

EMERGENCY BRIDGE HOUSING POLICY

REFERRAL & ELIGIBILITY

PURPOSE

To establish eligibility criteria and a uniform process for referrals to County-owned Emergency Bridge Housing projects.

Eligibility and referral policies are intended to select participants that will succeed in a non-congregate setting and continue to make progress toward permanent housing.

POLICY

Snohomish County will determine eligibility criteria and referral policies for County-owned Emergency Bridge Housing projects. All participants must meet eligibility criteria and be referred to the projects in accordance with the policies described below.

Target Population: The projects will serve individuals currently residing in shelters (congregate, non-congregate, or pallet) to be selected by the County OR in consistent contact with a County-approved referral partner and actively engaging in activities to achieve housing stability.

Eligibility Criteria: The program shall serve eligible participants only. Eligible participants must:

1. Be 18 years of age or older.
2. Be literally homeless (Category 1) as defined by HUD Defining Homeless Rule.
 - a. Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation; or
 - b. Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, and local government programs); or
 - c. Is exiting an institution where they resided for 90 days or less and resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution.
3. Be currently residing in a shelter (congregate, non-congregate, or pallet) selected by the County OR in consistent contact with a County-approved referral partner and actively engaging in activities to achieve housing stability.
4. At or below 50% of the area median income for Snohomish County.
5. Not have a recent conviction for manufacture or distribution of a controlled substance.
6. Not have a recent conviction for arson.
7. Not be a level two or three registered sex offender.
8. Be able to manage activities of daily living, including:
 - a. Ambulating: The ability to get in and out of bed and move independently.
 - b. Feeding: The ability to feed oneself.

- c. Dressing: The ability to put on clothes unassisted.
- d. Personal hygiene: The ability to bathe and perform essential grooming.
- e. Continence: The ability to control bladder and bowel function.
- f. Toileting: The ability to get and from the toilet, use it appropriately, and clean oneself.
- g. Medications: The ability to manage medications without assistance.

Referral Pathways: The projects will not operate on a drop-in-basis. All participants must be referred by County-approved referral partners. The Director of the Human Services Department (or their designee) may add to, or remove, from the list of designated referral partners. The Local Jurisdictions will be consulted in the selection of referral partners.

Referral partners will include but may not be limited to:

1. Social Workers embedded with the Cities of Everett and Edmonds.
2. Snohomish County Outreach Team (SCOUT).
3. Snohomish County Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD).
4. County selected shelters.

Referral partners will be expected to:

- Complete the Eligibility and Referral Form on behalf of participants they refer to the project. The Eligibility and Referral form shall address the eligibility of the potential participant.
- Review the Code of Conduct with each potential participant, describing project expectations, rules, and requirements.
- Accurately describe what services and supports participants can expect from the project.
- Refer individuals who are currently residing in a shelter (congregate, non-congregate, or pallet) selected by the County or have extensive contact and are actively engaged in services with the referral partner.

Local Referrals: The county's goal is that at least 75% of participants referred to the projects are residents of the local community, defined as:

- Edmonds Location: 75% of participants referred to the project shall be residents of South Snohomish County. Priority will be given to Edmonds residents.
- Everett Location: 75% of participants referred to the project shall be residents of Everett.