

Benton County's HB 5019-RRH is the local implementation of the Governors Executive Order (EO) 23-02. Below are Q&A's directly related to the HB 5019-RRH NOFO, however all local activities to implement EO 23-02 are subject to the Oregon Housing Community Services (OHCS) program requirements. OHCS has provided program guidance with FAQ's on their website here: [Oregon Housing and Community Services : FAQ: Housing Emergency Executive Orders : State of Oregon](#)

Q: How is the Unsheltered Homelessness requirement for rapid-rehousing program participants determined?:

A: As stated above Benton County's HB 5019-RRH is the local implementation of EO 23-02. All activities funded through the HB 5019 NOFO must be in compliance with the requirements set forth in the Balance of State of Emergency Due Homelessness Intergovernmental Grant Agreement between Benton County and Oregon Housing and Community Services. Pursuant to this agreement the following categories of homelessness are eligible for their respective service component:

Rapid Rehousing Client Eligibility Criteria:

Category 6: Unsheltered Homelessness -- Individual or family that is living in a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for human habitation (including, but not limited to, a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station airport or camping ground).

Shelter and Street Outreach Client Eligibility Criteria:

Category 1: Literally Homeless—Individual or family that lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

- Living in a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for human habitation (including, but not limited to, a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport or camping ground);
- Living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional shelter, and hotels or motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state or local government programs);
- Exiting an institution where the individual or family has resided for 90 days or less AND who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution.

Category 2: Imminent Risk of Homelessness—Individual or family that will lose their primary nighttime residence provided that:

- The primary nighttime residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance;

- No subsequent residence has been identified; AND
- The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks (e.g., family, friends, faith-based or other social networks) needed to obtain other permanent housing.

Category 3: Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes—Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under another category, (literally homeless, imminent risk of homelessness or fleeing/attempting to flee domestic violence) but who:

- Are defined as homeless under other listed federal statutes;
- Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing during the 60 days prior to the Program assistance eligibility determination;
- Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during the preceding 60 days; AND
- Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time due to special needs or barriers.

Category 4: Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence—Individual or family that:

- Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence;
- Has no other safe residence; AND
- Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

Category 6: Unsheltered Homelessness -- Individual or family that is living in a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for human habitation (including, but not limited to, a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station airport or camping ground).

To determine if someone is eligible for rapid-rehousing services under the grant funds, service providers are required to conduct an evaluation to determine housing status at the time of initial engagement. It is the responsibility of each CoC to create policies to determine when the initial engagement period occurs.

Current guidance received from the Balance of State (the Continuum of Care that includes Benton County) regarding the impacts of shelter engagement on eligibility for rapid rehousing service components is as follows (**Please note that additional information is expected to provide additional clarity):

- A person or a household currently in an emergency shelter is eligible at time of engagement/referral to HB 5019-RRH rapid rehousing services if that person or

household has experienced unsheltered homelessness within the last 90 days from time of engagement/referral.

Guidance from OHCS regarding the impact of engagement with institutional care facilities on eligibility for rapid rehousing service components is as follows:

- There is no time limit (i.e. within the last 90 days) for a person or household experiencing unsheltered homelessness prior to entering an institutional care facility (i.e. hospitals, jails, substance abuse or mental health treatment facilities, or other similar facilities), who would otherwise be exiting the institutional care facility into unsheltered homelessness.

***Note: We are seeking clarity from OHCS regarding the distinction between client eligibility criteria for Street Outreach and Case Management. This distinction between the eligibility criteria for two service components that in many instances would serve the same individual presents programmatic challenges that could create barriers to the people being served by HB 5019-RRH.

The Coordinated Homeless Response Office will work with HB 5019-RRH NOFO recipients to develop program specific requirements based on the service component proposed to ensure alignment with OHCS requirements and most importantly, to achieve positive outcomes for the people served.

Q: What does “long-term housing stability” mean?

A: The goal of Benton County’s HB 5019 Rapid Rehousing initiative (HB 5019-RRH), as administered through the Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool, is to coordinate a system of care that will successfully rehouse 31 households. This goal will be achieved by reducing housing barriers for participants by providing short term (0-3months) and medium term (3-24months) services that focus on developing individualized person-centered goals towards successfully exiting the program into long-term housing stability. Per 24 CFR § 578.37(F) and § 578.51(a)(i) long-term housing stability means permanent housing for more than 24 months.

Per guidance from OHCS a successful Rapid Rehousing placement that is counted towards Benton County’s rehousing goal (31 households) is upon placement into permanent housing, meaning the tenant is on a lease (or sublease).

***Note: We are seeking additional clarity from OHCS regarding other housing placement scenarios that could achieve the intent of HB 5019-RRH that might fall outside of a person or household being on a lease or sublease. Scenarios include support from HB 5019-RRH that results in a person or household being reunited with family or friends.

The Coordinated Homeless Response Office will work with HB 5019-RRH NOFO recipients to develop program specific requirements based on the service component proposed to ensure alignment with OHCS requirements.

Q: The HB 5019 RRH NOFO identifies Case Management and Street Outreach as the scope of eligible services and activities to be funded by this NOFO, while it describes housing navigation services being provided by dedicated county staff. Often, housing navigation and support are included in case management processes. Are recipients of the HB 5019 RRH funding able to receive funding for housing navigation services that they provide to support HB 5019-RRH participants?

A: Yes. The HB 5019-RRH as administered through the Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool will explore potential strategies to achieve necessary alignment and integration between the different FHSP service components and the agencies providing them. The goal of this alignment and integration is to reduce barriers and improve outcomes for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness by relying on the existing service models and filling gaps in services or funding when needed.