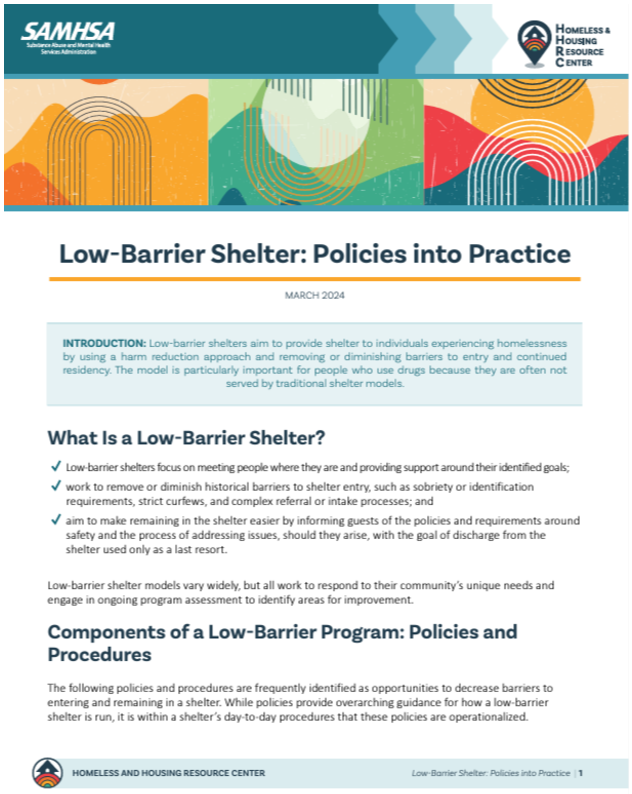
March 2024 Newsletter

Explore new training and resources from HHRC and our partners!

Just Released!


SAMHSA

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Homeless & Housing Resource Center

Low-Barrier Shelter: Policies into Practice

MARCH 2024

INTRODUCTION: Low-barrier shelters aim to provide shelter to individuals experiencing homelessness by using a harm reduction approach and removing or diminishing barriers to entry and continued residency. The model is particularly important for people who use drugs because they are often not served by traditional shelter models.

What Is a Low-Barrier Shelter?

- ✓ Low-barrier shelters focus on meeting people where they are and providing support around their identified goals;
- ✓ work to remove or diminish historical barriers to shelter entry, such as sobriety or identification requirements, strict curfews, and complex referral or intake processes; and
- ✓ aim to make remaining in the shelter easier by informing guests of the policies and requirements around safety and the process of addressing issues, should they arise, with the goal of discharge from the shelter used only as a last resort.

Low-barrier shelter models vary widely, but all work to respond to their community's unique needs and engage in ongoing program assessment to identify areas for improvement.

Components of a Low-Barrier Program: Policies and Procedures

The following policies and procedures are frequently identified as opportunities to decrease barriers to entering and remaining in a shelter. While policies provide overarching guidance for how a low-barrier shelter is run, it is within a shelter's day-to-day procedures that these policies are operationalized.

HOMELESS AND HOUSING RESOURCE CENTER *Low-Barrier Shelter: Policies into Practice* | 1

Low-Barrier Shelter: Policies into Practice

This guide provides information on the core components of low-barrier shelters. It provides examples of key policies, procedures to support those policies, and ideas for navigating common challenges in implementation.

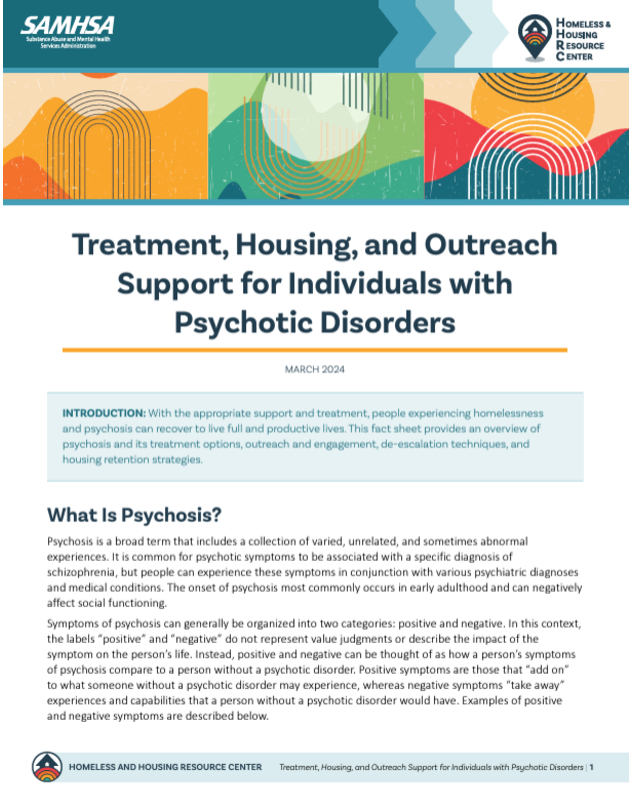
Hear how two low-barrier shelter programs put these core components into practice in our recorded webinar: Low-Barrier Shelter Models for People Who Use Drugs.

Download the Guide

Treatment, Housing,

and Outreach Support for Individuals with Psychotic Disorders

With the appropriate support and treatment, people experiencing homelessness and psychosis can recover to live full and productive lives. This fact sheet provides an overview of psychosis and its treatment options, tips for outreach and engagement, including de-escalation techniques, and strategies for supporting people with psychotic symptoms in achieving and maintaining housing.

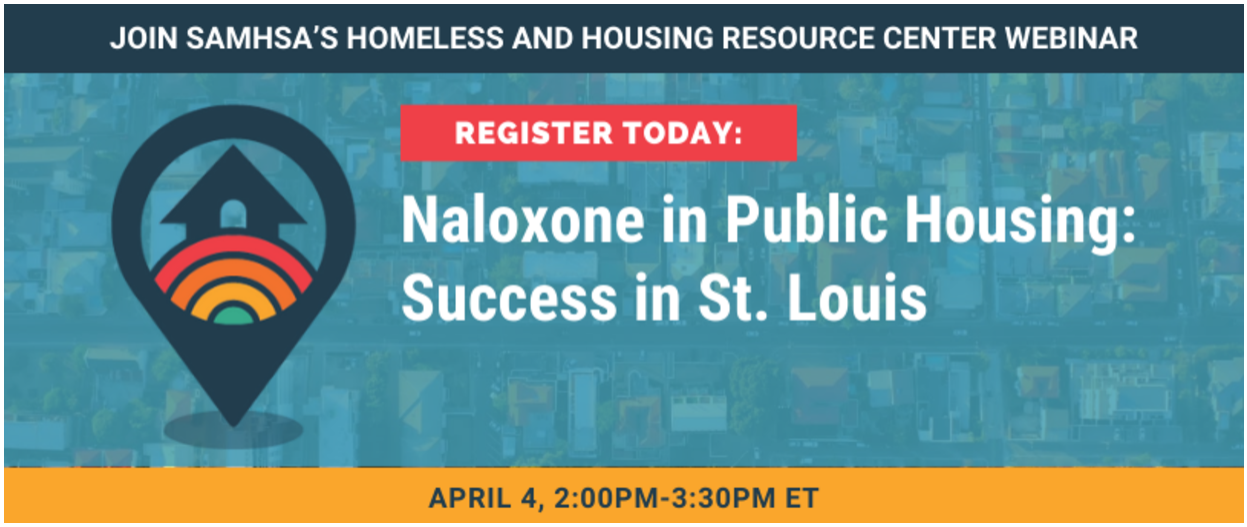


Hear more about these strategies from teams of multidisciplinary speakers in our recorded webinars:

- Introduction to Psychotic Disorders
- Outreach and Housing Support for Individuals with Psychotic Disorders

Download the Fact Sheet

Upcoming Webinar!



Naloxone in Public Housing: Success in St. Louis

April 4, 2:00-3:30pm Eastern Time (11:00am-12:30pm PT)

In 2022, over a 36-hour period, St. Louis experienced the deadliest mass drug overdose event in the city's history, leading to 11 overdoses and 7 deaths. These overdoses occurred at Parkview Apartments, which are public housing run by the St. Louis Public Housing Authority. They were the result of accidental fentanyl consumption, a synthetic drug that hit Missouri's drug supply in 2016 and has left a devastating imprint. This webinar will discuss the responsive cross-sector partnership that arose from this tragic event, which is focused on increasing outreach efforts to public housing facilities in St. Louis and lowering barriers for people to access life-saving naloxone and other health resources. The webinar will feature community health workers' and residents' perspectives on the program's benefits. There will be time for Q&A after the panel presentation.

This webinar will be recorded and ASL and live captioning will be provided. Certificates of participation will be provided to those who complete a post-event evaluation, but no CEUs are included in this event.

Register for the Webinar

Partner Resources

Funding Opportunities

Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA): FY24 Improving Adult and Youth Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry Program

With this solicitation, BJA seeks to support state, local, and tribal governments, as well as community-based nonprofit organizations, to support cross-system collaboration between criminal and juvenile justice agencies, mental health and substance use agencies, community-based organizations that provide reentry services, and community-based behavioral health providers to improve clinical stabilization pretrial, during confinement, and support continuity of care and recovery during the transition to the community through clinical and other evidence-based activities or services for individuals with serious mental illness, substance use disorders, and co-occurring disorders.

Applications are due Thursday, April 25, 2024. Learn more and apply.

SAMHSA: Building Communities of Recovery

The purpose of this program is to mobilize and connect a broad array of community-based resources to increase the availability and quality of long-term recovery support for persons with substance use disorders (SUD) and co-occurring substance use and mental disorders (CODs). Recipients will be expected to support the development, enhancement, expansion, and delivery of recovery support services directly to individuals and advance the promotion of, and education about, recovery at a community level.

Applications are due Monday, April 29, 2024. Learn more and apply.

BJA: FY24 Justice and Mental health Collaboration Program

With this solicitation, BJA seeks applications for funding programs that support cross-system collaboration to improve public safety responses and outcomes for individuals with mental health disorders or CODs. For the purposes of the FY24 solicitation, the program will focus on pretrial, prosecution, courts, probation/parole, and addressing the needs directly related to the criminal activity of adults with mental health conditions, living in homelessness or marginalized communities with minimal access to treatment, needing wrap around services, in the criminal justice system and leaving incarceration.

Applications are due Thursday, May 09, 2024. Learn more and apply.

New Releases

NCHV: The Housing Needs of Aging Veterans

The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV) is pleased to announce the release of their latest report. This report is the culmination of a yearlong project to better understand the current landscape, including barriers and innovative practices, and determine a path forward to better serve these veterans. The process included a literature review, interviews with key stakeholders, a survey of veteran service providers, and facilitated focus groups with veterans and service.

SAMHSA SOAR TA Center: SOAR is for Everyone

SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) is a model designed to increase access to disability income benefits for individuals who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. This infographic highlights the various populations and systems within which SOAR can be implemented.

NLIHC: Advocates' Guide 2024: A Primer on Federal Affordable Housing and Community Development Programs and Policies

Published annually, the Advocates' Guide is a comprehensive resource designed for advocates and others involved in affordable housing and community development advocacy. The Advocates' Guide comprises hundreds of pages of useful information and articles written by leading experts in the affordable housing and community development field with the aim of educating readers about the programs and policies that make housing affordable to low-income people across America.

NLIHC: The Gap: A Shortage of Affordable Homes

The nation's shortage of affordable homes is more acute today than it was before the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition's newly-released report. With a shortage of 7.3 million available and affordable rental homes for the lowest income earners, the report demonstrates the clear connection between homelessness and the lack of affordable housing, and emphasizes the disproportionate impact on Black, Latino, and Indigenous households.

Partner Webinars

- Webinar: Housing Problem-Solving: From Diversion to Rapid Exit and Beyond
  March 21, 3:00pm ET. National Alliance to End Homelessness

- Webinar: Financing Peer Recovery Support: Opportunities to Enhance the Substance Use Disorder Peer Workforce
  March 26, 1:00pm ET. SAMHSA Center for Financing Reform & Innovation

- Webinar: Identifying and Mitigating Vicarious Trauma and Staff Burnout
  March 26, 1:00pm ET. SAMHSA Prevention Technology Transfer Center

- Webinar: Peer Supervisors: Strategies for Retaining Peer Recovery Support Specialist Staff
  March 27, 2:00pm ET. SAMHSA Peer Recovery Center of Excellence

- Webinar: Implementing Harm Reduction Strategies in your Organization
  March 27, 1:00pm ET. SAMHSA Addiction Technology Transfer Center

- Webinar: Flipping the Script: A Teach-In for Healthcare Workers on Homelessness and the Criminal Legal System
  April 2, 12:00pm ET. The Health x Housing Lab

- Webinar: Rural Resilience: Bridging Mental Health Support for Men in the Heartland
  April 3, 1:00pm ET. SAMHSA Mental Health Technology Transfer Center

- Webinar: Providing High-Quality SOAR Services in Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Programs
  April 17, 3:00pm ET. SAMHSA SOAR TA Center

- Webinar: Words Matter Wednesdays: A Series on Advancing Equity Through Language
  May 1-29, 3:00pm ET. National Family Support Technical Assistance Center

- Webinar: Roadway Safety for People Experiencing Homelessness (Equity in Roadway Safety Webinar Series)
  July 24, 1:00pm ET. Department of Transportation

Please direct questions or concerns about HHRC training events

to: info@hhrctraining.org

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HOMELESS AND HOUSING RESOURCE CENTER

The Homeless and Housing Resource Center is a program developed under a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by SAMHSA/HHS, or the U.S. Government

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