**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) and/or SMI with a co-occurring diagnosis. The goal is to provide persons with SMI and persons with co-occurring SMI and substance use disorder. 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 safe, affordable, and habitable 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 18-21 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, State or County Correctional Facilities-that had an SMI/Co-occurring diagnosis at the time of discharge or admission to the facility unless the consumer is eligible for KDOC Re-Entry funding
* 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 or co-occurring diagnosis;
	+ At risk of being incarcerated due to their mental illness or co-occurring diagnosis;
	+ 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.

* If you are submitting an application with zero income, you must explain how participant will sustain housing.

**HOUSING OPTIONS USING SUPPORTED HOUSING FUNDS**

The SHF Program's main objective is to provide funds on a one-time, 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 community based behavioral health 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 but not receiving Interim Housing funds. However, SHFs can be used to assist persons exiting a KDADS-BHS Transitional or Interim Housing Project to obtain a permanent housing arrangement.

SHFs may be used on a temporary basis for Transitional Housing (licensed group homes).

The funds may be used on a temporary basis for persons choosing to reside in a KDADS licensed Residential Care Facility (RCF).

**ALLOWABLE EXPENDITURES INCLUDE**

* Temporary rental payment
* Housing and utility deposits/bills
* Moving expenses
* Home cleaning services
* Application fees
* Personal State issued Identification

**EXPENSES TO BE DETERMINED ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS BY KDADS STAF MEMBER INCLUDE:**

* Household items
* Furniture and appliances
* Minor home repair
* Pest Control
* Home cleaning services
* Other expenses that allow a person to maintain or obtain housing

**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.
* An individual who discharged from a State Psychiatric Hospital, NFMH, or State Correctional Facility (who had a diagnosis of SMI or co-occurring at the time of admission to the institution or at the time of discharge from the institution and who have no safe/stable housing discharge plan).

**Serious Mental Illness:** defined by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): “Serious mental illness is defined by someone over 18 having (within the past year) a diagnosable mental, behavior, or emotional disorder that causes serious functional impairment that substantially interferes with or limits one or more major life activities.

**Serious Emotional Disturbance:** individuals who currently or at any time during the past year have had a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder of that resulted in functional impairment, which substantially interferes with or limits the child's role or functioning in family, school, or community activities**.**

**Substance Use Disorder/Co-Occurring**: defined by SAMHSA: “Substance use disorders occur when the recurrent use of alcohol and/or drugs causes clinically significant impairment, including health problems, disability, and failure to meet major responsibilities at work, school, or home. The coexistence of both a mental health and a substance use disorder is referred to as co-occurring.