

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

HOUSING AND JOB DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

GUIDELINES FOR THE PAROLEE HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (PHAP)

BACKGROUND

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), as required by law, offers community-based services for parolees with a mental illness upon their release from state criminal institutions. The Integrated Services for Mentally Ill Parolees (ISMIP) program, one of CDCR's community-based services programs, was launched in 2007 to provide comprehensive mental health and support services for parolees with a serious mental illness who were at risk of homelessness. This program provided mental health treatment and other support services including housing subsidies to prevent homelessness. However, the 2020 May Revision of the California state budget proposed to cut the ISMIP program effective December 31, 2020. Prior to the program ending, the agency contracted to implement the ISMIP program in Los Angeles County worked with Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) staff along with CDCR staff to transfer all existing enrollees in the ISMIP program to LACDMH for continued mental health treatment and support with housing.

While the State was in the process of closing down the ISMIP program, they were also reducing the overall prison population. During this process, the State reached out to philanthropic organizations to match their investments in housing for those leaving prison. Instead of investing funds in the statewide program, the Hilton Foundation decided to make a local investment by partnering with LACDMH to provide \$500,000 through fiscal intermediary, Brilliant Corners, to be used for the short term housing needs of those linked to LACDMH from CDCR. One of the purposes of the funding was to continue providing rental subsidies for the current ISMIP program participants. The funding will also be available for rental subsidies and other short term housing needs to individuals linked to LACDMH for mental health services that would otherwise be homeless. LACDMH's Housing and Job Development Division (HJDD) will oversee the administration of the Hilton housing funds through its Housing Assistance Program (HAP).

LACDMH SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS IN THE PHAP

LACDMH will work collaboratively with CDCR to link eligible parolees to LACDMH services prior to their release from prison institutions or community programs administered by CDCR. Referrals may also be identified by other community organizations that serve parolees and have referred them to DMH outpatient programs and from DMH case managers who have identified clients that are on parole have interim housing needs. Eligible parolees who are not linked to DMH already and that have housing assistance needs will be referred to an appropriate DMH outpatient program that will provide field-based services such as the Women/Men Community Reintegration Programs or Full Service Partnership Program. The LACDMH program provides comprehensive mental health services including but not limited to medication supports, case management, individual and group therapy, substance use treatment, benefit establishment, and housing assistance. In addition, parolees will receive assistance with establishing

education or employment goals, parenting skills, and any other assistance needed to achieve community reintegration and housing stability.

PHAP eligibility requirements include the following:

- Individual is in the process of or has transitioned from a CDCR institution or community-based program such as the Behavioral Health Reintegration (BHR) program and/or is on parole;
- Participant must have a serious mental illness as determined by LACDMH staff;
- Participant must be linked and agree to participate in LACDMH mental health services; and
- Participant must be homeless or at risk of homelessness at the time of their release or referral and in need of short-term rental or other housing assistance.

Participants and the mental health service provider must understand that this is short-term rental assistance and that they are expected to work together on a long-term housing plan.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Program guidelines are as follows:

- The short-term housing needs of participants will be assessed by the LACDMH program and if a client is in need of the PHAP assistance a HAP application will be completed by the mental health provider and submitted to Brilliant Corners. The HAP application should indicate PHAP under “other” program referral type
- HJDD’s existing HAP program procedures will be followed for review and approval of applications (see HAP Guidelines)
- Participants with income will pay 30% of their income toward rent and the LACDMH will pay the balance
- Participants will partner with service provider to develop a long-term housing plan which may include employment to allow transition of rent payment to the participant and/or transition to affordable housing
- LACDMH service provider will initiate assistance with assessing and establishing or reactivating financial benefits within two weeks of their transition to the LACDMH program
- LACDMH service provider will be required to assist participants with locating housing, conducting a minimum of monthly home visits and submitting monthly outcome data reports to HJDD as indicated below.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

- Participants will increase their income through employment or financial benefits to which they are entitled within 6 months
- Participants that become employed will maintain their employment for 90 days
- Participants will transition to other permanent housing within 9 to 12 months of moving into PHAP short-term housing

- After transitioning from the PHAP program to other permanent housing, participants will remain in permanent housing for 12 consecutive months

HJDD will be responsible for collecting the data and monitoring the progress of each participant and will develop quarterly reports. These reports will include a financial report of the expenditures to date along with the available balance.