

Pathways to Housing General Information for Potential Participants

What is the Pathways to Housing Program?

Who is eligible?

The Pathways program is targeted to families on or about to begin TANF cash benefits, youth 16 to 21 leaving the foster care system and women about to or who have recently left the corrections system. You must meet income and other guidelines to qualify (like TANF if applicable). Additionally, if you have an issue that makes it difficult to rent, such as large debt or no landlord references, and are committed to correcting that issue, Pathways is designed to help you with those situations.

What is expected of me?

The case manager who referred you to this program will continue working with you for the entire year that you are in the Pathways program. If you do not have a case manager, special arrangements will need to be made before submitting an application. Pathways housing assistance is different than other housing assistance programs because it includes a year of required support services.

You will be required to work with your case manager on a weekly basis to develop and carry out a realistic plan for stable housing, called an Individualized Service Plan or ISP. The ISP might include activities such as developing work skills, seeing a therapist, budgeting, or keeping a clean home. You must show up to all meetings with your case manager and actively pursue your goals or you will probably lose your housing funding. In the event that you lose your housing funding, you will also lose the apartment you are in.

How does the housing funding work?

Pathways housing funding is in the form of a voucher issued by the Brattleboro Housing Authority that is good for 1 year. Once you get a voucher, then you are responsible for finding an apartment that meets "fair market rent" (rates will be provided once you are accepted) and accepts vouchers. You will pay 30% of your income towards rent, and the program pays for the rest. Your case manager and the BHA will also assist you in your housing search but they will not do it for you.

What can I expect of the Pathways to Housing Program?

You can expect the support of your case manager and a team of social service providers that will work with you in the Program as well as the housing assistance. If you are successful in the program, you will end up with a good landlord reference, new knowledge and skills, and the confidence that you can maintain a settled living situation.

What happens after a year?

After the program is over you may be able to extend your Pathways voucher for one more year, or you may qualify for a Section 8 voucher.

How do I apply?

To apply, your case manager must fill out the Pathways intake/application with all adults from your household present. A committee will review your application and a decision will be made as soon as possible.