

The Central Housing Unit

Part of the Clients Benefit Division
Arena Maria Section, Assistant Housing Director

The Merging of Two Divisions

Client Benefits Division

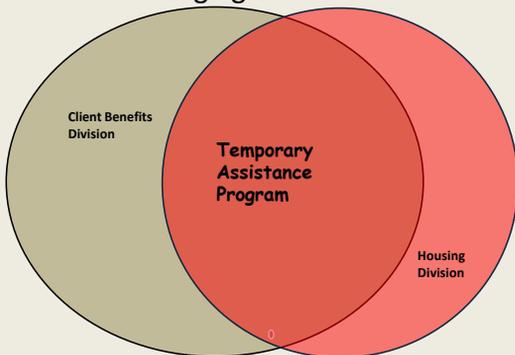
- Temporary Assistance
- SNAP
- Employment Programs
- HEAP

Housing Divisions

- Temporary Housing Assistance
- Homelessness prevention
- Assist Families and Individuals to Permanent Housing

Promote and Support Self Sufficiency

The Merging of Two Divisions



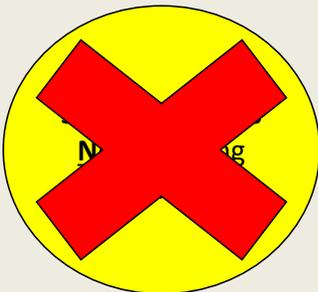
The Merging of Two Divisions

- Temporary Housing Assistance is a BENEFIT issued under the Temporary Assistance Program
- Eligibility for such BENEFITS are determined by using the TA regulations issued by NYS and OTDA
- Decisions concerning the benefits of Temporary Housing Assistance are likely to be better when workers are knowledgeable of the entire TA program
- The merging of these two Divisions has inspired new ways of doing business and helping clients reach the goal of self-sufficiency

How has the merge effected center operations?

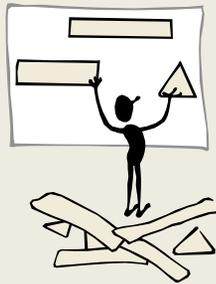


Suffolk County's Department of Social Services does not have a New Policy on **Temporary Housing Assistance**



However, some things have changed,

- For Example:
 - There are no more “Housing Workers” in each of the Centers
 - The need for housing is an emergency/immediate need that is addressed by the Center TA worker



Temporary Housing Assistance

Assessment and Workflow Procedure



This workflow procedure was first implemented in October 2013

- Since then there have been updates to the process in an effort to ensure that those who are truly homeless are housed as well as identifying those in need of services and connecting them to APS.

Temporary Housing Assistance

Assessment and Workflow Procedure

- 94-ADM-20
- 96-ADM-20
- 02-ADM-02
- 03-INF-34
- 05-ADM-07
- 18 CRR-NY 352.



The 3 "P's" of HOUSING

- Preventive
 - Rent arrears
 - Home repairs
- Placements
 - Every effort is made to keep school age children in their school district of origin
 - Keep individuals close to their jobs and families
 - Appropriate housing for the mentally ill, troubled young adults and veterans
- Permanency
 - SSP
 - Sharp/Holmes
 - Section 8
 - Out of District or State moves to allow people to persevere employment and/or be close to a support system of friends and family.

Preventive

To preserve an individual or family's housing, the Department can:

- Assist with Rent arrears - the ongoing rent must be affordable
- SSP
- Sharp /Holmes
- Assist with Home Repairs



Placements

- Every effort is being made to match families and individuals with the appropriate placement;
 - SPA housing
 - Looking into smaller shelters in schools in districts we don't currently have shelters, so that we can keep school aged homeless children in their school district of origin
 - Program Right Path and Project 180
 - Youthful offenders and troubled young adults



Permanency

- Partnership with the COC to match Veterans and/or Disabled individuals and families up with permanent housing programs
- We have a case worker dedicated to finding affordable housing by
 - Working closely with realtors in the community



Permanency

Suffolk County Shelter Supplement Program(SSP)

- Suffolk County's SSP program was approved by OTDA on March 15,2004
- Rental supplement paid through program that allows for twice the standard rent for the household size plus an additional \$150 to \$350 from the household's basic allowance or a third party.
- The additional amount allowed depends on the household size. HH 1-\$150; HH 2 - \$200; HH3 to 5 - \$250 and
- FA and SN Families in receipt of TA are eligible to apply for the SSP

Permanency

Suffolk County Shelter Supplement Program(SSP)

Family Size	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
TA Shelter Allow.	<u>310</u>	<u>358</u>	<u>447</u>	<u>503</u>	<u>560</u>	<u>586</u>	<u>611</u>
Multiply	<u>x2</u>	<u>x2</u>	<u>x2</u>	<u>x2</u>	<u>x2</u>	<u>x2</u>	<u>x2</u>
Double Rent	<u>620</u>	<u>716</u>	<u>894</u>	<u>1006</u>	<u>1120</u>	<u>1172</u>	<u>1222</u>
Client Contrib.	<u>150</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>350</u>	<u>350</u>
Total Rent	<u>* 770</u>	<u>* 916</u>	<u>* 1144</u>	<u>* 1256</u>	<u>* 1370</u>	<u>* 1522</u>	<u>* 1572</u>

Permanency

Sharp / Holmes

- Families must be living in emergency housing
- Families in receipt of TA under the federal time limits of 60 months (Family Assistance)
- Everyone in the HH must be in compliance with the TA requires; no one can be sanctioned
- All applications must be submitted to Nassau / Suffolk Law Services (631) 232-2400
- One the application is filed, the client becomes part of the law suit
- Nassau / Suffolk Law Services notifies the Central Housing Unit.
- Each rental amount that is approved is determined on a case by case basis and decided between Nassau / Suffolk Law Services, SCDSS and the County Attorney.

Permanency

Emergency Shelter Allowance

- Family must have a household member with a documented medical diagnosis of AIDS or HIV related illness .
- Family must be homeless or at risk of becoming homeless
- Emergency Shelter Allowance (ESA) is available using the **Actual** rent (no limit)
- Only the SSI income of the one person with AIDS can be considered in determining eligibility



Permanency

Assist with a move

- Security Agreement
- Brokers Fees
- Proposed Rent must be affordable on going
- The move must be,
 - Out of a Shelter
 - Out of the District for employment or to be united with family
 - An emergency such as an eviction or health and safety



Permanency

The New Housing Package

- Down to 7 Pages from 17
- Very easy to understand
- Color coded:
 - Yellow highlight for the landlord
 - Blue highlight for the Broker
 - Pink highlight for the Client / Tenant

