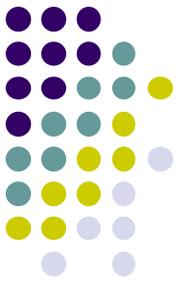


SAMHS

Subsidy Programs

Who Qualifies?
How to Apply?

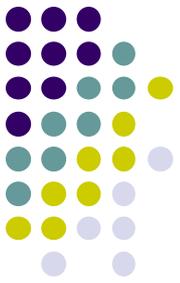
Chester Barnes, Maine SAMHS
Virginia Dill, Shalom House



BRAP

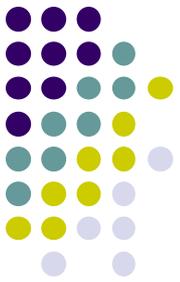
Bridging Rental Assistance Program

What is BRAP?



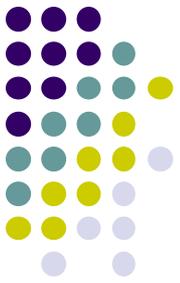
- Bridging Rental Assistance Program
- Transitional Housing Subsidy for adults with mental illness
- Serves Individuals and Families
- Subsidy program helps to pay for the rent of an independent apartment
 - Tenants pay 51% of gross income to rental costs

Who Can BRAP Help?



- Adults with a Severe and Disabling Mental Illness who meet Eligibility For Care Criteria for Community Support Services as defined by the Section 17.02 of the MaineCare Benefits Manual who:
 - Receive SS/DI benefits or are currently applying; **and**
 - Have applied for a Section 8 Housing Voucher; **and**
 - Meet one of the BRAP's four priorities

BRAP Priority Criteria

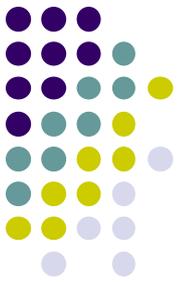


1. Applicant is leaving a State Institution; or a private psychiatric hospital bed; or has been discharged within the last 6 months from any of these institutions; **or**

2. Applicant is homeless as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development:
 - sleeping in places not meant for human habitation such as cars, parks, emergency shelters.
 - is graduating from transitional housing specifically for homeless persons;
 - is being evicted within the week from private dwelling units
 - is a person being discharged within the week from institutions in which they have been a resident for more than 30 consecutive days; **or**

(continued on next slide)

BRAP Priority Criteria (cont)



3. The applicant is living in substandard housing in the community.

A unit is substandard if the unit:

- does not have operable indoor plumbing
- does not have a useable flush toilet inside the unit
- does not have a useable bathtub or shower
- does not have electricity,
- has been declared unfit for habitation by and agency or unit of government;

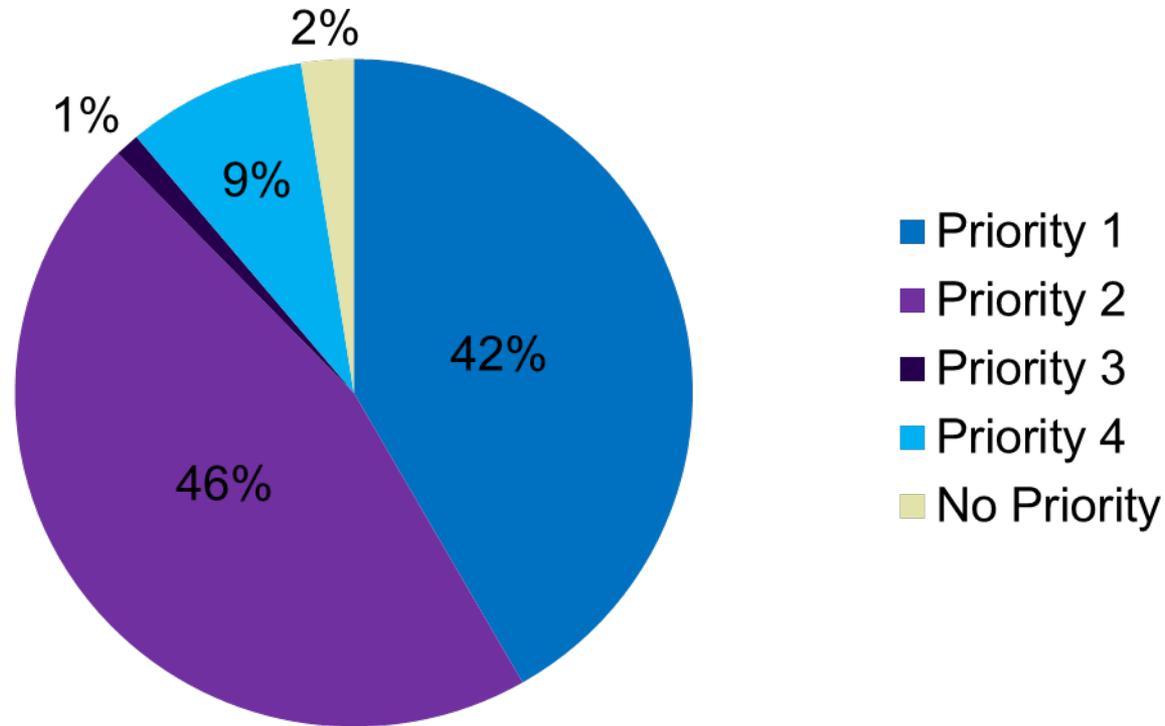
or

4. Applicant is moving from community residential programs and other behavioral health facilities to more independent living arrangements.

Statewide BRAP Vouchers Distribution by Priority FY14



FY 14 Statewide Voucher Priority

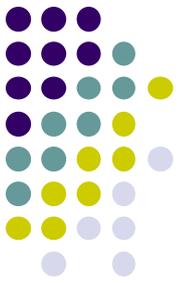


How to Apply for BRAP



- Complete an application form and gather all the required attachments
- Submit completed application and all attachments to the agency who covers the desired town/county

Disability Documentation



- **Applicant is enrolled in Section 17 or 97 DHHS services.**
(*Section 17 – Case management or Section 97 – PNMI*)
 - Attach APS HealthCare document which includes active enrollment date

OR

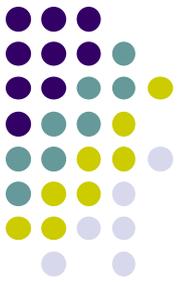
- **Applicant is not enrolled in SAMHS services.**
 - Attach a completed BRAP Enrollment Form

Priority 1 – Psychiatric Hospitalization



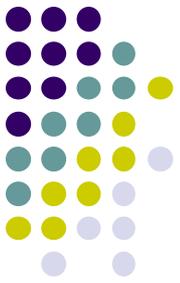
- Psychiatric hospitalization in the past 6 months
 - Applicants can be either in a psychiatric hospital bed or discharged within the last 6 months
 - Submit documentation on hospital letterhead or designated form
 - Admission note with admission date for people still in a psychiatric bed
 - Discharge note with discharge date for people who are no longer in hospital

Priority 2 – Homelessness



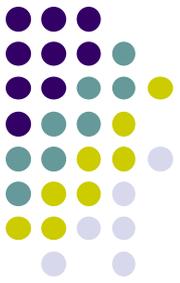
- Applicant is homeless as defined by the US Department of Housing & Urban Development for transitional housing programs:
 - Shelter Verification – letterhead from shelter documenting current residency; **or**
 - Streets Verification – documentation from staff person with direct knowledge of the situation (Example: police officer or outreach worker); **or**
 - Transitional Housing Verification if homeless directly before entry – letterhead from transitional program and previous homeless situation; **or**
 - Proof of Eviction within 7 days – Court document documenting eviction date
 - Institution for more than 30 days – Letterhead from institution showing admission date and discharge date within 7 days

Priority 3 - Substandard Housing



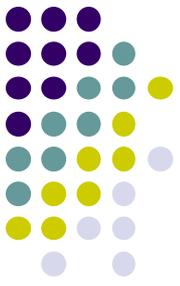
- Documentation a unit is substandard demonstrated by showing it:
 - does not have operable indoor plumbing
 - does not have a useable flush toilet inside the unit
 - does not have a useable bathtub or shower
 - does not have electricity,
 - has been declared unfit for habitation by and agency or unit of government;

Priority 4 – Community Residential



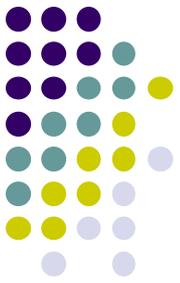
- Documentation applicant is moving from a community residential program or other behavioral health facilities, to more independent living arrangements demonstrated by:
 - Agency letterhead stating:
 - Program Name
 - Entry Date
 - Anticipated Exit Date

Income Source

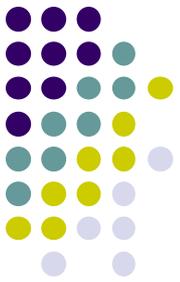


- All applicants must have an income source to be eligible for BRAP (*i.e. SSI, TANF, Employment, General Assistance, etc.*)
 - Attach SS/DI verification
 - Current statement of benefits from SSA or
 - Documentation of current application or appeal of denial for benefits (*No documentation will be acceptable if action date has expired. Example appointment with SSA has past without action*)
 - Proof of application with social security office; or
 - Letter from lawyer stating appeal is being made; or
 - Letter to SSI/DI asking for re-instatement;
 - Attach income verification documents for all other income sources for household dated within the last 120 days

Section 8

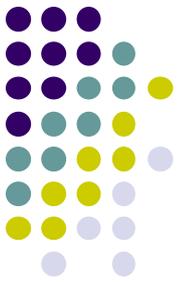


- All applicants applying for BRAP must apply for Section 8 to be considered eligible.
- Areas with an open Section 8 waitlist
 - Copy of application with date/time stamp; **or**
 - Letter from Housing Authority regarding status on waitlist
- Areas with a closed Section 8 waitlist
 - Complete Section 8 application question on application stating Section 8 waitlist is closed.



SAMHS Shelter Plus Care (SPC)

What is Shelter Plus Care?



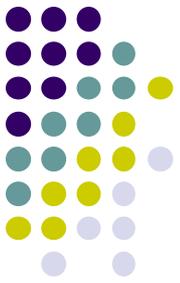
- Permanent Supported Housing Subsidy for adults with a severe disability who are experiencing homelessness
 - Qualifying disability include: Severe Mental Illness, Chronic Substance Abuse, AIDS or co-occurring disorders
- Serves Individuals and Families
- Subsidy program helps to pay for the rent of an independent apartment
 - Tenants pay 30% of adjusted income to rental costs

Shelter Plus Care (SPC)



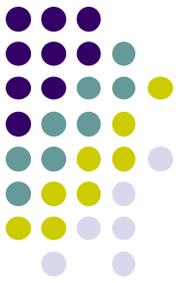
- SPC vouchers are prioritized for (Severe and Persistent Mentally Ill, Chronic Substance Abuse, Co-Occurring Disorders, and HIV/AIDS) according to the following homeless priorities:
- HUD defined Chronic Homeless
- Maine defined Long Term Stayer
- HUD defined Literal Homeless
- HUD defined moving from/graduating Transitional Housing with documentation of homelessness upon entrance.

SPC Homeless Criteria



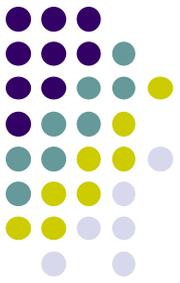
- Applicant is homeless as defined by the US Department of Housing & Urban Development for permanent housing programs:
 - Shelter Verification – letterhead from shelter documenting current residency; **or**
 - Streets Verification – documentation from staff person with direct knowledge of the situation (Example: police officer or outreach worker); **or**
 - Transitional Housing Verification if homeless directly before entry – letterhead from transitional program and previous homeless situation

How to Apply for SPC

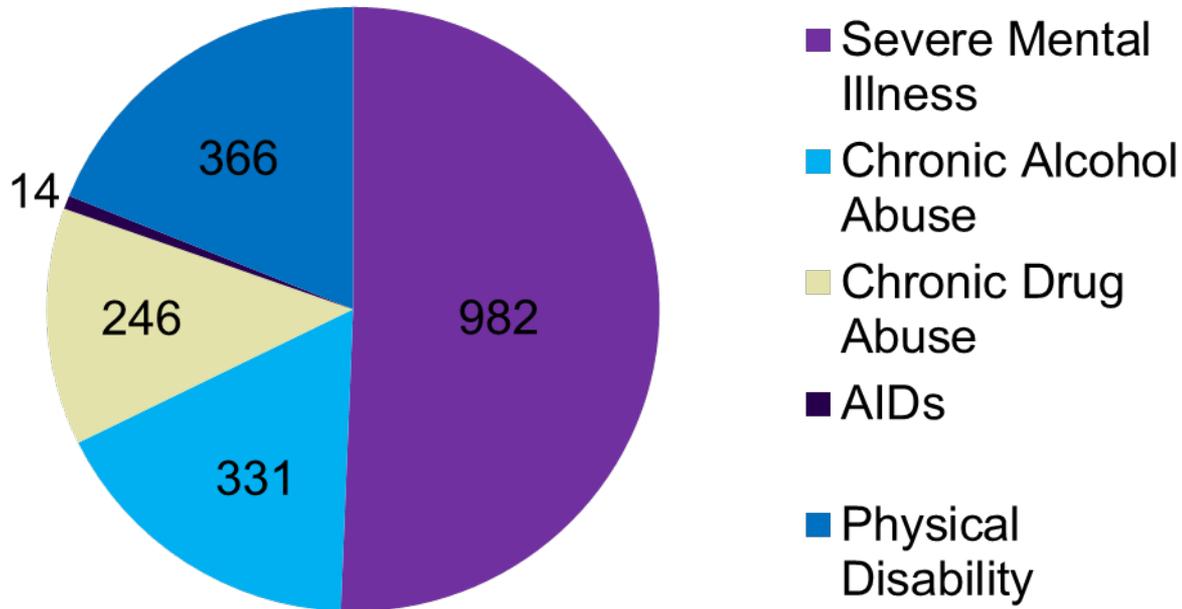


- Complete an application form and gather all the required attachments
- Submit complete application and all attachments to the agency who covers the desired town/county

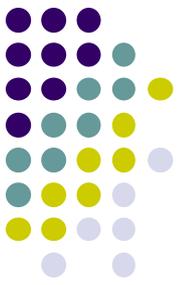
Shelter Plus Care Disability Graph - FY14



Disabilities by Count

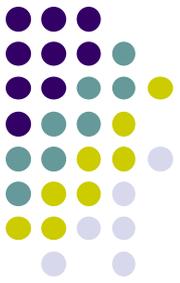


Maine DHHS - Shelter Plus Care Disability Categories – Active Clients



Documented Diagnosis	Count	Percentage of Voucher Holders with Disability
Severe Mental Illness	982	93%
Chronic Alcohol Abuse	331	32%
Chronic Drug Abuse	246	23%
AIDS	14	1%
Physical Disability	366	35%

Additional Questions?



- Contact your local BRAP or Shelter Plus Care agent for applications and more information about these programs in your area. Found online at:
<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/samhs/mentalhealth/housing/home.html>
- To see the list of contacts, go to the link shown above and click on **“Local BRAP and Shelter Plus Contacts”**.
- This webinar PowerPoint can be accessed online through our website here:
<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/samhs/mentalhealth/mh-system/index.shtml>