

BRAP Resource Pause FAQs

Due to the unprecedented demand for the Bridging Rental Assistance Program (BRAP), OBH will institute a pause on new awards, effective **March 24, 2025**. This pause will take place of the partial waitlist that was instituted on March 5, 2024.

This will allow OBH and Shalom House to reassess the number of available rental assistance slots and come into alignment with the allocation of funding, while continuing to provide assistance to those already housed on the program. The situation will continue to be monitored by regularly evaluating trends and funding availability. As resources become available, the program will reinstitute awarding resources according to program priorities.

What is a Pause?

The program will stop awarding new rental assistance for all individuals and priorities, effective the date of this policy.

This means that unless the individual has already been approved for rental assistance as of the date of this policy, they will not be able to get assistance through the BRAP program and their application will be returned to them.

How is a Pause different than a Waitlist?

In a **waitlist**, agencies will review submitted applications, approve them, and the individuals will be added to a waitlist, which records their name, priority, the length of time in that priority, and the date they were added. When the program has resources, a name is taken from the waitlist based on certain criteria and Shalom will ask for updated information. As long as the individual remains eligible, they will be awarded a resource.

In a **pause**, agencies will not accept or review applications when they receive them, instead they will notify the applicant that their application cannot be accepted and for them to apply at a later date. When the program has resources, OBH and Shalom will lift the pause and begin accepting new applications.

****Applications submitted during the pause will not be held by the agency for later review. It would be your responsibility to re-submit your application if you are still eligible.*

I am already on the partial waitlist for Literal Homelessness (Priority 3). How will this pause affect me?

If you are already on the Priority 3 Waitlist, your application will remain on file and will be kept for the future when/if resources become available.

What if I submitted an application already?

If an application was already submitted, but not approved yet, the application will be returned to the applicant or provider along with a letter about the pause.

I have already been approved for BRAP and was told that I have 120 days to look for a unit. Will this freeze change that?

Each participant that has already awarded was granted a full **120-Days** to look for a unit when they were accepted onto the program, they will be allowed to utilize the entire time already promised. Extensions will not be able to be offered beyond these 120 days.

Extension Requests for those In Between Units

Each participant that moves out of a unit will be given **30 days** to find a new unit.

Security Deposits

Each participant will be eligible for a single security deposit up to one-month contract rent.

Additional Security Deposits for new units for those that have moved out of a unit may be granted as long as the deposit for the previous unit was returned in full.

If, at the time of move-out from a unit, the security deposit is held by the landlord for past due rent or damages above wear and tear, the individual will not be eligible for another security deposit. In these cases, the participant will have to work with their provider to find alternative methods of procuring a deposit, such as local landlord incentive programs.

Rent Increases and Payment Standards

Rent Increases should be limited to those with the greatest need, and LAAs must negotiate with landlords to get the lowest possible rent.

LAA must follow the published payment standards. No waivers will be granted to go above the currently published payment standards.

Upgrade Requests

Upgrade requests will be limited to only those that are medically essential or for necessary additions to the household, such as children, and only when age/gender appropriate.

All upgrade requests will need to be made in writing to the LAA assigned to the individuals and must include supporting documentation as applicable. (i.e. note from a qualified professional if the need is based on medical necessity and must state so.)