

HOUSING

Emergency Housing Defined

SITUATION: DEFINE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Transitional housing

Refers to a supportive – yet temporary – type of accommodation that is meant to bridge the gap from homelessness to permanent housing by offering structure, supervision, support (for addictions and mental health, for instance), life skills, and in some cases, education and training.

SITUATION: DEFINE A DAY SHELTER

Day Shelters

Take in the homeless during the day. Someday shelters also operate as night shelters where individuals can also sleep. The purpose of a day shelter is to give the homeless a place to shower, eat meals, make phone calls, and use the computer to look for work.

SITUATION: DEFINE A FAMILY SHELTER

As the name implies a family shelter attempts to house the whole family together. Most family shelters only house women and children, often separating the father from this family. However, some family shelters are equipped to keep the family unit together. Family shelters often have private cooking and bathing areas for each family unit. In a family shelter there are counseling services, job search resources, and even child care.

SITUATION: DEFINE AN EMERGENCY WARMING CENTER

A Warming Center is a no-frills facility. Often called a “hot and a cot”, it provides overnight shelter and a hot meal. This type of shelter is open to any one that passes the basic requirement: wanting to get off the streets for the night. A basic pat down is all that is required. Because of this, guests can change from night to night, so theft and drug overdoses are not uncommon. Warming Centers operate during the coldest months of the year. Guest are required to leave in the morning and often roam the streets or go to day centers

SITUATION: DEFINE AN EMERGENCY SHELTER

Like the warming center it is open to anyone wanting to get off the streets. Emergency shelters for families, individuals are open year-round and provide some limited resources. This type of shelter may see the same guest nightly so a more thorough screening is conducted and the quest are able to stay up to 30 days.

SITUATION: DEFINE A ROTATING SHELTER

Rotating shelters are ones that move from location to location, often within a network of churches. As the location rotates so do the guests. These shelters are more structured and the guest are expected to stay for a defined length of time to benefit from all of the available resources needed to get permanent housing. There are rules to follow such as no smoking or drug use in the facility. Breathalyzers and searches of the guest and their belongings are often done at check-in. Case management and job search resources are available. Failure to follow the rules can result in being discharge from the program.

- ***Still need help? Dial 2-1-1 or 1-888-892-1192 to speak to a call specialist 24/7/365.***