Design Considerations for Meeting the Needs of the MHSA Tenants

Describe the following:

1. Physical space, including common areas, outdoor areas, landscaping, physical access to the property, security;
2. Supportive services space (if any), including any quiet area on site for tenants to meet service staff;
3. How the MHSA units will be designed to provide appropriate accommodations for physically disabled MHSA tenants, if appropriate.

NOTE: This will need to be updated to describe each identified Shared Housing projects funding allocation when you are developing multiple Shared Housing projects.

Response:

The proposed properties are single family homes with 3-4 bedrooms each. Each property will undergo modifications to ensure basic accessibility, security of personal belongings, and enjoyable communal living areas in both the interior and exterior spaces of the home. The common area will have a computer for use by the tenants.

Materials and finishes will be modified if they are determined to be of inferior quality. Material and finishes will be selected based on durability and ease of maintenance. Furnishings in the common living area will allow for comfortable sitting and socializing.

Each property will have 2 full bathrooms. Adequate storage area will be added to the bathrooms so tenants may store toiletry and hygiene items in designated areas labeled and assigned to each unit. Towels and linens will be kept in tenants’ private bedrooms.

There will be one refrigerator in the kitchen. Tenants will have access to lockable pantry and shelf space for kitchen items. Each tenant will have space for the storage of refrigerated food items, dry food items, kitchen utensils, and household goods.

Tenants will be given a lockable safe to keep in their bedroom. Tenants will be encouraged to use the safe to provide a secure location for their valuables including but not limited to prescription medication and other items of personal or monetary significance. The lockable safe will be stored in each tenant’s room.

Coin-operated laundry will be available onsite with laundry hours from 7 am – 10 pm.

If possible, ALA will identify additional storage areas in the garage space. ALA may also purchase a small shed for the backyard to provide storage for tenants.

ALA and Swarthy will identify space within one of the properties’ garages to locate lockable file cabinets, a computer, a printer, and a private, secure area for the service coordinator’s office. Access will be restricted to ALA and Swarthy staff unless during open office hours or scheduled tenant appointments.

All the units will be accessible for physically disabled MHSA tenants.