## Virginia Homeless Solutions Program Rapid Rehousing Project Participant File Guide

AII	SP project participant files must contain:
	Homeless Certification Form
	Initial Screening Form (to include evidence of diversion or a problem solving
	conversation)
	Release of Information
	Housing barriers assessment
	Housing plan
	Evidence of coordination with mainstream resources
	Monthly housing focused case management
	Documentation of the termination or grievance process (if necessary)
All	SP – Rapid Rehousing project participant files must contain:
	VHSP Rapid Re-housing Project Participant Eligibility Form
	Veteran documentation (as applicable)
	Lead-Based Paint Visual Assessment Form
	Basic Habitability Checklist
	Rent Reasonableness
	Copy of Fair Market Rent Standards
	Utility Allowance Worksheet
	Valid Lease
	Written agreement with project participant
	Written agreement with landlord
	Recertification documentation (as applicable)
	□ Income below 30%AMI
	□ Assets below \$500



resided in a place not meant for

## HOMELESS CERTIFICATION FORM

App	licant Name and Unique Identifier:		<del></del>
Staf	f Member Name:		
	Household without dependent children Household with dependent children (c Number of persons in the household:	n (complete one form for each adult in the hous omplete one form for household)	ehold)
hom livin	eless based on the check mark, othe	ndividual or household is currently either liter er indicated information, and signature indica se of documentation used to verify homelessno	ating their current
	CHRON	NIC HOMELESS CERTIFICATION	
	*Agency must select "\	es" if household meets the following criteria:	
	vidual or family is literally homeless and following:	d has third-party, intake worker, or household d	ocumentation of
thre days	e years, where the cumulative total of too reasons will not constitute a break in ho	r continuously or on at least four separate occas the four occasions is at least one year (Stays in in omelessness, but such stays are included in the o a safe haven, or an emergency shelter; AND	nstitutions of 90
with	a diagnosable substance use disorder,	nor head of household if no adult is present in the serious mental illness, developmental disability p ting from a brain injury, or chronic physical illnes those conditions.	ost-traumatic
CHR	ONICALLY HOMELESS: Yes*	No	
		AL HOMELESS CERTIFICATION ation on the <u>primary</u> cause of homelessness	
	Homeless Status	Type of Eligible Documentation	Documentation/ Eligibility
_		SSNESS (RAPID RE-HOUSING ELIGIBLE)	-
	Persons living on the street or sleeping in a place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation	<ul> <li>Signed and dated written certification by person seeking services</li> <li>Signed and dated written certification by an outreach worker</li> </ul>	☐Yes ☐No
	Persons living in a shelter designed to provide temporary living arrangements - emergency shelter - transitional housing - hotel/motel paid for by a charitable organization or government program	HMIS shelter record     Written referral from previous shelter staff     Written referral from charitable organization or government program	∏Yes ∏No
Ш	Persons exiting an institution where they resided for 90 days or less and	<ul><li>HMIS shelter record</li><li>Written referral from previous shelter</li></ul>	☐Yes ☐No

RRH section

## Homeless Certification Form

	human habitation immediately before entering institution Persons fleeing domestic violence. *Must meet one of the homeless status categories listed above*	staff     Written referral from institution     Written, signed and dated verification from the participant     Written, signed and dated verification from the domestic violence service.	☐Yes ☐No	
		provider.		
	nighttime residence within 14 days and meets both of the following circumstances:  - No appropriate subsequent housing options have been identified; AND  - Household lacks the financial resources and support networks needed to obtain immediate housing	<ul> <li>Documentation of diversion (notate in case file)</li> <li>Eviction letter from tenant/homeowner (If living with another, i.e. doubled up)</li> <li>Letter from hotel/motel manager and cancelled checks to verify costs covered by the participant</li> <li>Court order/eviction notice</li> </ul>	☐Yes ☐No	
	Persons fleeing domestic violence *Must also be imminently homeless*	<ul> <li>Written, signed and dated verification from the participant</li> <li>Written, signed and dated verification from the domestic violence service provider.</li> </ul>	☐Yes ☐No	
prefe	erred method of certifying homelessnes.			
hom	Note the t	ter Name). If you are unable to secure the thi	ird party verification	
1		aration is only permitted when third party verifica	tion cannot be	
			ation above, work w	ith project
	before entering institution  Persons fleeing domestic violence. *Must meet one of the homeless status categories listed above*    Written, signed and dated verification from the participant   Written, signed and dated verification from the domestic violence service provider.    IMMINENT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS (TARGETED PREVENTION ELIGIBLE)     Person will imminently lose primary nighttime residence within 14 days and meets both of the following circumstances: - No appropriate subsequent housing options have been identified; AND - Household lacks the financial resources and support networks needed to obtain immediate housing or remain in its existing housing     Persons fleeing domestic violence *Must also be imminently homeless*     Written, signed and dated verification from the participant   Mritten, signed and dated verification from the domestic violence service			
Parti	cipant Signature:	Date:		
Form	n Completed By:			
Staff	Signature:	Date:		

All forms need to include project participant signature, printed name of staff person completing the form and their signature.

Effective programs and case managers support and trust that project participants want to and are able to succeed. The strength-based housing barriers assessment is used to help project participants identify any existing barriers to obtaining and maintaining permanent housing as well as their own strengths and resources to overcome these barriers. The housing plan establishes the pathway to obtaining and maintaining this permanent housing by setting goals with reasonable action steps to be completed by the project participant and case manager.

#### A housing barriers assessment is:

- Individualized to the project participant and/or household
- A give and take dialogue between the project participant and case manager
- A living document
- Able to inform the level of supportive services and financial assistance that may be needed to end the episode of homelessness
- A tool that can aid in problem-solving conversations (i.e. diversion or self-resolution)
- Client-led with support from case manager

#### Best practices in housing barriers assessments:

- Focus only on barriers directly related to the project participant's ability to access permanent housing. At each step, ask "is this preventing someone from obtaining or maintaining permanent housing right now?"
- Assess both barriers and strengths in permanent housing attainment
- Information gathered should fall into two categories:
  - 1. Barriers to *obtaining* housing (i.e. landlord screening barriers (rental history, criminal history, income requirements) and financial barriers)
  - 2. Barriers to *maintaining* housing (i.e. income/employment, budgeting or financial literacy, substance use disorder, mental illness, compliance with lease agreement, etc.)
- Revisit and adjust priorities as barriers are addressed
  - Explore strengths in relationships
    - Who are your allies, friends, family members?
    - Has there ever been a time that you were able to help a friend or family member? What happened?
  - Explore strengths in past housing and employment experiences
    - Do you have any previous rental history? If so, how did you manage the relationship with your landlord? Did you have success paying rent for all or a portion of that lease?
  - Explore strengths in self
    - Ability to advocate for themselves sought help and conveyed needs
    - Resourcefulness Has experienced hardships or crises and made it through to this day
    - o Other: Spirituality, hobbies, interests, coping skills, personality traits

#### A housing plan is:

- A pathway for obtaining and maintaining permanent housing.
- Defined end goals, each broken into stated action steps to be taken by the project participant AND the case manager, along with target completion dates and preestablished review dates.

- Strength-based, pulling on the project participant's strengths identified within the housing barriers assessment to minimize barriers and meet stated goals
- A living document that should be reviewed and updated regularly and no less than once per month

#### Best practices in housing plans:

- Use the housing barriers assessment to shape the project participant's housing plan.
- Be project participant driven
  - The RRH participant's goals and priorities drive the housing plan while the case manager provides information to help the participant inform choices and supports the person's decisions to the extent possible.
- Be housing-focused
  - The core goal of the housing plan is to obtain and maintain permanent housing.
     Goals that are not related to getting and keeping housing should be deferred unless they are a very high priority for the participant.
- Be reasonable
  - Do not set the project participant up for failure or perceived failure. The housing plan is meant to set achievable goals with realistic action steps.
  - The housing plan must be flexible and changeable based on the unique needs and goals of the project participant.
- Follow the SMART method: Goals should be Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Timely
- Begin exit planning early to ensure project participants are prepared for when the assistance (including financial assistance and/or supportive services assistance) is about to end.
- Goals should focus on the short-term and all action steps should be achievable within a
  relatively short period of time to allow the case manager and project participant to
  continually reassess progress and address remaining barriers.

#### Evidence of Coordination with Mainstream Resources

Grantees may meet the evidence of coordination with mainstream resources requirement in the following ways.

- 1. Documented in case notes
  - a. Example: A case note documenting a conversation between the case manager and project participant wherein the project participant is identified to be in need of a bed for their new rental unit and the case manager connects them with the local furniture bank.
  - b. Example: A case note documenting that the case manager has connected the project participant with SOAR trained staff to complete their application for SSI
- 2. Documented in the housing plan's goals and/or individual action steps
- 3. Use of a fixed checklist which identifies all resources available in a community. Items relevant to the needs of the individual project participant are checked off once a referral has been made.
  - a. Example: (not meant to be an actual tool, use the resources available in your community to build a checklist)

Mainstream Resources	Already Receives	Requires Referral
State/Federal/Local Housing Subsidy	Yes	Yes
Program	□No	□No
SSI/SSDI	Yes	Yes
	□ No	□ No
Social Security	Yes	Yes
	□ No	□ No
TANF	☐ Yes	│
	□ No	□ No
Unemployment Benefits	☐ Yes	☐ Yes
	□ No	☐ No
Medicaid/Medicare	Yes	☐ Yes
	□No	│
SNAP	Yes	☐ Yes
	□ No	□ No
CSB/Mental Health Care Provider	☐ Yes	Yes
	□No	□ No
Medical Care Provider	☐ Yes	☐ Yes
	□ No	□ No
McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison	☐ Yes	Yes
	□ No	□ No
Legal Services	☐ Yes	☐ Yes
-	□No	│
Food Pantry	Yes	Yes
	□No	□ No
DV Advocate	Yes	Yes
	□No	□No

# VHSP Rapid Re-housing Project Participant Eligibility Requirements This form is required for all VHSP Rapid Re-housing assistance.

	Head of H	lousehold Full Name:	Date Completed:
	VHSP ass	nticipants must identify all subsidy or assistar sistance must not be provided in the same co g., Section 8) are being provided.	
		Project participant is receiving tenant or project participant is receiving tenant or project arrearages, through other public source type (document in client file – ineligible for V	es for the same time period and/or cost
		Project participant is NOT receiving tenant or other public sources for the same time period file)	
	In order to	linimum Requirements o receive rapid re-housing financial assistance t households must meet the following minimu	
	A. Comp	leted Initial Evaluation/Intake:  Yes	Date intake was completed
	B. The h	ousehold meets both of the following circums	tances:
_		No appropriate subsequent housing options	have been identified; AND
		The household lacks the financial resources immediate housing or remain in its existing l	
3		ehold lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nigl st one)	httime residence, meaning: (must check
		Living in a publicly or privately operated she living arrangements (including congregate s hotels/motels paid for by charitable organizar government programs); OR	helters, transitional housing, and
		Sleeping in a place not meant for human had buildings, streets/sidewalks; <b>OR</b>	bitation, such as cars, parks, abandoned
		Exiting an institution for 90 days or less and other place not meant for human habitation prior to entering that institution.	
		Fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violen one of the above mentioned risk factors)	ce (project participants must also meet
	in client preferred assistan	orting documentation for project participa records and case notes. Third-party verified d method of certifying homelessness for a ce. nation of Project Eligibility Completed By:	cation must be provided and is the
			_
	Р	RINT NAME OF PROJECT STAFF	
	P	ROJECT STAFF SIGNATURE	DATE
		nat the information above and any other informa e is true, accurate, and complete.	tion I have provided in applying for VHSP
	P	RINT NAME OF PROJECT PARTICIPANT	_
	P	ROJECT PARTICIPANT SIGNATURE	DATE

Duplication of assistance is not eligible. Financial assistance cannot be made on behalf of eligible individuals or families for the same period of time and for the same cost types that are being provided through another federal, state, or local housing subsidy program.

Diversion has been attempted and RRH assistance is last resort to ending homelessness

# Lead-Based Paint Visual Assessment All units in which VHSP project participants reside are subject to Lead-Based Paint Requirements.

Required for all Prevention This form must be completed and included in each project participant file. Individuals completing and RRH clients this form must complete the online HUD training accessible via the following web address: http://www.hud.gov/offices/lead/training/visualassessment/h00101.htm. Property Address: If 'yes' to any of these, no A. Check all that apply: visual assessment is □ Property was built after 1978 Year Property Built: needed. Skip to Part E for No child under 6 lives with project participant all signatures Property is zero bedrooms, SRO housing, elderly housing Property has been tested and determined to not to contain lead-based paint If none apply, visual (attach documentation) assessment is required. Property has had lead-based paint hazards remediated (attach Complete Part D (visual documentation) B. If any of the above items are checked, no visual assessment is required. Complete Part E assessment) and Part E (acknowledgements) with agency staff, project participant, and landlord signatures. (signatures) C. If no items are checked above, LBP Visual Assessment is required. Complete Parts D & E. LBP VISUAL ASSESSMENT Interior Is there any peeling, chipping, chalking, or cracking Deterioration exceeds the de minimis level? paint? ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ N/A YES ■ NO Exterior Is there any peeling, chipping, chalking, or cracking Deterioration exceeds the de minimis level? paint? YES NO N/A YES NO Common Areas Is there any peeling, chipping, chalking, or cracking Deterioration exceeds the de minimis level? YES \_\_ NO N/A YES NO N/A If answered 'yes' to any of Describe Any Action Taken: (must be completed if any of the above are marked "Yes") the above, action must be taken to eliminate the LBP exposure risk. If no action is taken, unit fails E. LBP Visual Assessment Acknowledgements the LPG Visual Assessment and the unit is not eligible. Project Participant Name Signature Date Property Owner Name Signature Date Project Staff Name Signature Date

All signatures are required regardless of whether or not the LBP Visual Assessment must be completed.

# DHCD VHSP Basic Habitability Checklist

Signature

Unit or Shelter Address				7
(include street address, city and zip code)				
Grantee Name (if shelter) or				
Landlord/ Property-owner Contact Information				
(include name, company name, mailing address and phone number)				
		VES	NO	
Structure and materials. The unit is atmost wally sound so as not	to note any threat to the health and referr		110	
	to pose any threat to the health and salety o			
	with:			
			_	
		.		
	,	-	-	
	al ventilation. Unit is free of pollutants in th	ıe 🔲		
air at levels that threaten the health of residents.			itchon	faucat would you drink it?
Water supply. The water supply is free from contamination.		tuii tiie k	alchen	raucet, would you drink it:
Sanitary facilities. Residents have access to sufficient sanitary fa	cilities that are in proper operating condition	,		
may be used in privacy, and are adequate for personal cleanliness a	nd the disposal of human waste.			
		ar	nd its Ic	cation offers privacy
Illumination and electricity. The unit has adequate natural or as	tificial illumination to permit normal indoor			
activities and to support the health and safety of residents. There a	re sufficient electrical sources to permit the u	ıse		
of essential electrical appliances while assuring safety from fire.				
Food preparation and refuse disposal. All food preparation area	as contain suitable space and equipment to			
store, prepare, and serve food in a sanitary manner.				
Fire safety. Each unit includes at least one battery-operated or ha	rd-wired smoke detector, in proper working			
_			<b> </b>	Fire safety in bedrooms
		em		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
		ach		Fire safety in common
			<del>                                     </del>	
rooms, community rooms, day care centers, hallways, stairwells, an	id other common areas.			1001118
Agency				
ngency				
Agency Name	Agency Staff Name			_
Signature	Date			_
Tenant (if applicable)				
, II ,				
(include asen, so (include ase				
				_
Signature				_
Landlord / Property-owner (if applicable)				
				_
Name	Date			

\*Remember: DHCD's Basic Habitability Checklist is designed to ensure the rental unit is safe and healthy for the project participant/household. This form is designed to be completed to the best of your ability and not requiring anyone with specific building code or building safety knowledge or experience.

To complete this form

#### RENT REASONABLENESS CHECKLIST AND CERTIFICATION

24 CFR 574.320 (a)(3) Rent reasonableness. The rent charged for a unit must be reasonable in relation to rents currently being charged for comparable units in the private unassisted market and must not be in excess of rents currently being charged by the owner for comparable unassisted units.

	Proposed Unit	Unit #1	Unit #2	Unit #3		d to have the
Address						te FMR plus eted Utility
Number of Bedrooms			arable units a			e Worksheet
Square Feet			of the same si	ze,		l utilities are
Type of Unit/Construction			al location, /, amenities, e	vto.	rent amou	n the contract
Housing Condition		quality	, amenines, e	ic.	Terit arriot	11 IL)
Location/Accessibility			ental search s	ites,	]	
Amenities		classif	et surveys, Fied ads, etc. t		]	
Unit:		I	y comparable			
Site:		units.				
Neighborhood:						
Age in Years					1	
Utilities (type)					]	
Unit Rent Utility Allowance Gross Rent						
Handicap Accessible?					1	
Most Recently Charged Rent For Proposed Unit		Reason for Change	,			
Other local resources may be use	ed inspector and I ha			_	amount st	Rent = rent ated on lease t
e best of my ability and find the fo ERTIFICATION: . Compliance with Payment Stan						wance = tota using Utility
Compilation man a june in com-					Allowopee	Worksheet.
Χ	χ —		Pro	oosed	Allowance	Worksheet.
X	X Utility Allowance	= Propos	Projed Gross Rent	posed	If all utilitie	es are
X ontract Rent +	Utility Allowance			oosed	If all utilitie included in	es are n the rent
X	Utility Allowance		ed Gross Rent	posed	If all utilitie	es are n the rent
ontract Rent + t	Utility Allowance plicable Payment Sta	andard of \$	ed Gross Rent		If all utilitie included in	es are n the rent

To meet "Rent Reasonableness" – the rental amount must meet two standards:

- 1. Be reasonable when compared to the rent amounts charged for comparable units.
- 2. Contract rent amount plus utility allowance must not exceed FMR

Grantees must utilize the appropriate utility allowance worksheet issued by Virginia Housing (VH) or a worksheet developed by their local housing authority. Worksheets are based on number of exposed walls in the unit and must include calculations for any utilities the tenant is responsible for paying (utilities not included in the rent amount).

This guide uses Virginia Housing's utility allowance worksheet: <a href="https://www.vhda.com/BusinessPartners/HCVPAgents/Pages/HCVUtilityAllowanceSchedulesfor">https://www.vhda.com/BusinessPartners/HCVPAgents/Pages/HCVUtilityAllowanceSchedulesfor</a> VA.aspx

	1.	Select the	appropriate	worksheet	based on	number of	exposed walls:
--	----	------------	-------------	-----------	----------	-----------	----------------

pdf	One Exposed UA Schedule
pdf	Two Exposed UA Schedule
pdf - CI -	Three Exposed UA Schedule
pdf	Four Exposed UA Schedule

#### 2. Complete the worksheet for any utilities not included in the contract rent amount

#### Virginia Housing | Housing Choice Voucher Program

Allowances for Tenant-Furnished Utilities and Other Services Family Name: Client Unique ID
Unit Address: 123 Main St., Roanoke

Voucher Size\*: Unit Bedroom Size\*: 1 bedroom
\*Use smaller size to calculate tenant-supplied utilities and appliances.

		Unit Type: 1 Exposed Wall				Effective Date: 07/01/2021				
							llar Amount			
Utility	Usage	0 BR	1 BR	2BR	3BR	4BR	5 BR	6 BR	7BR	
Appliance	Range/Microwave	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	
	Refrigerator	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	
Bottled Gas	Cooking	\$8.00	\$11.00	\$14.00	\$18.00	\$22.00	\$26.00	\$29.00	\$32.00	
	Home Heating	\$44.00	\$62.00	\$79.00	\$97.00	\$123.00	\$141.00	\$158.00	\$176.00	
	Water Heating	\$19.00	\$27.00	\$34.00	\$41.00	\$53.00	\$61.00	\$68.00	\$76.00	
Electricity	Cooking	\$3.00	\$4.00	\$5.00	\$6.00	\$7.00	\$8.00	\$9.00	\$10.00	
	Cooling (A/C)	\$5.00	\$6.00	\$8.00	\$10.00	\$13.00	\$14.00	\$16.00	\$18.00	
	Home Heating	\$18.00	\$24.00	\$31.00	\$37.00	\$48.00	\$54.00	\$61.00	\$68.00	
	Other Electric	\$10.00	\$14.00	\$18.00	\$22.00	\$28.00	\$32.00	\$36.00	\$40.00	
	Water Heating	\$9.00	\$12.00	\$15.00	\$19.00	\$24.00	\$27.00	\$31.00	\$34.00	
Natural Gas	Cooking	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$4.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$6.00	
	Home Heating	\$8.00	\$11.00	\$14.00	\$18.00	\$22.00	\$26.00	\$29.00	\$32.00	
	Water Heating	\$4.00	\$5.00	\$6.00	\$8.00	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$13.00	\$14.00	
Oil	Home Heating	\$26.00	\$36.00	\$46.00	\$56.00	\$71.00	\$82.00	\$92.00	\$102.00	
	Water Heating	\$11.00	\$15.00	\$20.00	\$24.00	\$31.00	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$44.00	
Sewer	Other	\$21.00	\$29.00	\$38.00	\$46.00	\$59.00	\$67.00	\$76.00	\$84.00	
Trash Collection	Other	\$14.00	\$14.00	\$14.00	\$14.00	\$14.00	\$14.00	\$14.00	\$14.00	
Water	Other	\$18.00	\$24.00	\$31.00	\$37.00	\$48.00	\$54.00	\$61.00	\$68.00	
	LOWANCE ΓAL:	\$	132	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	

An example is provided for how this worksheet would be completed for a unit with 1 exposed wall and 1-bedroom with no utilities included in the rent.

These are estimates meant to provide us with an idea of how much the tenant will pay in utilities per month *in addition to* their rent payment.