

**Permanent Supportive Housing Program  
Program Eligibility and Supportive Service Policy  
September 2024**

The Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) Permanent Supportive Housing Program (PSHP) is a program funded by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program. PSHP is designed to provide permanent housing in which rental assistance and supportive services are provided to assist households with at least one member (adult or child) with a disability in achieving housing stability. OBH has partnered with the Office of MaineCare Services (OMS) to provide in-kind match services. OMS oversees and coordinates the MaineCare Medicaid insurance program throughout the State of Maine, this partnership ensures the largest safety net of available services for PSHP participants. Acceptance into PSHP requires applicants and participants to meet MaineCare eligibility requirements. PSHP participants are encouraged to participate in MaineCare services, but they are voluntary.

**Program Eligibility**

The criteria for eligibility for PSHP rental assistance are:

1. The individual must be homeless, as defined by [The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act As Amended by S.896 The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing \(HEARTH\) Act of 2009 \(hud.gov\)](#) as funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development [42 USC 11302]. The PSHP only accepts applicants who are literally homeless or fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence.
2. The individual must have a qualifying disability as defined by HUD and must provide disability verification by completing the DHHS Disability Verification form included in the [PSHP Application](#), providing written verification from the Social Security Administration (SSA) of a qualifying disability, provide a copy of a statement showing that the applicant is the recipient of a disability check such as Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Veteran Disability Compensation, or provide written observation(s) from housing intake staff of a qualifying disability. For intake staff verification, the disability must be confirmed within 45 days by providing one of the other forms of verification mentioned above. HUD qualifying disabilities include:
  - A. Physical, mental or emotional impairment, including impairment caused by alcohol or including impairment caused by a substance use disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, brain injury or a chronic physical illness that:
    - Is expected to be long-continuing or of indefinite duration; **and**
    - Substantially impedes the person's ability to live independently; **and**
    - Could be improved by more suitable housing.
  - B. Developmental disability as defined in Section 102 of the [Developmental Disability Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000](#) . In essence, this means a severe, chronic disability that:
    - Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination; **and**
    - Is manifested before age 22; **and**
    - Is likely to continue indefinitely; **and**
    - Results in substantial limitations in three or more major life activities, **and**

- Self-care
- Receptive and expressive language
- Learning
- Mobility
- Self-direction
- Capacity for independent living
- Economic self-sufficiency
- Reflects need for:
  - A combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary or generic services; **or**
  - Individualized supports; **or**
  - Other forms of assistance that are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.

### C. Diagnosis of HIV/AIDS

3. To be eligible for PSHP the individual must meet MaineCare eligibility requirements. MaineCare provides free and low-cost health insurance to Mainers who meet certain requirements, based on household composition, income and/or disability status. MaineCare eligibility will be determined by the criteria set forth in the [MaineCare Eligibility Manual](#). PSHP participants are encouraged to participate in MaineCare services that are offered to households but they are voluntary.

### **Program Eligibility Verification**

The PSHP applicant should complete a DHHS Authorization Release for the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) and Shalom House Inc also known as the Central Administrative Agency (CAA). This release grants OBH permission to communicate eligibility information with the CAA to expedite the processing of applications.

The CAA will provide OBH with the completed application and the completed DHHS Authorization Release. OBH will support the CAA in the verification of program eligibility.

### **MaineCare Covered Supportive Services**

PSHP projects are required to make supportive services available. Some examples of MaineCare covered supportive services for program participants include Targeted Case Management (TCM), Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), Community Integration Services (CI), and Housing Outreach and Member Engagement (HOME). Supportive services are intended to help participants obtain and maintain housing. Supportive services are required to be available to participants; however, it is not a requirement for participants to participate in supportive services to receive PSHP rental assistance.

### **Principles of Financial Match**

Match, as defined by HUD, is actual cash or in-kind resources contributed to the grant. All costs paid for with matching funds must be used for activities that are eligible under the CoC Program, even if the recipient is not receiving CoC Program grant funds for that activity. According to 24 CFR Part 578.73, in geographic areas where there is more than one grant agreement, match must be provided on a grant-by-grant basis.

In-kind match is the value of any real property, equipment, goods, or services contributed to a CoC Program grant that would have been an eligible CoC Program activity if the recipient or subrecipient paid for them directly with CoC Program funds. Documentation of in-kind service match requires the recipient/subrecipient to enter into a formal memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the agency providing the in-kind service(s).

OBH and OMS have entered into a formal agreement (MOU) to document the commitment by OMS to provide supportive services deemed as eligible costs by HUD, to participants enrolled in the PSHP program. Eligible supportive services are covered by MaineCare and this allows for all participants to access services for the entire duration of their residence in the project.

**Supportive Service Categories include but are not limited to:**

Case Management, Including Targeted Case Management Services

Housing Search and Counseling

Mental and Behavioral Health services

Outpatient Non-Urgent Medical and Health services

Substance Use Treatment

Non-Emergency Transportation

Community Based Services