November 02, 2026

BRAP Priority 1 Re-Opening Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The Department has continued to monitor the Bridging Rental Assistance Program (BRAP) resource pause by regularly evaluating trends and funding availability over the last 17 months. Based on funding trends over the last 17 months, the Department has determined that there is funding available to re-open new enrollment to the program, subject to available funding, for **Priority 1 households only** beginning 11/9/2026.

What are the criteria for Priority 1 Household?

Applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Be a current resident of the State of Maine;
2. Be eighteen (18) years of age or older, or an emancipated minor;
3. Be eligible for Section 17 Community Support Services;
4. Be receiving, actively appealing, applying for, or are in the process of being reinstated for SSI and/or SSDI; and
5. Have previously applied for Section 8 through their local Public Housing Authority (PHA) or other local Section 8 administering agency and indicate their current status on the Section 8 waitlist.

And the Priority Requirements of one of the following:

1. Applicants who are being discharged from Riverview Psychiatric Center, Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center, or a private psychiatric hospital (in-state or out-of-state); or
2. Applicants who have been discharged in the past thirty (30) calendar days from a psychiatric hospital (State or private), designated nonstate mental health institution, or nonstate mental health institution, per Title 34-B, §3801, with a stay that lasted for a period greater than seventy-two (72) hours; or
3. Applicants who, through use of BRAP Rental Assistance, are able to move from Private Non-Medical Institution (PNMI) services to less restrictive accommodations thus allowing for appropriate discharges, as determined by their clinical support team.

How can I submit an application if I qualify under Priority 1?

Please visit the Shalom House Inc website, or the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Behavioral Health Housing website. Ensure the bottom of the application contains a revision date of 2026. Submission of BRAP Applications will be accepted and processed at the respective Local Administrative Agencies (LAAs) based on applicant's area:

Agency	Mailing Address	Contact	Phone	Fax	Email	Counties Covered
Sweetser	PO Box 1319 Lewiston, ME 04243	**Housing Subsidies** Jeff Ahlberg Bobbie Jean Burgess	207-294-4462 207-294-4461	N/A	jahlberg@sweetser.org bburges@sweetser.org	Androscoggin County Oxford County Franklin County
Community Health and Counseling Services	PO Box 425 Bangor, ME 04402	**Rental Services** Nicole Cohen	207-922-4600	207-945-4465 (Attn: Rental Services)	rentalservices@chcs-me.org	Aroostook County Penobscot County Piscataquis County Hancock County Washington County
Kennebec Behavioral Health	67 Eustis Parkway Waterville, ME 04901	**Rental Services** Amber Robillard	207-873-2136	207-660-4532 (Attn: Rental Services)	rentalservices@kbhmaine.og	Kennebec County Somerset County
Shalom House Inc.	106 Gilman Street Portland, ME 04102	**Housing Subsidies** Rita DeFio	207-874-1080	207-874-1077 (Attn: BRAP)	BRAP@shalomhouseinc.org	Cumberland County York County Lincoln County Sagadahoc County Knox County Waldo County

What if I qualify as a Priority 2, 3, or 4 Household and would like to submit an application?

Agencies will not accept or review P2, P3 or P4 applications when they receive them, instead they will notify the applicant that the agency cannot accept their application and for the applicant to apply at a later date. When the program has additional resources, we will notify the community of additional priority populations that will be considered.

****Applications submitted not qualifying as Priority 1 will not be held by the agency for later review. It would be the applicant's responsibility to re-submit your application if they are still eligible.*

When will additional Priority populations be considered?

The Department and Shalom House Inc. continue to monitor trends and financial capacity of BRAP. Any changes to guidance will be widely communicated.