











Cal OES Transitional Housing Program Housing First Assessment

Tenant Screening:	Does the Program Require Providers Who House Tenants to Accept Applicants with the Greatest Needs or Vulnerabilities?				
State Programs	Providers Must Accept Tenants Regardless of Sobriety/Use of Substances/ Completion of Treatment/Participation in Services	 Providers Do Not Reject Applicants for Poor Credit or Financial History, Poor or lack of rental history/Criminal convictions unrelated to tenancy	 Providers May Not Impose a “Housing Readiness” Requirement on Applicants for Housing	 Providers Receive Referrals to Housing from Homeless Response System	 Program Offers Funding Incentives to Providers to Accept Referrals from Coordinated Entry/ Assessment Systems
Cal OES Transitional Housing Program	✓ The program accepts participants for Transitional Housing. Subrecipients are not the Permanent Housing Landlord.	✓ The program accepts participants for Transitional Housing. Subrecipients are not the Permanent Housing Landlord.	✓ The program accepts participants for Transitional Housing. Subrecipients are not the Permanent Housing Landlord.	✗	N/A
<p>Comments:</p> <p>The Transitional Housing Program allows Subrecipients to choose their victim population. The original program began in July 2016, with 38 projects; a majority choosing to serve victims of domestic violence, and seven dedicated to serving youth victims. In January 2019, a second cohort of the program began with 30 new projects. The second cohort is more evenly divided between domestic violence victims and youth victims (several of which also focus on domestic violence and human trafficking). Both cohorts will end their first funding cycle in December 2019 and start a new four-year cycle together in January 2020 through a non-competitive process Request for Application (RFA).</p> <p>While the nature of all of the projects remains the same (transitional housing that provides clients with an intermediate phase between emergency shelter and permanent housing with the common end goal of permanent housing), the method of housing differs somewhat between Subrecipients. These housing differences include community living in safe houses, apartment complexes, or condos, or single-family homes depending on the level of safety and support needed. Program participants may live alone, or with one or more other program participants, or in family units with their children. During this intermediate, transitional stage, participants are generally living in a space that is owned, leased, or rented by the agency running the program, and are participating in voluntary supportive services while working toward permanent housing. Subrecipients also offer rental assistance for participants that move into permanent housing.</p> <p>While Subrecipients generally aren't the landlords providing the permanent housing, many of them do work at building relationships with landlords to facilitate the process of participants securing permanent housing upon completion of the transitional housing program. Some Subrecipients also train landlords about working with victims of domestic violence, and the importance of following the Housing First Model.</p> <p>With victim services being the focus of this program, sobriety, use of substances, and credit history are not directly mentioned in the RFP, though many of the Subrecipients address substance abuse treatment or support as a service they provide for their clients. It is worth noting that sobriety, use of substances, and credit history will be included in the upcoming RFA.</p> <p>Referrals are generally received from partnering agencies, law enforcement, hospitals, and other agencies within the agency's area Continuum of Care, however, there is no mention of Coordinated Entry Systems. It is worth noting that referring participants to the local Continuum of Care and the Coordinated Entry System will be included in the upcoming RFA.</p>					
Recommendations: SEE BELOW					








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Housing-Based Services:	Are Services Tailored to Tenant's Needs, Rather Than to Meet Set Programmatic Requirements?			
State Programs	<p>Service Providers are Required to Offer Services Emphasizing Engagement & Problem-Solving, rather than Meeting Set Therapeutic Goals/Service Plans are highly tenant-driven without predetermined goals</p>	 <p>Service Providers Use Evidence-Based Practices for Engagement</p>	 <p>Services are Informed by a Harm-Reduction Philosophy that Recognizes Drug/Alcohol Use as Part of Tenants' Lives & Recovery</p>	<p>Providers Offer Tenants Education on Avoiding Risky Behaviors and Connect to Evidence-Based Treatment by Choice</p>
Cal OES Transitional Housing Program	✓	 Evidence-Based practices are used, but the RFA needs the expectation more clearly presented	 Harm-Reduction is practiced but the RFA needs the expectation more clearly presented	✓
<p>Comments: Supportive services are offered to program participants, including but not limited to locating and securing permanent housing, securing employment, legal assistance, transportation, counseling, childcare services, case management, and other assistance. Subrecipients must address the barriers program participants experience when accessing transitional housing and supportive services, including lack of knowledge about resources, language barriers, social and cultural challenges, and accessibility for victims of crime with disabilities.</p> <p>Additionally, Subrecipients must provide follow-up supportive services for a minimum of three months after a participant has secured permanent housing. Follow-up services may include advocacy, support groups, case management, minimal financial assistance (e.g., security deposits, first month's rent, or childcare) when a survivor is establishing permanent housing.</p>				
Recommendations: SEE BELOW				

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Services Are Voluntary:	Does the Program Prohibit Conditioning Housing Tenancy on Tenant Participation in Services or Program Compliance?	
State Programs	 <p>Housing Providers Must Accept the Most Vulnerable Californians Eligible for Program, Regardless of Applicant's Willingness to Participate in Services (though the program may require service providers to offer services)</p>	 <p>Program Disallows Housing/Service Providers from Conditioning Tenancy on Participation in Services or Program Compliance</p>
Cal OES Transitional Housing Program	✓	✓
<p>Comments: Subrecipients may not require participation in supportive services in order for program participants to have access to transitional housing, nor may they impose restrictive conditions in order for participants to receive services.</p>		
Recommendations: SEE BELOW		

Cal OES Transitional Housing Program Housing First Assessment

Housing Permanency	Does the Program Require Housing Providers to Offer Housing Without Limit on Length of Stay, with a Lease? <i>If the Housing is Time-Limited, Is the Housing Provider Required to Connect Tenants to Permanent, Decent, Safe Housing Upon Exit?</i>			
State Programs	 <p>Program Requires Housing Providers to Provide Tenants with a Lease and all the Rights & Responsibilities of Tenancy, as outlined in CA's Health & Safety, and Government Codes <i>(including eviction protections)</i></p>	 <p>Program Disallows Housing Providers from Evicting Tenants for Use of Drugs/Alcohol without other Lease Violations</p>	<p>Program Does Not Fund Time-Limited Housing, Unless Housing/ Service Providers Assist Tenants in Relocating to Decent, Safe Permanent Housing Tenant Can Afford Upon Exit</p>	 <p>If Funding a Homeless Youth Program, Any Time-Limited Housing Documents Efforts to Avoid Eviction & Help Tenant Find Permanent, Decent, Safe Housing Upon Exit</p>
Cal OES Transitional Housing Program	 <p style="color: green;">The program accepts participants for Transitional Housing. Subrecipients are not the Permanent Housing Landlord.</p>	 <p style="color: green;">The program accepts participants for Transitional Housing. Subrecipients are not the Permanent Housing Landlord.</p>	 <p style="color: green;">The program accepts participants for Transitional Housing. Subrecipients are not the Permanent Housing Landlord.</p>	 Not specifically defined as expectation
<p>Comments: The Program will support transitional housing, short-term housing assistance, and supportive services, including follow-up services for a period of between 12 and 24 months (the duration of the Program's performance period). Subrecipients are not the permanent housing providers/landlords, and thus are not generally in control of the leases; however, for the purposes of the Transitional Housing Program, Subrecipients work with program participants to secure leases with all of the rights and responsibilities of tenancy, and communicate the importance of following the Housing First Model.</p> <p>With victim services being the focus of this program, sobriety, use of substances, and credit history are not directly mentioned in the RFP, though many of the Subrecipients address substance abuse treatment or support as a service they provide for their clients. It is worth noting that sobriety, use of substances, and credit history will be included in the upcoming RFA.</p>				
<p>Recommendations: SEE BELOW</p>				

Recommendations for the Cal OES Transitional Housing Program:

The current cohorts of the Transitional Housing Program sunset December 31, 2019. A non-competitive RFA was released in June 2019 to renew the Program four more years. The RFA includes a hyperlink to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 8255, which lists the mandated core components of the Housing First Model. The RFA also includes specific Housing First language addressing leases, eviction and tenant sobriety, as well as harm reduction and evidence-based practices, items that were not specifically addressed in the prior RFPs for the Program. The RFA also recommends the expectation that if participants will not be housed by the end of the Program performance period, they will be referred to the local Continuum of Care and Coordinated Entry System.