

C. Eligible Persons to be Served

1. Who can receive assistance from the projects proposed in an application?

A person must be homeless in order to receive assistance under the SHP, S+C, and Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Single Room Occupancy (SRO) programs. Other restrictions may also apply, depending upon the program.

A person is considered homeless only when he/she resides in one of the places described below:

- a. in places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, and abandoned buildings;
- b. in an emergency shelter;
- c. in transitional or supportive housing for homeless persons who originally came from the streets or emergency shelter;
- d. in any of the above places but is spending a short time (up to 30 consecutive days) in a hospital or other institution;
- e. is being evicted within a week from a private dwelling unit and no subsequent residence has been identified and the person lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing; or
- f. is being discharged within a week from an institution in which the person has been a resident for more than 30 consecutive days and no subsequent residence has been identified and he/she lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing.

2. Can a project serve persons at risk of becoming homeless?

No. By law, only those persons who are homeless may be served by the programs under the NOFA. If your organization wants to serve persons at risk of becoming homeless, persons who are "doubled up," or persons who are "near homelessness," it would need to use another source. HUD administers the Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG) program that can fund homelessness prevention activities. A variety of other programs, such as Section 8, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME, serve low-income persons who may be at risk of becoming homeless due to poor housing conditions, overcrowding or other reasons. Contact your local HUD field office for more information on these and other programs.

3. Can a project serve a person being discharged from a State mental health institution in a state that requires housing to be provided upon the person's release?

If your State has a policy requiring housing as part of a discharge plan, HUD does not consider those persons homeless since they will be placed in housing arranged by the State. Contact your State department of mental health or similar State agency for information on its discharge policy. If your State does not require housing as part of discharge planning, then those persons being discharged may be served as long as they will be homeless as described in Question #1 of this section.

As a condition for award in the competition, any governmental entity serving as an applicant must agree to develop and implement, to the maximum extent practicable and where appropriate, policies and protocols for the discharge of persons from publicly funded institutions or systems of care (such as health care facilities, foster care or other youth facilities, or correction programs and institutions) in order to prevent such discharge from immediately resulting in homelessness for such persons. This condition for award, in the form of a certification and required by law, is intended to emphasize that States and units of general local government are primarily responsible for the care of these individuals, and to forestall attempts to use scarce McKinney-Vento Act funds to assist such persons in lieu of State and local resources.