

Butte County Department of Behavioral Health (BCDBH)

MHSA Housing Program Eligibility Requirements

Description of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Housing Program

The MHSA Housing Program provides permanent supportive housing for MHSA eligible adults 18 years and older with serious mental illness who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, and who meet the MHSA Housing Program target population requirements. Serious mental illness is defined by the California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5600.3 (b) (1).

Each MHSA Housing Program unit must have a lease signed by all adult members of the household, and be occupied by at least one MHSA eligible resident.

The MHSA eligible resident may need intensive support services that include, but are not limited to, mental health, substance abuse, health care, legal advocacy, transportation (on a case-by-case basis), accessing mainstream benefits, educational opportunities, vocational/employment training, assistance with independent living skills, budgeting/money management, and housing retention.

Permanent Supportive Housing

Permanent supportive housing is housing with no limit on the length of stay, provided tenant is compliant with terms of his or her lease, and that is linked to on-site or off-site services.

The support services will help the tenant retain the housing, support recovery, and maximize the ability to live and work in his or her community.

Target Population

The target population is defined as MHSA eligible adults (age 18 and older) with serious mental illness, who at the time of assessment for housing services, meet the definition of homeless or at risk of homelessness (serious mental illness is defined by Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5600.3(b)(1)).

Homeless is defined as:

- “Homeless” means living on the streets or lacking a fixed and regular nighttime residence. This includes shelters, motels and other temporary living situations in which the individual has no tenant rights.

OR

At risk of homelessness includes the following:

- Transition-age youth (as defined in Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5847[c], and Title 9, California Code of Regulations, Sections 3200.80) exiting child welfare or juvenile justice systems;
- Individuals discharged from:
 - Hospital, including acute psychiatric hospitals, psychiatric health facilities (PHF)

- Skilled nursing facilities (SNF) with a certified special treatment program (STP) for the mentally disordered
- Mental health rehabilitation centers (MHRC)
- Crisis and transitional residential settings
- City and County jails
- Individuals temporarily placed in a Residential Care Facility upon discharge from one of the above
- Individuals who have been assessed and are receiving services at the County Mental Health Department, and who have been deemed to be at imminent risk of homelessness, as certified by the County Mental Health Director or designee

Income Limits

In general, there are no income limits for MHSA Housing Units, just rental limits. However, there can be income restrictions by other project funding sources. The Valley View Apartments has other funding that restricts the incomes at 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI).

Rent Limits-The MHSA Housing Program requires a tenant to pay a portion of the MHSA unit rent.

The tenant portion of rents in the MHSA Housing Project is set at:

- No lower than 30% of the current Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Program (SSI/SSP) grant amount for a single individual living independently, or
- 30% of the total household income, whichever is higher.

Application Process

1. Interested applicants will need to complete the MHSA Housing Program Letter of Interest form and MHSA Housing Program Referral and Certification Form.
2. Both completed and signed forms with supporting documents (**third party verification letters** for income and/ or homelessness) should be dropped off, mailed or e-mailed to:

Butte County Department of Behavioral Health, Housing Program
Attention: Sarah Frohock, Housing Supervisor
560 Cohasset Drive, Suite 175
Chico, CA 95926
E-Mail: sfrohock@buttecounty.net
Tel: (530) 879-2408

3. A received Letter of Interest and Referral form will be stamp dated upon receipt by the Housing Program staff.
4. Housing Program staff will review both forms and documentation within 14 business days of receipt. Staff will consult with applicant and/or referring agency to confirm eligibility.

5. Housing Program staff will notify eligibility or not in writing and by phone call to applicant and/or referring agency.
6. Upon confirmation, Housing Program staff will add an approved applicant to the electronic file of eligible applicants referred to the MHSA Housing Project Property Management.
7. If the applicant is not MHSA eligible or homeless or at risk of homelessness, the applicant and/or referring agency will receive written notification with information of the reason for denial.
8. Eligibility decisions can be appealed to the Behavioral Health Director, or designee, within 14 business days of issuance of the ineligibility letter. Appeal letters should be mailed to Don Taylor, Assistant Director, 3217 Cohasset Road, Chico, CA 95973.
9. Applicants certified as MHSA eligible and referred to the MHSA Housing Project must still apply for a unit with the Property Management. The Property Management will screen all MHSA applicants in the same manner they screen all applicants for tenancy. This may include a criminal background and credit history.
10. The MHSA Housing Project Property Management will contact either the applicant and/or referring agency to inform them when a housing unit becomes available.

Questions

Please contact Sarah Frohock, Housing Program Supervisor at (530) 879-2408 or e-mail her at sfrohock@buttecounty.net

