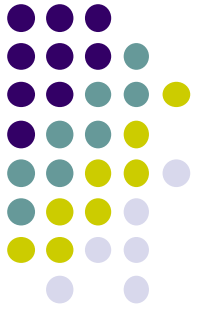


BRAP

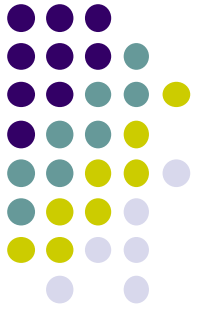
Bridging Rental Assistance Program

Updated January 2023

What is BRAP?



- 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 program participants pay 40% of their gross monthly income towards rental costs

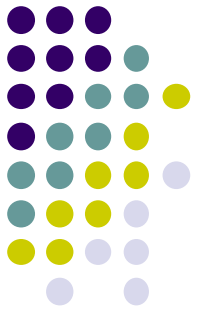


Who Can BRAP Help?

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

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

Disability Documentation



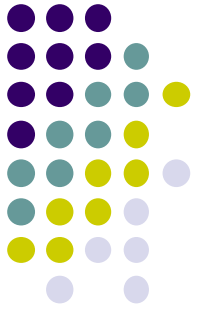
IF Applicant is enrolled in Section 17 (Community Integration) or Section 97 (PNMI) services:

- Attach KEPRO authorization which includes active enrollment date and current diagnosis; **OR**

IF Applicant is not enrolled in OBH services:

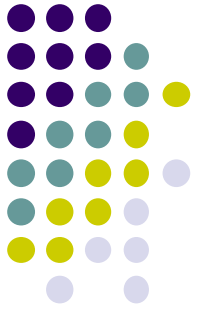
- Attach a completed BRAP Enrollment Form with a Primary diagnosis and LOCUS score (date given must be within one year of application submission)

Completing BRAP Enrollment Form



- Applicant must have primary diagnosis of Schizophrenia or Schizoaffective Disorder; or another primary DSM 5 or DSM 4 equivalent diagnosis **with the exception of** Neurocognitive Disorders, Neurodevelopmental Disorders, Antisocial Personality Disorder, and Substance Use Disorder.
 - Examples of non-qualifying primary diagnoses include: Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Intellectual Disability, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and Substance Use Disorder (SUD)
- Applicant must have significant risk factors relating to mental illness of homelessness, criminal justice involvement or require mental health inpatient treatment greater than 72 hours, or residential treatment unless community support program services are provided; **OR** Has been discharged from a mental health residential facility, within the past 24 months; or had two or more episodes of inpatient treatment for mental illness, for greater than 72 hours per episode, within past 24 months, for a non-excluded diagnosis; or has been committed by a civil court for psychiatric treatment as an adult; **AND**
- Has significant impairment or limitation in adaptive behavior or functioning directly related to the primary diagnosis and defined by the LOCUS. Applicant must have a LOCUS score, as determined by a LOCUS Certified Assessor, of seventeen (17) (Level III) or greater.

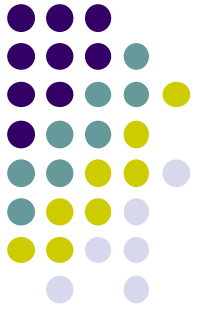
BRAP Priority Criteria



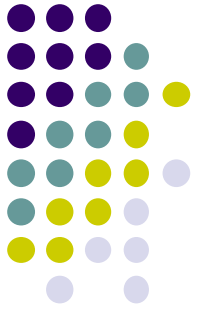
1. Applicant is leaving a State Institution, or a private psychiatric hospital bed; or a state funded residential treatment program (MH PNMI) or has been discharged within the last 30 days from any of these institutions.
2. Applicant is being released within the next 30 days or has been released within 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.*

Priority 1 – Psychiatric Hospitalization / PNMI

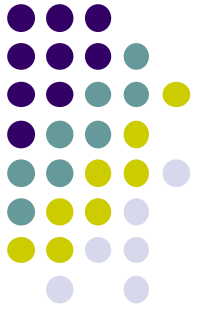


- Applicants who are being discharged from Riverview (RPRC) or Dorothea Dix (DDPC), or private psychiatric hospital after a 72-hour or greater admission, or who have been discharged in the past thirty (30) days from any of such institutions.
- Also, BRAP Applicants who are moving, or have been discharged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

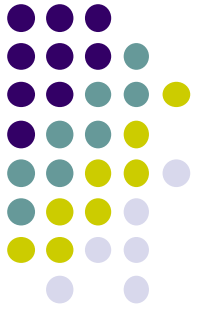
- Applicant is being released in the next 30 days, or has been released within the past 30 days from a correctional facility and they lack the resources and support networks needed to obtain access to housing
 - When applying: attach a letter on agency letterhead which indicates:
 - Name of facility,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

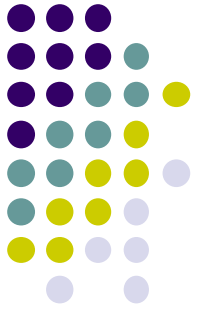
- Applicant is literally homeless as defined by HUD. This is an individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:
 - Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation; **or**
 - Is living in a publicly or privately 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**
 - 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.
 - *Please note: staying with friends or family does not qualify (i.e. couch surfing)*
- When applying: Attach HMIS record of shelter stay or street outreach contacts, or signed letter on letterhead verifying current living situation including applicant length of stay and dates of third-party provider observation of homelessness; include title of person completing verification. Last documented incidence must be dated within fourteen (14) days of application submission.

Income Source



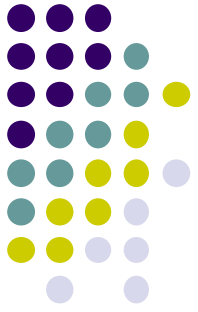
- All applicants must be receiving SSI/SSDI or have another form of income to be eligible for BRAP (*i.e. SSI/SSDI, TANF, Child Support, Employment, General Assistance, etc.*)
 - Applicants who have no income will need to utilize General Assistance for their portion of the rent. They are not required to pay 40% of the rent, but rather their “income” will be based off the standard Supplemental Security Income (SSI) amount which as of January 1st, 2023 is \$914. This “income” results in what would be a tenant portion of \$365. BRAP would cover the remainder of the rent.
 - 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 the Section 8 / Housing Choice Voucher program 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.

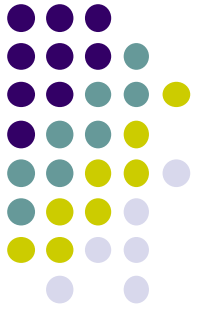
How to Apply for BRAP



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

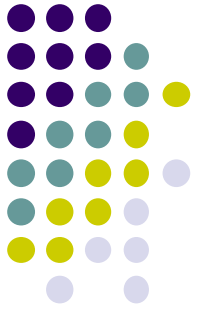
- Verification of income from or application to Social Security
- Verification of application for Section 8 housing
- Verification of priority status
- Verification of Section 17 eligibility (KEPRO Authorization or BRAP enrollment form)

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

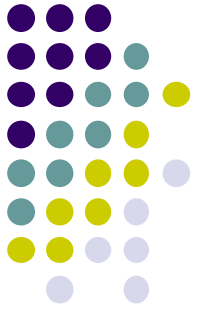


Shelter Plus Care (SPC)

What is Shelter Plus Care?



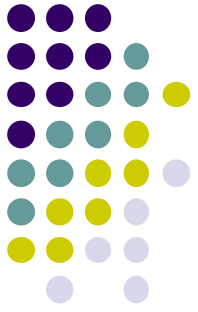
- Permanent Supported Housing Subsidy for adults with a severe disability who are experiencing homelessness
- Subsidy program helps to pay for the rent of an independent apartment
 - While on the program, tenants pay 30% of their adjusted monthly income towards rental costs.



Shelter Plus Care (SPC)

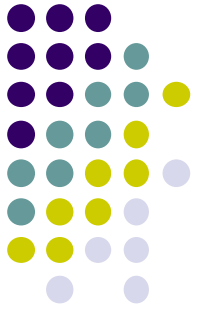
- SPC vouchers are prioritized for those diagnosed with a Psychiatric Disability, Chronic Substance Abuse and/or Co-Occurring Disorders, and HIV/AIDS according to the following homeless priorities:
 - 1) HUD defined Chronic Homeless
 - 2) Maine defined Long Term Stayer
 - 3) HUD defined Literal Homeless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

How is disability defined?



- In the [Defining “Chronically Homeless” Final Rule \(2015\)](#) disability is defined as one or more of the following:
 1. Physical, mental or emotional impairment, including impairment caused by alcohol or drug abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, brain injury or a chronic physical illness that:
 1. Is expected to be long-continuing or of indefinite duration; **and**
 2. Substantially impedes the person’s ability to live independently; **and**
 3. Could be improved by more suitable housing.

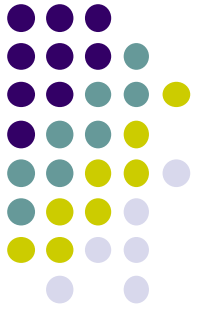
SPC Homeless Criteria



Applicant must meet the Category 1: Literally Homeless definition of homelessness as defined by HUD.

- This is an Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:
 - Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation; **or**
 - 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**
 - 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.
 - What are examples of institutions?
 - Jails, hospitals and inpatient treatment centers are examples of institutions. A person can be considered homeless if the stay is 90 days or less and they met the definition of homelessness prior to entering the institution.

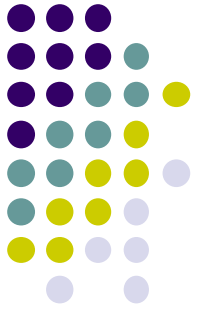
Documentation Requirements



When applying please provide ONE of the following:

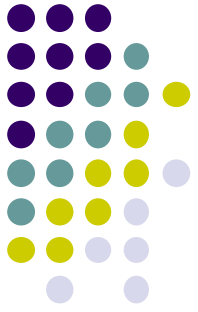
- If applicant is living in an emergency shelter:
 - HMIS record of shelter stay or signed letter on letterhead from shelter provider reflecting shelter bed night utilization.
- If applicant is residing in a place not meant for habitation:
 - HMIS record of street outreach contacts or signed letter on letterhead from a street outreach provider which references current living situation and length of stay and includes dates of third-party provider observation of homelessness; include title of person completing verification. Last documented incidence must be dated within fourteen (14) days of application submission.
 - *Staying with friends or family does not qualify (e.g., couch surfing)*
- If exiting an institution after 90 days or fewer:
 - One of the listed verifications above PLUS discharge paperwork from the institution with admission and discharge dates OR referral from social worker, case manager, or other official from the institution with admission and discharge dates.

How to Apply for SPC



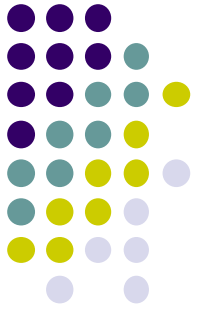
1. Complete an application and gather all the required attachments (homeless verification & signed disability verification)
 - SPC Disability Verification Form must be completed by a qualified professional who is Licensed by the State of Maine to diagnose and treat persons with the disability that they are confirming. This form must be dated within one year of application submission.
2. Submit complete application and all attachments to the agency who covers the desired town/county where the applicant wants to reside.

Additional Questions?



- *Applications and current Statewide Subsidy Payment Standard Guidelines 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.*

Local Administrative Agency (LAA) Contact Info



ANDROSCOGGIN, FRANKLIN, & OXFORD COUNTIES

Common Ties Mental Health Services

P.O. Box 1319

Lewiston, ME 04243

Tel. 207-795-6710 Fax: 207-795-6714

AROOSTOOK, HANCOCK, PENOBSCOT, PISCATAQUIS, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

Community Health & Counseling Services

P.O. Box 425

Bangor, ME 04402-0425

Tel. 207-947-0366

YORK, CUMBERLAND, KNOX, LINCOLN, SAGADAHOC, & WALDO COUNTIES

Shalom House, Inc.

106 Gilman Street

Portland, ME 04102

Tel. 207-874-1080 Fax: 207-874-1077

KENNEBEC AND SOMERSET COUNTIES

Kennebec Behavioral Health

67 Eustis Parkway

Waterville, ME 04901

Tel. 207-873-2136 Fax: 207-660-4532