



DISCHARGE POLICY

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 5, 2011 (revised August 6, 2012)

POLICY

This policy addresses discharge planning for a variety of population in the eight continua in Missouri, including, St. Louis City, St. Louis County, St Charles (St. Charles/Lincoln and Warren Counties), Springfield (Greene, Christian and Webster Counties), Joplin (Jasper and Newton Counties), St. Joseph (Andrew, Buchanan and DeKalb Counties), Kansas City (Jackson County) and Balance of State (101 Counties, not included in another continuum).

DEFINITIONS

I. HUD Definition of "Homeless"

According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), a person is considered homeless if they are living in places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, abandoned buildings or on the street. In addition, persons are also considered homeless if:

- They reside in Emergency shelters.
- They reside in Transitional or Supportive Housing for persons who are homeless and who originally came from the streets or emergency shelters.
- They came from any of the above places but are spending a short time (up to 90 consecutive days) in a hospital or other institution.
- They are being evicted within 14 days from a private dwelling unit and no subsequent residence has been identified.
- They are being discharged within a week from an institution, such as a mental health or substance abuse treatment facility or a jail/prison, in which the person has been a resident for more than 90 consecutive days and no subsequent residence has been identified.
- They are fleeing, or are attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence, and the person has no other residence and lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

II. Guiding Principles

In order to develop recommendations for this discharge policy, the following guiding principles were developed:

1. Homelessness is unacceptable in Missouri.
2. Every effort must be made through careful discharge planning to work with the client and area resources to seek adequate, permanent housing. In no instance should a person be discharged from a state or public facility with directions to seek housing or shelter in an emergency shelter without having first made every effort to secure permanent housing.
3. If "temporary" shelter placement is unavoidable, the reasons for this should be well documented.
4. If after having exhausted all efforts to engage the client in a discharge plan, if the client continues to refuse services, the efforts will be noted and the client will confirm his or her refusal with their signature.
5. If a client receiving out-patient services becomes homeless, the state or public facility should work actively with the client and community resources to locate suitable housing.

III. PROCEDURES

1. Adoption of Guiding Principles: All agencies and institutions serving the homeless population in Missouri shall adopt the guiding principles outlined in II, above.
2. Agency Adoption of Discharge Policy: All agencies and institutions within Missouri shall develop and implement a discharge policy that includes the following:
 - a. Individual Discharge Plan: Upon entry, begin planning an individual discharge plan that includes resident involvement and buy-in.
 - b. Collaboration and partnerships: A variety of forms of partnerships and collaborations are needed to achieve an effective discharge planning system. It is the responsibility of each agency to partner and collaborate with other agencies in their Continuum of Care to ensure the best outcome for Missouri residents.
 - c. Adequate information systems and tracking: All agencies shall use a relevant data tracking system. Agencies receiving McKinney-Vento HUD funding are required to participate in the Continuum of Care Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). For agencies not required, HMIS is preferred in order to improve communication, facilitate access to resources, and track completion of the discharge plan. Please note that Domestic Violence agencies are exempt from this requirement, as described in the Domestic Violence disclosure rules.
 - d. Integration of Community Resources: All agencies shall collaborate to reduce the duplication of services. Effective discharge planning procedures and policies shall

be supported by all relevant community planning documents, including, but not limited to, the Consolidated Plan, 10-year plan to end homelessness, and mental health and public housing authorities' strategic plans.

- e. Develop adequate funding strategies: In order for discharge planning to be successful, it needs adequate funding for the resources and programs deemed likely to be most successful in assisting a resident's re-entry into the community.

IV. FUTURE EFFORTS

Additional work is needed. Successful discharge planning policies to prevent homelessness are contingent upon identification of barriers and development of strategies to overcome those barriers. Some of the barriers identified by the committee include:

- Transportation
- Lack of Affordable housing
- Timely access to SSI and other benefits, particularly easier reinstatement of benefits after release from jail
- More service beds, particularly emergency shelter and transitional housing
- Money for medications
- Employment
- Time limiting TANF
- Domestic Violence Education
- Lack of Accessible Housing

Affordable Housing & Homelessness Task Force Update



Four Names....One Mission: for 100+ Years ; Advocating for Justice, Empowering Change

- In 1900, administrators, staff, and volunteers of social welfare agencies in Missouri set aside time at the National Conference of Charities & Corrections (NCCC) meeting in Topeka to discuss forming a Missouri conference (The NCCC had formed in 1879)
- In 1901, 41 social welfare advocates convened at the YMCA in St. Louis to establish the Missouri State Conference of Charities and Corrections
- Among early issues discussed – overcrowding of urban slums and lack of decent housing, racial disparities, poverty causing separation from parents

1914 – Missouri Conference for Social Welfare – signaled interests beyond charities and corrections

1933 – Missouri Association for Social Welfare – Advocacy, public education, legislative analysis and other functions evolved – and year-round rather than an annual conference. Both individuals and organizations coordinated their efforts through us toward common goals.

2014 – Empower Missouri –

Adopted by Board of Directors and affirmed by membership at annual business meeting

We empower Missourians to affect positive change:

1. We empower our members through education that when we each do better, we all do better, and there is positive strength in numbers.
2. We empower Missouri legislators with researched data on the human impacts of their decisions.
3. We empower Missouri volunteers with action steps that produce real outcomes that benefit their neighbors.

Historical Highlights of Housing Advocacy

Circa 1916: Roger Baldwin presented report on “The Problems of Negroes.” Pointed to poor housing, inadequate segregated schools, lack of employment opportunities, and inferior medical care. He highlighted both attitudinal barriers (prejudice) and structural barriers.

- U.S. Housing Act of 1937 drew attention to unsanitary living conditions and severe shortages of affordable housing for workers and elders.
- 1950's and 1960's – “urban renewal” displaced many low-income residents; red-lining and block-busting common; MASW responded with practical local activities like killing rats in slum areas, advocacy on local public housing policy and advocacy and education around national civil rights legislation like the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

1985 – Published “Homelessness in Missouri”

1987 – Published “Low Income Housing in Missouri”

1988 – “The Homeless Mentally Ill” published

1994 – Led coalition effort to establish the Housing Trust Fund (through a \$4 fee collected at the Recorders of Deeds offices; it has not been adjusted for inflation since – if the fund included a COLA, the current fee would be \$6.48)

1994 – Published “Census of Shelter Providers for Homeless People in Missouri” (also in 1995, 1997 and 1999)

2000 – Intervened when STL County officials tried to convert funds for homeless services into subsidies for middle class housing

2006-2014 – MASW was lead agency for the HMIS Balance of State Continuum of Care until the transition to Institute for Community Alliances

Monitor, Educate, Advocate – Local, State and Federal Levels

Local Level:

Campaign Against Illegal Lockouts – STL

- 1) It shall be unlawful for any landlord or other person, firm, partnership, corporation, or any other legal entity to collect rent from a tenant for a premises for the period that the tenant is or has been illegally evicted from the premises.

- 2) Any person who violates the provisions of this chapter shall be subject to of a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or a term of imprisonment not more than ninety (90) days or both a fine and term of imprisonment.

Filing of Bill Expected in April

Monitor, Educate, Advocate, cont'd

State Level: Keep advocates informed regarding legislation filed in Jefferson City that impacts on housing & homelessness

HB 55 -- TAX CREDIT FOR HOMELESS SHELTER DONATIONS (Rep. Muntzel)

- This bill authorizes a tax credit equal to 50% of a taxpayer's contribution to a homeless shelter. Contribution must be at least \$100. Cannot exceed \$50,000 per year. The credit is nonrefundable, cannot be assigned, transferred, or sold, but can be carried forward. The cumulative amount of tax credits cannot exceed \$2.5 million per tax year. Sunsets in six years.

HB 44 -- PREVAILING WAGE ON LOW-INCOME HOUSING (Rep. White)

- This bill prohibits the Missouri Housing Development Commission from requiring a prevailing hourly wage to be paid to a contractor on a project eligible for a housing tax credit when in a Governor declared disaster area.

Monitor, Educate, Advocate cont'd

HB 161 -- LOW INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDITS (Rep. Davis)

- This bill recognizes veterans as a priority tenant population with special housing needs in a qualified allocation plan

HB 407 -- SEX OFFENDERS (Rep. Davis)

- This bill specifies that if a homeless shelter has already been established and a public school, a private school, or child care facility is subsequently built or placed within 1,000 feet of the homeless shelter, the homeless shelter may house a sex offender, but the sex offender must notify the county sheriff of the new facility.

HB 632 -- RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT (Rep. Franklin)

- This bill requires real property used for both a personal residence and as transient housing to be assessed as only residential property.

SB 218 - The Missouri Emergency Solutions Grants Program (Sen. Nasheed)

- Subject to appropriations, a Missouri ESG program would be created to (1) engage homeless individuals and families living on the street, (2) operate homeless shelters and provide essential services to shelter residents, (3) rapidly rehouse homeless individuals and families, and (4) prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless.

Governor's Committee for Simple, Fair, and Low Taxes

Executive order issued on January 25. Tasked to:

- Compare Missouri's tax credit programs and its tax rates to those of its peer states;
- Assess the economic impact of existing state tax credit programs;
- Assess the possibility of financing cuts to overall state tax rates with cuts to tax credit programs; and
- Recommend comprehensive tax reform legislation to the Governor no later than June 30, 2017.

**Senate Members: Hegeman, Koenig, Kraus,
House Members: Barnes, Haahr, Rehder**

Monitor, Educate, Advocate cont'd

Federal Level:

- We collaborate with the National Low Income Housing Coalition to cooperatively release their annual reports in Missouri.
- We include regular briefings from NLIHC staff at AHHTF meetings so that Missouri advocates will know what is happening in DC.
- We provided feedback to MHDC regarding the shape of the National Housing Trust Fund plan in 2016 and publicized the hearings.
- We are an endorser of United for Homes and recruit additional endorsers in Missouri.



Summary of United for Homes Proposal

THE PROPOSAL WOULD HAVE ZERO COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, AND WOULD:

- Provide a tax break to an additional 15 million low and moderate income homeowners who currently do not claim the MID;
- Provide \$241 billion over 10 years to address pressing affordable rental housing needs, including ending homelessness, helping veterans, seniors, families with children, and people with disabilities afford their apartments, and fighting poverty; and
- Support nearly 4 million jobs, generating \$282 billion in local revenue and \$53 billion in local tax revenue.

UNITED FOR HOMES PROPOSES TWO SIMPLE REFORMS TO THE MID:

- Reduce the amount of a mortgage eligible for a tax write-off from \$1 million to \$500,000 (impacts less than 6% of mortgage holders); and
- Convert the MID deduction into a nonrefundable 15% credit.

These changes would save \$241 Billion in savings over 10 years, to be reinvested in affordable rental housing for the lowest-income families.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, February 8, 2107

10:30 a.m.-Noon

By conference call only this month:

Dial: 712-432-1500

Passcode: 167856#

For More Info: Nicole McKoy, co-chair
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Or Vickie Riddle, co-chair, vriddle@hscgkc.org

To RSVP: Jeanette@EmpowerMissouri.org

February 8 Topics

- Update on Campaign Against Illegal Lockouts
- General Assembly Report
- United for Homes campaign relaunch
- Tax reform: Rep. Keith Ellison's Dear Colleague letter encouraging further investment in affordable housing programs through federal tax reform
- Tax reform: continued opposition to Middle Income Housing Tax Credit proposal
- Federal budget: annual letter urging greatest possible allocation for all housing programs
- Infrastructure: Senate Democrats propose federal infrastructure package, which include housing
- Update on the National Housing Trust Fund
- NLIHC Policy Forum, April 2-4, Washington, DC
- EHOC Conference on April 6 with Matthew Desmond (**Evicted**) as a speaker (Empower Missouri co-sponsors)

Questions?

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