

	Low Barrier, Housing Focused Shelter Philosophy	Practices	High Barrier, Transitional Shelter Philosophy	Practices
Safety and Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the safety of household if unsheltered • Believes excessive rulemaking and can be traumatizing to some survivors of domestic violence • Violating rules not necessarily cause for discharge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very few criteria for people they will not accept • Staff trained in conflict resolution and de-escalation techniques try to avoid discharge for out of control behaviors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the safety of clients and staff in shelter • Addresses safety concerns by minimizing loss of control over environment • Violation of rules are grounds for discharge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrictive criteria that requires sobriety • Clients discharged because they are not able to follow the rules, sometimes not allowed to return for long periods of time
Substance Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believe temptation for people in recovery is everywhere and that shelter cannot truly protect anyone from it • Believes it is not necessary for households to be clean and sober to obtain or maintain permanent housing • See people using substances as more vulnerable to harm if unsheltered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepts people who are intoxicated • Staff trained in harm reduction, recognize signs of a health crisis when people are intoxicated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believe allowing intoxicated people in shelter will threaten the sobriety of people in recovery • Believe they are better able to help people who are clean and sober 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not accept people who are intoxicated, conducts breathalyzer or drug tests
Exit to permanent housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sees the primary purpose of entire organization, including shelter, as quickly exiting people back to permanent housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources are invested in, and reallocated to, rapid re-housing or financial assistance to expedite exit to housing • Messaging to clients clear that the goal is to return to permanent housing as quickly as possible, the shelter is not your home • Within a few days after entry, every person is assisted to create a plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sees the primary purpose of shelter as supporting people to gain employment, increase income, and stay sober while resolving their own housing challenges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very few resources invested in rental subsidies, housing location, or financial assistance • Messaging to clients is around the need for self-improvement, signage in shelter may say “welcome home”

		to rapidly exit to housing		
Case Management and Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case management in shelter is focused on connecting people to housing as quickly as possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services in shelter are minimal and focused on obtaining housing, services once households exit to housing are home-based and focused on housing stability • Clients drive their case plans and develop their own goals for obtaining housing • Continued stay in shelter is not contingent on participation in case management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case management in shelter is focused on helping people obtain employment, increase income, and learn life skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services in shelter are robust as funding allows, some “after care” services once households exit shelter, but these are minimal • Case plans are standardized and may be linear regardless of client’s unique situation • Clients may be discharged for not participating in case management or accomplishing goals on case plan
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weighs the expense of longer hours of operation against the increased time to engage with clients and the safety of clients during the day • Believe people who are more difficult to accommodate are least likely to find shelter elsewhere and more likely to sleep outside if not accommodated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelter access is 24/7 • Clients are not required to pay for shelter beds • Allow people to store belongings • People are not turned away because they have pets that are not service animals • Couples without children can remain together 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believe clients should be out working towards goals such as employment, and should not remain in the shelter • Limitations on space, staff time, and other concerns make it impossible to accommodate everyone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clients must leave shelter during the day • Cannot accommodate people with pets • Sleeping areas are not conducive to couples without children remaining together