



Housing Pathways Triage Tool



April 2024

For the most up to date documents & resources for the Office of Community Services (OCS) Homeless Providers please visit: www.alleghenycounty.us/Services/Human-Services-DHS/Doing-Business-with-DHS/Current-DHS-Providers/Office-of-Community-Services

This triage tool is designed to help guide the exploration and identification of any and all potential housing pathways with individuals to allow for the episode of homelessness to be brief and end with a successful exit to housing.

Individuals will likely need to identify multiple pathways for a successful exit from shelter to stable housing. Please review all pathways and identify any and all that could potentially lead to positive movement forward.

COC Housing Project Pathway

What category is this individual listed as on the Housing Pathway Report?

Are they eligible for an assessment, working with a housing provider, or been assessed as ineligible?

If they have screened ineligible, please continue moving through reviewing the alternative pathways to housing.

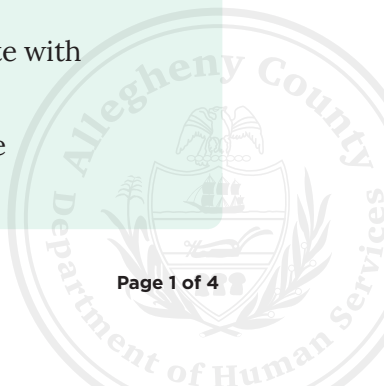
Please keep in mind that even if an individual is on the waitlist for CoC housing there is no guarantee that a vacancy will occur in the timeframe needed to exit shelter quickly, please continue to explore all other housing pathways that are appropriate.

Next Steps

If not yet assessed, but eligible, please connect to Coordinated Entry through the Allegheny Link or the OCS Field Unit

If currently waiting on the waitlist, please ensure that they are keeping CE up to date with their contact information

If enrolled in a CoC Housing Project or pending enrollment, please connect with the Housing Program to help support continued engagement and goal planning



Friends or Family Pathway

Families and friends can be a vital support when faced with housing instability. Individuals often leave shelter to live with kin, including with relatives they have not seen in many years.

Questions to Explore

Is this individual open to returning to any previous living arrangement?
This could be in a location outside of Allegheny County.

Could any past relationships or living arrangements be repaired?

Is there anyone that you think would be willing to discuss the opportunity of living together that you have not lived with before?

Potential Supports

Connection to A Second Chance Home Again Kinship Navigation Program could be beneficial.

This service can provide mediation if needed and will work to develop a plan that makes sense for all involved

This service could also include financial help for kin or other natural supports who are providing housing or to develop a transportation plan that makes sense to return to a stable situation.

[Kinship Navigation Program Referral Form](#)

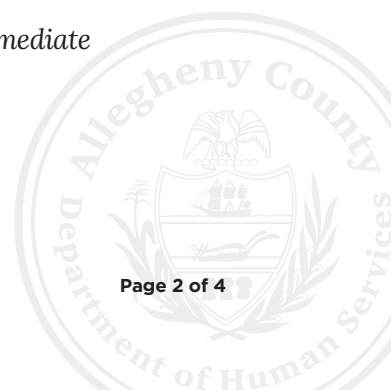
Subsidized Housing Pathways

Community-based Subsidized Housing

Population-Specific Long-Term Housing Program

Both of these pathways are excellent long-term plans for many people as they provide sustainable, low-cost housing. In most cases it will be older adults and veterans that will be able to access this housing pathway as a short-term plan. For most people, however, this is not a short-term path out of shelter and should be considered a secondary plan.

We encourage you to support everyone in applying to all of the subsidized housing and population-specific programs to which they are eligible but also make a plan for the immediate future.



Specifics to Explore

Review for specific population or diagnosis that could qualify the individual for additional housing options:

What is the age of the individual? Are they an older adult?

If an individual reports living with HIV/AIDS, have they been connected to Allies for Health + Well-being

Review the following resource documents with each person:

[Population Specific Housing Resources 2024](#)

[Subsidized Housing List](#)

Potential Supports

Support from the OCS Housing Solutions team for assistance with application support and affordable unit identification

The Housing Solutions team will be reviewing the Housing Pathway Report and identifying individuals that could benefit from their program.

Referral to the OCS Integrated Housing Coordinator for exploration of MH Residential Housing, email Alex.Herisko@AlleghenyCounty.US

This pathway would also have potential access to:

- First month's rent and/or security deposit
- Housing application fees
- Support to obtain required documents

Keep in mind that an individual who is a Megan's Law Registrant or has methamphetamine production convictions are ineligible for HUD subsidized properties.

Market Rate Housing Pathway

Housing with or without a roommate

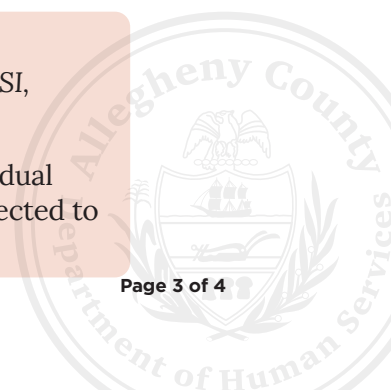
Most people leave shelter to live in a rental unit in a neighborhood they have chosen. It is most affordable to share rent with others, so we should encourage that individuals explore the possibility of a roommate if possible.

Specifics to Explore

Does this individual have income?

Income includes all types of income from employment to other cash benefits such as SSI, SSDI, a veteran or other pension, etc.

To meet a level of income to sustain stable housing in the private market, the individual may need to explore rooming with another individual or they may need to be connected to an employment search program to find a way to obtain or increase their income.



Potential Supports

Support from the OCS Housing Solutions team for assistance with application support and affordable unit identification

The Housing Solutions team will be actively reviewing the Housing Pathway Report and identifying individuals that could benefit from their program.

Utilize the resources developed by the Housing Navigation Unit : [Housing Navigator Unit Resources](#)

Complete a referral to ACTION Housing's Shallow Rent Program: [CHS Shallow Rent Program Referral Form](#)

This pathway would also have potential access to:

- First month's rent and/or security deposit
- Housing application fees
- Support to obtain required documents
- Basic Furnishings
- Landlord Incentives

Short-Term Behavioral Health or Physical Health Treatment Pathway

This pathway is one that would be a short-term solution rather than a long-term housing solution for those that are in need or have interest in a facility-based program to address physical and behavioral health needs to be more pre-pared to begin a housing search.

Questions to Explore

Is this individual interested in some level of behavioral health treatment?

For example: Inpatient hospitalization to treat mental health, DAS programs, D&A detox or D&A treatment facility/program

Is this individual interested or in need of some level of physical health rehabilitation or treatment?

For example: Long-term living or nursing care facility, personal care home, etc.

Potential Supports

If an individual is interested in being connected to D&A recovery services, have they been connected to Pathways to Care & Recovery?

If an individual is interested in a nursing facility or other personal care facility, has this been explored?

If an individual is in need of services for older adults, have they been connected to the Allegheny County Area Agency on Aging to explore any and all supports available?

