

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

What is Transitional Housing for Homeless Families?

It is a program to provide housing and support services to selected families who have been residents of one of the transitional housing programs or who are otherwise homeless. Families live in the houses for between six months and two years while they work toward goals that will help them be more self-sufficient and provide for their own housing.

Why Transitional Housing?

The purpose is to break the pattern of homelessness within the population of homeless families with children, by providing life skills education and supportive relationships and services.

How do families qualify for this program?

They must be referred by other transitional housing programs, social service agencies, schools, or churches. Families must be residents of Champaign County for at least three-six months. They may submit an application when a vacancy occurs. The program coordinator interviews the applicants and selects the family, based on their motivation, family size relative to the size of the house, and potential for successful completion of the program.

How is the program run?

The City of Urbana provides limited case management services to the residents. The City of Urbana owns three of the houses; two additional houses have been provided privately, and the program can accommodate up to five families.

How is it funded?

It is funded primarily by the City of Urbana, through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Service funds.

How can private individuals help?

They can donate articles to furnish the houses or provide volunteer time. More information is available from the Grants Coordinator/Transitional Housing Program at 217-328-8263.



City of Urbana Transitional Housing Program

- City of Urbana operates Five (5) Transitional Housing Units, scattered throughout the City.
- Applicant(s) must:
 - Meet Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidelines for homelessness
 - Have dependent child(ren) under age 18
 - Have a documented source of income
 - Have appropriate family size for unit available
- Applications are made available (if there are openings in program):
 - Notice sent to local social service agencies
 - i.e. agencies at Human Service Council and Council of Service Providers to the Homeless, and all other community organizations, if requested or required, such as secretaries for District #116 & Unit 4 schools and individual shelter facilities.
- Interviews are scheduled to meet each applicant face-to-face:
 - An applicant should be selected who is:
 - Currently working and/or is in school (1 - 2 year program),
 - Has a determination for success
 - (i.e. can identify/has goals and reasonable dreams/aspirations)
 - Needs support and/or guidance along with housing.
- Once a candidate has been chosen, a second interview is to be scheduled:
 - To bring in all documents needed
 - (i.e. letter from employer and pay stubs, birth certificates, drivers license, state ID, any items you feel are necessary to serve the family), and
 - To answer any questions, and
 - To show unit (take client to area or meet there, as all units are kept **confidential** until client selected)
- Selected family is to be notified in writing (standard letter preference)
 - Participant is to sign Participation Agreement and Exhibits A-G, as well as release of information form and key release form.
- Client, children, property, and performance are monitored at each visit, which is to be scheduled at least on weekly and/or monthly basis, depending on needs of family.