EMERGENCY HOUSING FOR ELDERLY OR DISABLED ADULTS

CORE STANDARD
Emergency housing is defined as short-term nursing home, adult foster care, or group home placement for adults for whom no other safe, short-term residence is available. Emergency housing is limited to adults with disabilities aged 18-59 and any older adult, aged 60 years or older, who is the victim of a crime resulting in abuse, neglect, exploitation and/or abandonment.

Short-term emergency housing is to be provided for a period not to exceed 45 days until a more permanent solution can be established. Housing options under this standard include, but are not limited to: a domiciliary care home, an assisted living facility, a long-term care nursing facility, an older adult daily living center, or a personal care home. Housing options should be based upon the need of the eligible victim, and be the least restrictive alternative.

Please see the following additional standards for more information on housing options for all victims of crime:
- In-Home Care for Adults and Children
- Emergency Financial Assistance
- Emergency Shelter
- Transitional Housing
- Relocation

DEFINITIONS
Eligible victim - An adult between 18-59 years of age with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, and any older adult, aged 60 years or older. An eligible victim is an individual who is the victim of a crime, abuse, neglect, exploitation and/or abandonment, and requires housing as a direct result of their victimization and has no other personal or financial resources available to secure these services.

Facility - The term includes, but is not limited to:
(1) An assisted living residence as defined in section 1001 of the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Public Welfare Code.
(2) A domiciliary care home as defined in section 2202-A of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929.
(3) A home health care agency as defined in section 802.1 of the act of July 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), known as the Health Care Facilities Act.
(4) An intermediate care facility for people with mental retardation.
(5) A long-term care nursing facility as defined in section 802.1 of the act of July 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), known as the Health Care Facilities Act.
(6) An older adult daily living center as defined in section 2 of the act of July 11, 1990 (P.L.499, No.118), known as the Older Adult Daily Living Centers Licensing Act.
(7) A personal care home as defined in section 1001 of the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Public Welfare Code.
An organization or group of people that uses public funds and is paid, in part, to provide care and support to adults in a licensed or unlicensed setting.

A residential treatment facility.

**PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

For the VOCA-funded agency that provides emergency housing, the following requirements apply:

1. The responsible agency shall establish an interagency agreement or memorandum of understanding between the local victim service provider (VSP) and the county’s Area Agency on Aging (AAA) or the PA Department of Human Services’ subcontracted entity for Adult Protective Services (APS). This agreement shall be included in the appropriate annual plans and/or contracts for all parties. At a minimum, the agreement shall address the following:
   a. Eligibility of victims.
   b. The needs assessment process, as required in the Older Adults Protective Services Act (OAPSA) or APS.
   c. The risk assessment process, and the development of a safety plan, if necessary.
   d. The service plan process, as required in OAPSA or APS, which shall be developed by the AAA or APS in collaboration with the VSP.
   e. All of the additional housing options available through the agencies (See In-Home Care for Adults and Children, Emergency Financial Assistance, Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing and Relocation standards) that may be appropriate for certain eligible victims as an alternative to emergency housing.
   f. The scope and length of services.
   g. The communication process between agencies, taking each agency’s respective confidentiality requirements into consideration. At a minimum, services provided under this standard must abide by the current confidentiality standard included in the Consolidated Victim Service Program Standards.
   h. Formal inter-agency collaboration through task force participation, cross-training, and/or case review meetings.
   i. Any other OAPSA or APS requirements, including but not limited to: conflict of interest assessment procedures, the Request of Need process, and liability considerations.
   j. The fiscal responsibilities of the VSP and the AAA or APS (See paragraph (3)).
   k. Any other policies or procedures deemed necessary between the VSP and the AAA or APS.

If a determination is made by the AAA or APS that protective services are not required, the VSP may independently provide the eligible victim with emergency housing or other services, including but not limited to: other housing options, personal advocacy, counseling, safety planning, civil legal services, transportation or other eligible direct services.

2. Emergency housing shall be provided in a clean, secure and protective facility. Facilities shall comply with all relevant federal, state, and local laws; health and safety codes; and
inspection requirements. The placement of an eligible victim in a facility should be based upon a facility’s admission guidelines, available resources, the need of the eligible victim, and the urgency of the need for temporary housing.

3. Federal VOCA funding for emergency housing cannot be used to supplant existing state or local funding commitments for these services, but funding can be used to supplement existing funds for new or expanded services. In addition, participation in emergency housing must be voluntary. Emergency housing or other services that are court-ordered are not eligible for VOCA funding and must be provided by the AAA or APS office independently.

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

- Responsible agencies are encouraged to enter into interagency agreements or a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with facilities and local area service providers, including other VSPs, to develop a comprehensive range of housing options for eligible victims.

- VSPs are encouraged to invite their county AAA or APS and facility providers to attend trauma-informed training sessions and to inform them on emerging trends and responses to victimization.

- Representatives from VSPs and AAA or APS are encouraged to participate on county Elder Abuse Task Forces to facilitate relationships and referral procedures for eligible victims in need of services.

REFERENCES:

- Older Adults Protective Services Act, Act 79 of 1987, P.L. 381, No. 79
- Adult Protective Services (APS) Law, Act 70 of 2010, P.L. 484, No. 70 Cl.23