

Public Notification

Due to raising rent rates and costs to run the program, OBH has made the difficult decision to pause awards and reassess the number of available rental assistance resources on BRAP, effective March 24, 2025.

Background

In March 2024, OBH made the difficult decision to institute a partial waitlist for those that fell under the 3rd Priority (Literal Homelessness). This decision was based on demand and capacity at the time. From that time until present, the program has only been awarding new rental assistance resources to individuals coming from priority (1-Psychiatric Hospitalization and 2-Incarceration). While this partial waitlist provided some relief, it was countered by other pressures – including availability of other resources, a steady increase in HAP, and an increase in lease-ups in areas where the FMR is higher. Even with the partial waitlist implementation, BRAP is still experiencing residual effects from other areas, necessitating a full pause on BRAP, otherwise, available funding will expire before the end of this state fiscal year. In recent history, BRAP has seen a significant increase in the number of applications, which drastically increased the number of new move ins and awards. This increase resulted in the average number of resources awarded double from forty (40) per month in 2022, to over ninety-three (93) per month leading into February of 2024. Additionally, the program also saw a commensurate increase in the average lease-up rates across the state. (Increase from an average of 13 per month to 36 per month). BRAP has reached a point where the program is no longer sustainable at the current pace. The BRAP program must implement financial and programmatic management strategies to align with available resources.

What does this mean?

Because of the unprecedented increased need for assistance, OBH will institute a pause on all new awards, effective March 24, 2025.

The BRAP program and Local Administrative Agencies (LAA's) will no longer accept new applications, and all applications currently under review will be returned to the applicant(s).

A full description of the pause, our policy, as well as FAQs are attached, and will be available on both Shalom House's and OBH's websites.

Both Shalom House and OBH will continue to monitor the program and its funding availability to ensure that we can lift the pause and go back to standard operations as soon as possible.