stayer
 - 3) HUD defined Literal Homeless
 - 4) HUD defined moving from/graduating Transitional Housing with documentation of homelessness upon entrance.

SPC Homeless Criteria



Applicant is literally homeless as defined by HUD (i.e. emergency shelter, sleeping on the streets, motel stay with emergency funds, transitional housing, etc.):

- When applying: attach verification of living situation written on agency letterhead stating location, length of stay and dates of homelessness; include title of person completing the verification. Last documented incidence must be dated within fourteen (14) days of application submission.
- *Staying with friends or family does not qualify (i.e. couch surfing)*

How to Apply for SPC



1. Complete an application and gather all the required attachments (homeless verification & signed disability verification)
2. Submit complete application and all attachments to the agency who covers the desired town/county where the applicant wants to reside.

Additional Questions?



- *As a reminder, all applications can be found online at www.shalomhouseinc.org/subsidies*
- *Contact your local BRAP or Shelter Plus Care agent for applications and more information about these programs in your area.*