Special Bulletin April 2, 2024



NETWORK BULLETIN



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT GEORGIA HOUSING VOUCHER PROGRAM

Change to DBHDD Supportive Housing Referral Pathway

Effective April 1st, 2024, all referrals for supportive housing for individuals belonging to the settlement target population submitted to DBHDD will first be routed to apply for assistance with an application to federally funded resources such as the Housing Choice Voucher



(HCV) Program or HUD 811 Program. These applications will benefit from the preferential access granted through the Department of Community Affairs for individuals belonging to Georgia's ADA settlement population (which is reflective of GHVP's eligibility criteria).

Referrals from the DBHDD community provider network for supportive housing will still occur through the same Need for Supportive Housing (NSH) system that community providers are currently using for assessments and referrals. After submitting a referral to NSH to determine settlement population eligibility, individuals will be approved to receive preferential access certification and will be approved to proceed with an application to the HCV program.

Individuals approved to apply for HCV with preferential access will still be referred to the local Housing Support Program provider by DBHDD in order to receive support during their application and search process and during their time in subsidized housing. Policy regarding the Housing Support service and program has been revised to allow individuals from the settlement population to receive the same housing supports required for GHVP participants if they are in the HCV Program or the smaller project-based HUD 811 Program. This policy change was published March 1st and will go into effect April 1st. This also means that individuals being transitioned from GHVP to HCV will continue to receive wraparound supportive services to keep them stable in their housing and will not have to be discharged.

Individuals unable to access HCV will still be granted the opportunity to pursue housing with GHVP. Individuals with an active GHVP voucher who are not currently in housing, as well as approved referrals received prior to April 1st are still approved to proceed with their GHVP housing search. However, providers are encouraged to consider HCV or HUD 811 as alternative options.

Additional training is to be provided regarding this revised process in the near future. If you should have any questions about this policy change, please reach out to myself (Maxwell.Ruppersburg@dbhdd.ga.gov) or Assistant Director Letitia Robinson (Letitia.Robinson@dbhdd.ga.gov).

Thank you,

Office of Provider Relations & ASO Coordination

Director Anna Bourque

Senior Provider Relations Managers

Carole Crowley
Sharon Pyles

For Provider Relations inquiries, please contact us at DBHDD.Provider@dbhdd.ga.gov.



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Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities | 200 Piedmont Ave, S.E., West Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

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