

Reentry Partnership Housing (RPH) Program



2019

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What is the RPH Program?



- ❑ The Reentry Partnership Housing (RPH) Program is a means to provide housing to qualified individuals under the supervision of the Department of Community Supervision (DCS) who do not have valid residence plans.
- ❑ These individuals may be released from prison or jail, or are active participants in an Accountability Court (felony drug, mental health, veterans, or family).

Program Goal

- ❑ The goal of the RPH Program is to provide short-term housing assistance to help stabilize an individual's reentry process and enhance his or her ability to remain crime free. The program involves a unique collaboration by several different agencies.
- ❑ National data (2016) shows that nearly 50,000 people a year enter shelters directly after release from correctional facilities, which creates a revolving door scenario between homelessness and incarceration.

How does the Program Work?

DCS, in conjunction with the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) and Council of Accountability Court Judges (CACJ) identifies RPH participants and places them with Certified RPH providers.

- ❑ DCS notifies DCA of any placements.
- ❑ A Community Supervision Officer monitors each program participant for compliance with conditions of parole or probation, and those referred through Accountability Courts must comply with the Judges' directives.

Collaboration

- Funding for this program is made available via State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) funds supplied by the Department of Community Supervision (DCS). The State Housing Trust Fund for the homeless (HTF) is the administrative agent for this program. The HTF is administered by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA).
- Currently work with a network of over 30 housing providers throughout Georgia.

Who is Eligible for RPH?

- ❑ Inmates who have reached their Tentative Parole Month (TPM) but do not have a valid residence.
- ❑ Returning citizens on probation or parole who have been released within the last 90 days without a valid residence plan.
- ❑ Individuals in Transitional Centers are eligible, but are not given top priority for placement, especially if they are currently employed.
- ❑ Individuals remanded to a felony Accountability Court without a valid residence plan. (Drug, Mental Health, Veterans, Family)

Reentry Partnership Housing (RPH)

Timeline & Cost Savings

- ❑ 2006: Created to provide housing for inmates without a valid residence plan.
- ❑ 2015: Expanded to include probationers without a valid residence plan.
- ❑ 2018: Expanded to include individuals remanded to a felony Accountability Court without a valid residence plan.
- ❑ Cost average of \$2 per individual per day under supervision compared to \$60 per individual per day for incarceration.

Impacts of RPH

- 41 providers plus up to 4 more pending approval.
- FY 11 to FY 18, 3,411 inmates under parole supervision have been placed in a RPH program.
- FY 17: 488 individuals placed in a RPH program.
- FY 18: 758 individuals placed in a RPH program.
- FY 19: 1,030 individuals placed in a RPH program.
- 5 RPH providers in 4 counties accept individuals under supervision with a mental health diagnosis.

Who can apply?

Updated Changes

- ❑ Any Non-Profit or For-Profit organization, including Faith Based Organizations that are able to produce minimum financial documents and statements including IRS filings, financial policies and procedures, and program policies and procedures.
- ❑ Sole Proprietors are now eligible to apply provided that they have financial reserves or other funding to support their facility/program.
- ❑ Registered sex offenders are eligible for the RPH program.

More Positive Changes

- Housing Policy modified to incorporate Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Standards.
- Updated Food Policy to address food access. (RPH staff provide access to food or groceries that the residents can cook themselves, or staff prepare meals for residents in a kitchen, and assist residents with applying for food stamps).
- General maintenance by residents to maintain current habitability is permitted.

How much are Providers Reimbursed?



- ❑ Providers are reimbursed by DCA \$600-\$675 for up to six (6) months, as determined by the participants' tier level.
- ❑ Providers must provide returning citizens stable housing and food access.

How do I become a Certified RPH Provider?

- Application windows for prospective RPH providers occur twice yearly, one in the spring and another in the fall. Potential providers must submit an Intent to Apply Form and attend a mandatory Application Process Workshop prior to submitting an application.

How do I become a Certified RPH Provider?

Spring

- ❑ March: Intent to Apply Form with instructions are available on the DCA and DCS websites.
- ❑ April: Attend one (1) mandatory Application Workshop held at various locations in Georgia.
- ❑ May: Complete the RPH application and submit it to DCS.
- ❑ June-July: If the application is approved, a representative from DCS will conduct a site visit at the proposed housing location.

How do I become a Certified RPH Provider?

Fall

- ❑ September: Intent to Apply Form available on the DCA and DCS websites.
- ❑ October: Attend one (1) mandatory Application Workshop held at various locations in Georgia.
- ❑ November: Complete the RPH application and submit it to DCS.
- ❑ December-January: If the application is approved, a representative from DCS will conduct a site visit at the proposed housing location.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Can a RPH resident move out any time? **Yes**
- Is a provider guaranteed a number of placements each month? **No**
- Does a provider need to assist a returning citizen with counseling services, job placement, or transportation? **No**

Frequently Asked Questions



- Are providers required to keep a certain amount of beds open? **No**
- What happens if a returning citizen has no place to go after the RPH program ends?
- If a returning citizen is violating the program rules, can a provider ask them to leave? **Yes**

Contact

I appreciate your time and attention. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. Thank you!!

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