

Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care

Financial Assistance Standards for Rapid Re-housing Funded Through U.S. Department of Housing Continuum of Care (CoC) and Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Funds

The Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care understands the important role that rapid re-housing (RRH) plays in the region's efforts to end homelessness. RRH provides personalized interventions for individuals and families to quickly exit homelessness. Assistance may be provided for housing identification, move-in costs, rental assistance, case management and/or supportive services depending on the client's needs. The community recognizes that is important to meet individuals and families "where they are" and limit assistance to only what is necessary to end his/her/their homelessness. Assistance must be tailored to the particular needs of each client to ensure that the community provides "just enough" assistance and the right assistance to ensure the client's success. Nevertheless, community standards are important so that RRH remains an effective intervention that is administered in a consistent manner throughout the community. Therefore, the Maricopa Association of Governments Regional Continuum of Care has adopted RRH Financial Assistance Standards.

As determined by the client and case manager, at any point while receiving assistance through the RRH project, if the client is able to pay 100% of contract rent, rental assistance may cease.

I. Rental assistance during the first three months

Providers will determine for each client the number of months the assistance is needed—there is no such thing as an "automatic" approval for three months of assistance—some clients may receive no rental assistance, one month's rental assistance, or three months rental assistance.

For those with zero income, 100% rental assistance allowed.

For those with income that exceeds or is equal to the minimum Social Security Income, clients are expected to pay 30% of income or 33% of contract rent, whichever is greater, towards rent. Exceptions may be made for wage garnishments. In addition, court-ordered voluntary child support payments, criminal fines, or any payments that would result in garnishment if not paid by the client may be exempted from the percentage of income required for rent. Documentation is required to show that payment is necessary. Documentation is also required that the payment was made by the client.

II. Rental assistance during the next four to six months

Providers will determine for each client the number of months the assistance is needed. Reconfirmation will be done monthly to ensure assistance is still needed.

If rent was paid during the first three months (as outlined in Section I), the expected client payment towards contract rent will be 67% of contract rent. If client did not pay a portion of the rent during the first three months, 100% rental assistance may be allowed for the first month (month four of RRH

assistance). Evaluation of the need of further assistance is required monthly. Rental assistance of 100% assistance is allowed with appropriate documentation of need from the caseworker, however, it is expected that clients are gaining income and instances of zero income will be rare.

III. Rental assistance for months seven to twelve

All clients are expected to have income at seven months. In rare circumstances, exceptions may be made. At seven months, clients are expected to pay 67% of contract rent. Exceptions may be made for those clients that have recently gained income, however, in that case, it would be expected that client will pay at least 33% of contract rent.

By month ten, if the client has not moved towards paying full contract rent, evaluation should be made for other appropriate housing.

IV. Other financial assistance

Programs may provide non-refundable fees and deposits, refundable security deposits, and utility deposits for program participants. Depending on the funding source, some programs may provide utility assistance payments and application fees.

V. Exceptions

It is recognized that circumstances will differ for each client and unexpected events can occur during the course of assistance. Exceptions can be made at any level of assistance for extraordinary circumstances if it will increase the likelihood of a successful housing outcome.