

	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