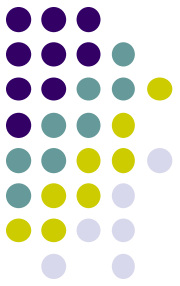


# BRAP

## Bridging Rental Assistance Program

BRAP as of April 17, 2018  
(subject to change as needed)

# 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 51% of their gross monthly income to rental costs

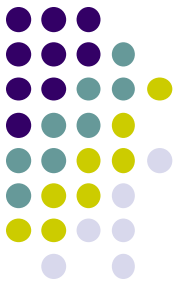


# Who Can BRAP Help?

Adults with a Severe and Disabling Mental Illness who meet Eligibility For Care Criteria for Community Support Services as defined by the Section 17.02 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 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 literally homeless as defined by HUD.
3. Applicant is being discharged within the next 30 days from a correctional facility (jail/prison); or has been adjudicated through a mental health treatment courts and meets Section 17 criteria.

*\*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:**

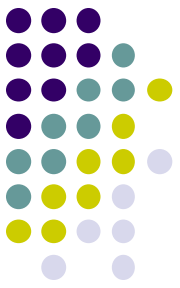
- Attach KEPRO verification which includes active enrollment date

**OR**

**IF Applicant is not enrolled in SAMHS services:**

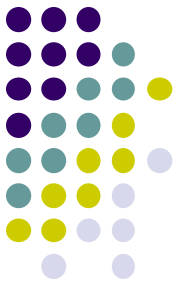
- Attach a completed BRAP Enrollment Form with a diagnosis given date (within 90 days of application submission) and LOCUS score.

# Priority 1 – Psychiatric Hospitalization / PNMI



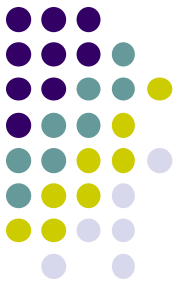
- Applicants who are being discharged from Riverview (RPRC) or Dorothea Dix (DDPC), or private psychiatric hospital after a 72-hour or greater admission, or who have been discharged in the past thirty (30) days from any of such institutions. Also, BRAP Applicants who are moving, or have been discharged 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 – 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)*





# Priority 3 – Jail / Prison

- Applicant is being discharged in the next 30 days from a correctional facility
  - When applying: attach a letter on agency letterhead which indicates:
    - Name of facility
    - Entry Date
    - Anticipated Release Date

**OR**

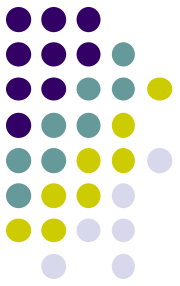
- Applicant has been adjudicated through a Mental Health Treatment court and no subsequent residences have been identified and they lack the resources and support networks needed to obtain access to housing
  - When applying: attach documentation of adjudication through mental health treatment court



# Income Source

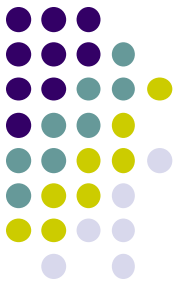
- All applicants must be receiving SSI/SSDI or have another form of income to be eligible for BRAP (*i.e. SSI/SSDI, TANF, Child Support, Employment, General Assistance, etc.*)
  - All household income verifications must be dated within the last 120 days.
- All applicants must attach current SSI/SSDI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

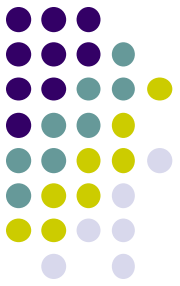
# Recent Programmatic Changes



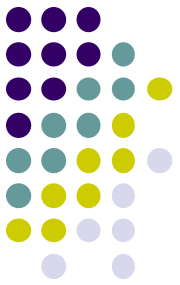
- The BRAP Debt Policy has been re-instituted with minor changes. Only debt which has been incurred within the past four (4) years (prior 48 months) will be taken into account.
  - Any previous BRAP recipient may re-apply for subsidy or transfer to another unit within the program as long as he or she is eligible **and** in good standing. Applicants who owe the BRAP program back rent, damages, security deposit, etc., may be considered for readmission providing that one of the following minimum criteria have been met:
    - 100% of account balance must be paid before move in or unit transfer; or
    - Establishment of a legally assigned Representative Payee and a documented payment plan not to exceed thirty (30) days.

*Failure to meet at least one of the above criteria will result in program ineligibility and termination of rental assistance.*

# Recent Programmatic Changes



- If a BRAP tenant is given a notice of eviction (Notice-to-Quit) for cause (violation of lease or other legal violation of tenancy), the tenant's BRAP voucher will be terminated effective the day the unit is vacated.
  - If a tenant is able to provide documentation from the landlord of the tenant's good standing within the program, they will be given thirty (30) days to secure a new unit once the unit is vacated.
- 120 Day look periods to secure a unit will no longer be awarded.
  - Recently awarded applicants and tenants in-between units will be allocated thirty (30) days to secure a unit.
  - If additional time is needed, waiver requests must be sent to the DHHS for review and approval.



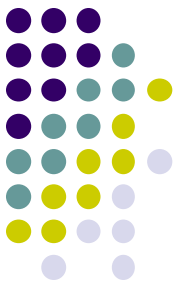
# Shelter Plus Care (SPC)

SPC as of January 22, 2018  
(subject to change as needed)

# 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.

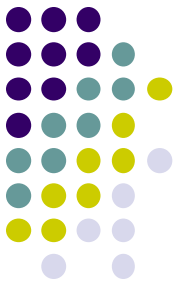


# Shelter Plus Care (SPC)

- 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.



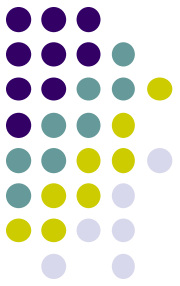
# SPC Homeless Criteria



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

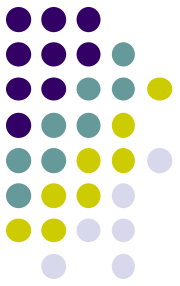
- When applying: attach verification of living situation written on agency letterhead stating location, length of stay and dates of homelessness; include title of person completing the verification. Last documented incidence must be dated within fourteen (14) days of application submission.
- *Staying 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](http://www.shalomhouseinc.org/subsidies)*
- *Contact your local BRAP or Shelter Plus Care agent for applications and more information about these programs in your area.*