

# INTERIM HOUSING

## Key Concepts

A short-term housing program that rapidly re-houses persons who are homeless into appropriate permanent housing.

Program elements may include:

- Housing assessment
- Provision of or formalized partnership to housing referrals and placement services
- Linkage to community supports and/or wraparound system of services
- Access to crisis intervention
- Safety assessment particularly for youth
- Public benefits screening and acquisition
- Provision of or linkage to psychosocial assessment
- Provision of or linkage to physical health assessment
- Provision of or linkage to child focused assessment
- Assistance in accessing housing relocation resources/ supports (security deposits, utilities)
- 24-hour basic services (showers, beds, meals, laundry, hygiene products)
- Time limits of 120-days is the goal

While the Housing First approach seeks to place people into housing rapidly, the reality is that it takes time to assess people's needs and locate an appropriate and affordable unit. In the meantime, they need somewhere to be – interim housing fills that role. While in interim housing, people receive housing assistance to help them locate housing in the least restrictive setting possible, and they receive case management to assess their situation and identify other service needs. The goal is for people to be in interim housing for the absolute minimum time necessary to access permanent housing. This makes interim housing different from transitional housing which typically seeks to prepare people for permanent housing through services and support provided over a 6 month to 2-year period. It is different from traditional emergency shelters, which provide only basic services.

Some communities also use interim housing as a permanent housing program with short-term support. This is a housing and service model that provides a short-term housing subsidy (up to 2 years) with wrap-around supportive services. Units may be scattered-site or project-based. At the end of the program subsidy term, the client assumes the lease and the housing subsidy is transitioned to a new client.

## EXAMPLES AND COMMON SOLUTIONS

<b>Program</b>	The Haven - Emergency Housing Consortium (San Jose, CA)
<b>Web Information</b>	<a href="http://www.sjhousing.org">www.sjhousing.org</a>
<b>Practice Used</b>	<p><u>Description</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Haven is an interim housing project of San Jose’s Emergency Housing Consortium, the largest provider of shelters and services in Santa Clara County serving over 10,000 individuals every year.</li> <li>• The Haven provides up to 30 days of interim housing while residents search for permanent housing.</li> <li>• The housing is available to families who have been displaced from their homes because of a disaster.</li> <li>• The project is based on the premise that families that are victims of disaster usually have a difficult time being re-housed because of the expensive housing market in the San Jose area.</li> <li>• The Haven has three two-bedroom units, one one-bedroom unit, and a manager’s unit. The building includes a shared kitchen, dining room, livingroom and laundry room.</li> <li>• The program offers a wide range of additional services including crisis support, permanent housing search assistance, transportation vouchers, and referrals to community agencies.</li> </ul> <p><u>Partners</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This program is a collaboration between the Santa Clara chapter of the American Red Cross and the San Jose Homeless Service Departments.</li> <li>• The Red Cross provides in-take screening and referrals for the Haven.</li> </ul> <p><u>Funding</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The City of San Jose and the San Jose Redevelopment Agency provided a \$1.9 million grant to fund the Haven project.</li> <li>• The Emergency Housing Consortium provided the furnishings for the Haven and provides on-site management for the units.</li> </ul>

<b>Program</b>	Chicago Continuum of Care Interim Housing Program Model
<b>Web Information</b>	<a href="http://www.chicagocontinuum.org">www.chicagocontinuum.org</a>
<b>Practice Used</b>	<p><u>Description</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short term housing that rapidly re-houses persons who are homeless into appropriate permanent housing.</li> <li>• Program elements include housing assessment, crisis intervention, linkage to community supports and/or wraparound system of services, public benefits screening and acquisition, and 24-hour basic services (showers, beds, meals, laundry, hygiene products)</li> </ul>

## SELECTED RESOURCES

### Online Resources

San Jose Homeless Services Department  
[www.sjhousing.org](http://www.sjhousing.org)

Emergency Housing Consortium  
[www.homelessness.org](http://www.homelessness.org)

Red Cross  
[www.redcross.org/ca/scv](http://www.redcross.org/ca/scv)

Illinois Pro Bono  
[www.illinoisprobono.org](http://www.illinoisprobono.org)

Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc. Interim Assistance  
[www.citci.com](http://www.citci.com)

HomeBase, The Center for Common Concerns  
[www.homebaseccc.org](http://www.homebaseccc.org)

### Publications

Barrow SM and Soto G. Project staff. *Closer to Home: An Evaluation of Interim Housing for Homeless Adults*. New York: Corporation for Supportive Housing, 1996.

Barrow SM and Rodriguez GM. *Interim Housing for Long-Term Shelter Residents: A Study of the Kelly Hotel*. New York: Corporation for Supportive Housing, 1994.

***For further information, please contact Piper Ehlen, HomeBase Staff Attorney, at (415) 341-8566 x. 304, or at [piper@homebaseccc.org](mailto:piper@homebaseccc.org)***