**PURPOSE**

The Supported Housing Fund (SHF) program provides affordable housing linked to services for low-income, homeless or potentially homeless people with Severe Mental Illness (SMI). The goal is to provide persons with SMI the help and support they need to stay housed and live more independent, healthy, productive, and fulfilling lives. The SHF program supports eligible individuals to obtain and maintain housing in the least restrictive environment possible. This is achieved by providing temporary funds to meet the cost of their housing needs.

* **The mental health agency shall not mandate the consumer participate in mental health services to receive Supported Housing Funds unless the consumer is residing in a Supervised Housing setting.**

**ELIGIBLE SHF PARTICIPANTS**

To be eligible for Supported Housing Funds the follow criteria must be met:

* Homeless
* At risk of becoming homeless

***AND:***

* Youth who have a serious emotional disturbance (SED) aged 18-22 as defined in the glossary
* Adults who have a serious mental illness (SMI) as defined in the glossary
* Individuals who are at risk of requiring inpatient mental health care and treatment due to their mental illness
* Leaving an institution (State Psychiatric Hospital, Nursing Facilities for Mental Health, etc.)
* Adults who have non-serious mental illness who meet one of the “other eligibility criteria” listed below. (KDADS approval required).
	+ Causing or at serious risk of causing serious harm to themselves or others due to their mental illness;
	+ Likely to experience serious deterioration in their mental health if they do not receive community mental health treatment;
	+ Homeless or at risk of homelessness (precariously housed) due to their mental illness;
	+ At risk of being incarcerated due to their mental illness;
	+ Transitioning from one community housing arrangement to another (from Residential Care Facility to independent living, from independent living into a Residential Care Facility, etc.)
	+ Disabled eligible persons who are working with a SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) case manager to obtain or re-instate an SSI/SSDI federal entitlement;

***AND:***

* Below 150% of the federal poverty level (use chart below to figure poverty level for SHF participants).

**PARTICIPANT’S SELF SUFFICIENCY EXPECTED**

Program participants, regardless of their living arrangement, must seek access to funds needed to pay for their long-term housing needs (i.e. through gainful employment, SSI/SSDI Benefits, Section VIII, HOME TBRA). Program participants must accept these other funds and willfully cease being an SHF participant when they are obtained. The SHF grantee should work in partnership with the participant to develop a plan to exit the program.

**HOUSING OPTIONS USING SUPPORTED HOUSING FUNDS**

The SHF Program's main objective is to provide funds on a temporary basis to support eligible individuals to obtain and maintain independent living. Independent Living for SHF purposes uses the definition below:

* Persons living with a spouse, friend, or family and who is capable of self-care.
* Persons who are living independently with services and support from a service provider.
* Persons that are largely independent yet may choose to live with others for reasons not related to mental illness.
	+ - The reason for shared housing is a personal choice and can be related to culture considerations.

SHFs may also be used on a temporary basis for Supervised Housing. Supervised Housing for SHF purposes is when an individual is living in housing sponsored by a mental health center.

* Maximum length of stay in supervised housing is short-term (six months to a year with some exceptions, KDADS will review on a case-by-case basis).
* The SHF participant may or may not be mandated to participate in certain services in order to receive funds.

SHFs may be used on a temporary basis for Transitional Housing. SHFs could be used to pay rent or fee to live in this environment. **SHFs cannot be used to pay rent or other associated housing costs for an individual residing in a KDADS-BHS funded Transitional or Interim Housing Project (Interim Housing is defined as housing up to 6 months).** However, SHFs can be used to assist persons leaving a KDADS-BHS Transitional or Interim Housing Project in order to obtain another housing arrangement. Transitional Housing is defined as short-term housing (6-24 months) combined with case management and other supportive services to help people make the transition into permanent housing.

SHFs can be used on a temporary basis to assist a person residing in a Kansas Department of Health and Environment Licensed Boarding Home.

The funds may be used on a temporary basis for persons choosing to reside in a KDADS licensed Residential Care Facility (RCF). SHFs used for this purpose can be only be used on a temporary basis (up to 1 year). RCFs are currently defined as any residence in which two or more adults with mental illness, not related to the licensee within the third degree of relationship, are residing that meets the following conditions:

* Residents are provided on-site staff supervision and support; and
* Residents are admitted to the residential care facility on the conditions that the housing provider or the entity providing supervision and support may enter the residents’ dwelling without the residents’ permission; and
* The dwelling in which the two or more residents reside has a single United States Postal Service address.

SHFs can be used on a temporary basis to assist a person residing in a Kansas Department of Health and Environment Licensed Boarding Home.

**ALLOWABLE EXPENDITURES INCLUDE**

* Temporary rental payment
* Housing and utility deposits/bills
* Household items
* Furniture and appliances
* Moving expenses
* Home cleaning services
* Minor home repair
* Application fees
* Personal State issued Identification
* Other expenses that allow a person to maintain or obtain housing (must obtain approval from KDADS/BHS Central Office)

**NON-ALLOWABLE EXPENSES INCLUDE**

* Medication
* Dental services
* Health care
* Other services not related to housing

**GLOSSARY**

**Homeless:**

* an individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence;
* an individual or family who will imminently lose their housing, including:
	+ housing they own, rent, or live in without paying rent;
	+ housing they are sharing with others;
	+ rooms in hotels or motels not paid for by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable organization:
* has no subsequent residence identified;
* lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing; and
* an individual or family experiencing a domestic violence or other dangerous or life-threatening condition.

**Serious Mental Illness:** a diagnosable mental, behavioral or emotional disorder of sufficient duration to cause serious functional impairment in an individual's major life activities.

**Serious Emotional Disturbance:** individuals 18 to 21 years of age who currently or at any time during the past year have had a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder of sufficient duration to meet diagnostic criteria specified within the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, Third Edition, Revised (DSM-III-R; American Psychiatric Association, 1987) that resulted in functional impairment, which substantially interferes with or limits the child's role or functioning in family, school, or community activities.