

Athens-Clarke County Continuum of Care

Moving On Policy for Permanent Supportive Housing

Overview

In accordance with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) strategic priority to end homelessness, the Athens-Clarke County Continuum of Care (ACC-CoC) strongly encourages member agencies to adopt “Moving On” strategies for tenants in permanent supportive housing (PSH). Moving On offers tenants the opportunity to transition from supportive housing by offering affordable housing, services, and resources. Candidates for Moving On are tenants who may no longer need or want intensive services offered in PSH but need continuing assistance to maintain their housing. This may include a physical move to a new home, or a “transition in place” arrangement where the services shift to another tenant. The decision to pursue Moving On is always voluntary and driven by the tenant. Successful implementation of a Moving On strategy will increase a community’s supportive housing capacity by ensuring that PSH is maximally targeted to the most vulnerable individuals and families experiencing homelessness who need long-term intensive services and deep housing subsidies.

General Principles

The ACC-CoC has adapted the guiding principles for Moving On as described by the Corporation for Supportive Housing in its CSH Moving On Toolkit, found here:

<https://www.csh.org/resources/csh-moving-on-toolkit/>

These guiding principles are as follows:

- 1) Voluntary: Tenants in PSH retain all tenancy rights under state and local laws to remain in their unit as long as they desire and are complying with the lease terms. Moving On strategies are NOT designed to force PSH tenants from their homes to create open units. Rather, Moving On strategies should support client choice and ensure that decisions to move on from PSH is voluntary and self-initiated by the tenant. Providers may use incentives to encourage tenants to consider moving on if they feel ready, but no tenant should ever feel pressured or coerced to leave a unit.
- 2) Maximizing Housing Options: Tenants should be offered a variety of housing options, to the extent possible, and should not be required to accept an accommodation if the individual chooses not to do so. People with disabilities should have the opportunity and support required to live, work, and receive services in the most integrated setting possible in a community of their choice.
- 3) Promoting Economic Mobility and Self Sufficiency: Moving On should not be created or operated as just a voucher rental assistance program. It should be an opportunity that includes

comprehensive pre-transition services, as well as strong aftercare supports, to ensure long-term success.

Housing

The ACC-CoC acknowledges that housing affordability is often a primary barrier preventing current PSH tenants who are no longer in need of intensive supportive services from moving on. Private market rate housing may be prohibitively expensive for these tenants, particularly when they are on fixed incomes or employed in jobs that pay low wages. Moving On strategies must prioritize coordination with mainstream affordable housing resources, including housing opportunities where rent is based on income. To the extent possible, providers should coordinate with resources including, but not limited to: Local Public Housing Authorities; Affordable housing owners; Units developed using Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC); and any other publicly funded programs. Regardless of the reasons for which a PSH tenant chooses to move on, choice and support should be emphasized throughout the process of identifying new housing. In the event of a “transition in place,” emphasis should be placed on the tenant’s understanding of how the living situation may change.

Aftercare Services

Providers should provide services and supports necessary for a successful transition for a limited time, as needed, after a tenant’s move. A formal aftercare plan should be developed with tenants before he or she moves out of supportive housing. Aftercare plans should generally provide for services over three to six months but may cover any time period based on the specific needs of a given tenant.

Backfilling Units

The primary reason for the ACC-CoC Moving On policy is to increase supportive housing capacity and ensure that supportive housing is targeted appropriately. All units becoming available because of tenant participation in Moving On must be filled through the ACC Coordinated Entry System. All tenants placed in these units must be referred from the local Coordinated Entry implementation or must otherwise be placed in compliance with the ACC-CoC Written Standards and the Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures.

For more information and resources pertaining to the Moving On strategic priority, please visit <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/moving-on/>.