

Eligibility Criteria and Prioritization Tool for Houston/Harris County Homelessness Prevention System

Eligibility Requirements

All potential clients will be screened for the following:

Income

Only households with income at or below 30% of the Area Median Income are eligible for Homelessness Prevention services (see Attachment A for income limits)

PLUS

Trigger Crisis

An event has occurred which is expected to result in housing loss within 30 days due to one of the listed reasons (see Attachment B for income limits)

PLUS

No resources or support network to prevent homelessness

No other options are possible for resolving this crisis. “But for this assistance” this household would become literally homeless—staying in a shelter, a car, or another place not meant for human habitation

OR

Unaccompanied children and youth who qualify as homeless under another Federal statute

See Runaway and Homeless Youth Act definition or Documentation for school district certification of homelessness (see Attachment C for other definitions of homelessness)

OR

Families with children or youth who qualify as homeless under another Federal statute

See Runaway and Homeless Youth Act definition or Documentation for school district certification of homelessness (see Attachment C for other definitions of homelessness)

PLUS

Score of at least 20 points—or 15 – 19 points with override sign-off (see Attachment D for score sheet)

Attachment A

30% Area Median Income (2012)

1 Person Household	\$14,500	(\$1,170/month)
2 Person Household	\$16,050	(\$1,338/month)
3 Person Household	\$18,050	(\$1,504/month)
4 Person Household	\$20,050	(\$1,671/month)
5 Person Household	\$21,700	(\$1,808/month)
6 Person Household	\$23,300	(\$1,942/month)
7 Person Household	\$24,900	(\$2,075/month)
8 Person Household	\$26,500	(\$2,208/month)

Attachment B

Trigger Crisis

Will lose housing within 30 days due to one of the following:

- Moved twice or more in the past 60 days
- Living in the home of another person because of economic hardship
- Notified that right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated within 21 days after date of application
- Living in hotel or motel and cost is not paid for by charitable organization or government program for low-income people
- Living in SRO or efficiency where more than 2 people live; or in a larger housing unit with more than 1 ½ people per room
- Exiting a publicly funded institution or system of care
- Exiting a publicly or privately funded inpatient substance abuse treatment program or transitional housing program
- Living in rental housing that is being condemned by a government agency and tenants are being forced to move out

Attachment C

Prioritization Scoring

Income Scoring

- Rent burden at 66 – 80% of income.... **5 points**
- Income at or below 15% AMI.... **20 points** OR
- Income 16 – 29% AMI.... **10 points**

15% Area Median Income (2012)

1 Person Household	\$7,250	(\$604/month)
2 Person Household	\$8,025	(\$669/month)
3 Person Household	\$9,025	(\$752/month)
4 Person Household	\$10,025	(\$835/month)
5 Person Household	\$10,850	(\$904/month)
6 Person Household	\$11,650	(\$970/month)
7 Person Household	\$12,450	(\$1,038/month)
8 Person Household	\$13,250	(\$1,104/month)

Tenant Barriers/Risk Factors

Tenant Screening Barriers

1 point per barrier

- Eviction history
- No credit references: has no credit history
- Lack of rental history: has not rented in the past
- Unpaid rent or broken lease in the past (separate from current unpaid rent)
- Poor credit history: late or unpaid bills, excessive debt, etc
- Past Misdemeanors
- Past Felony other than critical Felonies listed below
- Exiting criminal justice system where incarcerated for less than 90 days

- Critical Felony **5 points**
(drugs, sex crime, arson, crimes against other people)
- Pregnant or has at least one child 0 – 6 **5 points**
- Head of household under 30 years old **5 points**
- Family experienced literal homelessness **5 points**
in the past 3 years
- Only 1 adult in household **3 points**

TOTAL

Override

If a household has 15 to 19 points but the agency believes there is a compelling reason to provide homelessness prevention services, the program can document reasons for overriding the score. The override must be signed off by an agency representative at a higher level of authority than direct service staff.