

The Durham Center Supportive Housing Program Requirements

Thank you for your interest in The Durham Center Supportive Housing Programs (*Project DASH and Embrace Durham*). The Supportive Housing Program (SHP) is a HUD grant program, funded through the Durham County Continuum of Care, which provides permanent housing assistance, in connection with supportive services, to homeless people with disabilities and their families. The overall goal is to improve/stabilize a consumer's housing situation by providing rental assistance for a period of time and helping the consumer secure long-term rental assistance (*i.e. Section 8*) or secure a subsidized unit (*i.e. public housing or other subsidized units where rent is based on household income*).

SHP is tenant-based rental assistance within Durham County which permits participants to choose housing of a size based on household composition. SHP will pay a housing subsidy based on a participant's income and the rental amount (SHP will approve subsidies for units that rent at or near "fair market rent" as determined by HUD guidelines). Utilities will be included in your rental payment. Participants retain the rental assistance if they move and continue to meet the program requirements.

Eligibility Criteria

(1) HOMELESSNESS

For purposes of this program, a person or family is considered homeless only when s/he resides in one of the places described below:

- In places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks or abandoned buildings ("on the street");
- In an emergency shelter;
- In transitional or supportive housing for homeless persons who originally came from the street or emergency shelters (evidence is required that the person came from the streets or emergency shelter situation);
- In any of the above places but is spending a short time (up to 30 consecutive days) in a hospital or other institution;
- Is living in substandard housing that has been condemned.

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS

An unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has been continuously homeless for a year or more OR has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. To be considered chronically homeless, a person must have been on the streets or in emergency shelter (*i.e. not in transitional housing*) during these stays.

(2) DISABILITY

Applicants must have a primary diagnosis of one or more of the following:

- Serious Mental Illness
- Chronic Substance Abuse
- Developmental Disabilities
- AIDS

A person shall be considered disabled by this diagnosis if the impairment is expected to be of indefinite duration and is of such a nature that such ability could be improved by more suitable housing conditions. The Verification of Disability form must be signed by a licensed clinical social worker, psychiatrist, psychologist, or MD qualified to determine whether an individual is disabled.

(3) INCOME

This program does not require a source of income at the time of application. If an applicant has income, the applicant must have a household income at or below the level of *very low income* for Durham County, as determined by HUD.

(4) CRIMINAL BACKGROUND

The following is a list of charges that will result in an automatic denial:

- Sexual Offenders
- Sexual Assaults
- Murder
- Arson
- Criminal activity within the past 12 months (misdemeanors may be an exception)

An applicant will be denied participation if s/he is incarcerated or if there is an outstanding warrant for her/his arrest.

Participation in the program will be terminated if the participant or a member of her/his household engages in illegal activity including domestic violence, illegal drug use, or other failure to abide by federal, state or local law.

(5) SUBSTANCE USE

Applicants with substance abuse history must substantiate a demonstrated period of sobriety (approximately 30 days).

Referral Process

All applications must be signed by a professional service provider, who is willing to fulfill the professional service provider requirements of the program (please refer to the section below for a comprehensive outline of requirements). To make a referral for SHP, you may contact the Durham Center Housing Specialist at (919) 560-7144 to request an application. Applications are accepted on a first come, first serve basis. When a participant is at the top of the waiting list, they will be interviewed by the Care Review Team and/or Housing Selection Committee.