



My Choice Rental Assistance Program

In June 2018, Louisiana entered into an Agreement to Resolve with the U.S. Department of Justice. The Target Population covered under the agreement consisted of adult Medicaid recipients (over the age of 18) with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) living in nursing homes or at risk of nursing home placement. The Agreement requires the State to transition and divert members of the Target Population from nursing homes and involves the development of affordable, community-integrated housing resources to facilitate transition and diversion.

Goals of the Program

The Agreement allows the State to use existing capacity in the State's PSH program and expand that capacity to achieve the 1,000 unit/subsidy goal.

- The state must create 1,000 housing units or subsidies Long Term-Recovery.
- The state must develop a plan for achieving the 1,000 units/subsidies Housing.
- Housing must be community-integrated and "scattered site"
- The plan must include annual targets for the creation of additional units/subsidies as well as the "mechanisms" to achieve them
- Once achieved, target levels must be maintained for the duration of the agreement;
- Units/subsidies cannot be in settings where more than two or 25% of units (whichever is greater) are occupied by members of the target population or persons served in the LDH PSH program;
- Licensed or unlicensed personal care, boarding, or "room and board" homes, provider-run group homes, and assisted living are not considered community integrated and cannot be counted towards the 1,000 unit/subsidy requirement;
- Within the first 18 months of the agreement, the State must establish 100 state-funded rental subsidies to assist with initial transitions;
- The State must seek funding to cover housing-related expenses such as security deposits and other necessities for making a new home;
- The state must use HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) for security and utility deposits;
- The state must employ sufficient Tenancy Supports Managers (TSMs);
- The state must take steps to preserve housing if members of the target population are admitted to a hospital or nursing home or experience incarceration due to a mental health crisis or behavioral incident; and
- Tenancy services must be voluntary, housing cannot be contingent on acceptance of services, and individuals cannot be categorically excluded from PSH due to medical needs, disabilities, criminal justice involvement, or substance use history.

State Partners

- The Louisiana Office of Community Development Disaster Recovery Unit (OCD-DRU)
- The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH)

Learn more <https://ldh.la.gov/assets/docs/MyChoice/MyChoiceHousingPlan.pdf>