

## “INDEPENDENT LIVING INITIATIVE” FACT SHEET

Coordinated by the Durham Center (Rev May 2010)

### **PROJECT OVERVIEW:**

The Durham Center (TDC) “Independent Living Initiative” is a *referral-based* program that provides short-term rental assistance for adult consumers of the Durham Center with severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI), Severe Mental Illness (SMI), a Developmental Disability or a Substance Abuse Issue. Housing assistance is coordinated by the **Durham Center’s Housing Specialist**, with case management services provided by TDC service providers with the goal of increasing client self-sufficiency. The **Housing Triage Team** approves assistance requests submitted by the Durham Center’s Housing Specialist, **every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 12:30pm**. Emergency assistance requests can also be considered through the Housing Specialist.

### **Effective 12/1/09, the following changes are in effect:**

- 1) Any ILI application without all required information on all documentation will be returned to the QP with no review by the Housing Triage Team.
- 2) ALL other resources that a QP contacts for help such as local churches, family members, other documented assistance agencies (DSS, Women In Action, Operation Breakthrough, Catholic Social Ministries, Presbyterian Urban Ministries, Salvation Army, etc) the QP must attach documentation they were able or unable to assist the consumer.
- 3) Adult consumers of the Durham Center with children, persons that are homeless, or at imminent risk of becoming homeless will be given priority.

### **Individuals with SPMI/SMI\* and/or Developmental Disabilities:**

- Receive SSI/SSDI benefits or can reasonably expect to secure SSI/SSDI benefits within 6 months of housing placement, or have income from another source such as employment, etc. **Applicants MUST show documentation that SSI/SSDI has been applied for or has been referred to Vocational Rehabilitation. If documentation is not attached request will not be reviewed. When appropriate, paycheck stubs and/or documentation of employment applications (with contact name/phone number) MUST be attached.**
- **In addition, application for Public Housing must occur, with documentations attached.**

Rental Assistance approved by the Durham Center’s Housing Triage Team can include:

- One time housing and emergency assistance such as first month’s rent, security deposit, utility deposit and application fee ( up to \$600.00 per fiscal year)
- One time utility assistance will be provided for consumers (up to \$300.00 per fiscal year )

### **Individuals that are in a Substance Abuse Target Population:**

- Have completed a structured living program and are moving to an independent living environment.
- Can document ability/resources to maintain independent living.

Rental Assistance approved by the Housing Triage Team can include:

- One time housing and emergency assistance such as first month’s rent, security deposit, utility deposit and application fee ( up to \$600.00 per fiscal year)

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**The Durham Center’s Housing Specialist is administrator of this program. Specifically, the Housing Specialist will provide the following services:**

- Identify property owners & managers for the program through coordination with providers.
- Coordinate referral and placement of clients. Specifically, the Housing Specialist will coordinate assistance requests with the **Housing Triage Team**, screening applications for completeness and accuracy.
- Administer one-time Housing Assistance and Emergency Assistance funds.
- Confirm with case managers that all other funding sources in the community have been pursued prior to making requests.

**For access to the Durham Housing Resource Guide, go to:**

**[http://www.durhamcenter.org/Sections/Services/ILI\\_housing.html](http://www.durhamcenter.org/Sections/Services/ILI_housing.html)**

**For more information on the Independent Living Initiative, please call:  
Durham Center Housing Specialist at: 560-7144 (Fax # 560-7250)**

\* The priority will be individuals with SPMI if resources become low.

Or email: [swilliams@co.durham.nc.us](mailto:swilliams@co.durham.nc.us)