

Description of Ex-Offender Program and Criteria for Referrals

The Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC) has set aside two hundred (200) Housing Choice vouchers for ex-offenders participating in the Ex-Offender Program (EOP). The Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice (MOCJ) is the entity responsible for referring to HABC individuals appropriate for housing assistance pursuant to this set aside, and ensuring that the individuals referred receive supportive service from an appropriate service provider. Those supportive services will be provided through the Housing First program, administered by Baltimore Homeless Services (BHS) and the programs awarded case management grants through the Public Safety Compact.

A. The EOP Housing First model links permanent housing with supportive services to help chronically homeless individuals and families obtain quick access to permanent housing and the supportive services needed to live independently and successfully.

Housing First EOP Eligibility Criteria. In collaboration with the MOCJ, BHS will identify individuals that may be eligible for the Housing First component of the EOP. BHS will determine whether an individual: (i) is chronically homeless, (ii) is eligible for Housing First services, and (iii) has been determined ineligible for the regular Housing First Program by reason of a felony or misdemeanor conviction due to crime other than the crimes subject to the federally mandated prohibitions (See paragraph C hereunder).

- The term "chronically homeless" shall mean a homeless person with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for one year or more or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. A disabling condition includes substance abuse, serious mental illness, developmental disability, or chronic physical illness or disability.
- MOCJ will refer to HABC the individuals certified by BHS as meeting the eligibility criteria, and BHS will provide the eligible individuals with assistance in finding housing acceptable under the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

B. The Public Safety Compact (PSC), one of several Maryland Opportunity Compacts, seeks to safely restore ex-prisoners from Baltimore City to their families and communities via effective in-prison substance abuse treatment followed by community-based re-entry supports and services and proactive community supervision. Attached to this EOP description is a discussion paper setting forth the PSC objectives and program requirements.

Through the PSC, the initial cohort of Baltimore clients eligible for discretionary parole, will be provided with programming in three phases: 'Behind the Walls' substance abuse treatment; pre-release re-entry planning and transition; and post release community-based drug treatment, case

management and supportive services along with proactive community supervision. Individuals who are in the second or third phase of the program and who have been unable to identify a place to live will be eligible for a voucher under EOP. A service provider selected for a contract to provide services through the PSC will provide housing search assistance to the individuals referred and approved by HABC for a voucher under the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

- C. Federally Mandated Exclusions. Any individual convicted of the manufacture or production of methamphetamine on the premises of federally assisted housing or any individual who is subject to a lifetime registration requirement under Maryland's Sex Offender Registration Program will not be eligible to receive housing assistance from HABC under the EOP.
- D. MOCJ will track the progress of all participants in the EOP for a period of two years from the date each EOP participant is referred to HABC.