



GEORGETOWN LAW

# A HOUSING GUIDE FOR REENTERING WOMEN IN D.C.

*A Project of The Community Justice Project*

Created by:

Zachary Best, Cynthia Heidelberg, and Susan Smith Webb

*Faculty Director*

Jane H. Aiken

*Supervising Attorney/Fellow*

Colleen F. Shanahan

*Office Manager*

Lakuita N. Bittle

# How to Find and Keep Housing in D.C.

## Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Part I: Finding Housing that is Right for You</b> .....	<b>3</b>
Short term housing.....	5
Transitional Housing.....	8
Permanent Housing.....	10
Specific Needs Housing.....	16
Domestic Violence.....	16
Mental Health.....	17
Addiction Treatment and Recovery.....	18
Illness and Disability.....	18
<b>Part II: Lists of Resources</b> .....	<b>19</b>
Housing for individuals.....	19
Shelters.....	19
Day Shelters.....	22
Transitional Housing.....	23
Permanent Housing.....	26
Specific Needs Housing.....	28
Domestic Violence.....	28
Mental Health.....	30
Addiction Treatment and Recovery.....	32
Illness and Disability.....	33
Housing for families.....	34
Shelters.....	35
Transitional Housing.....	35
Permanent Housing.....	38
Specific Needs Housing.....	38
<b>Appendix A: Multi-Service Agencies</b> .....	<b>40</b>
<b>Appendix B: How to Get Identity and Other Documents</b> .....	<b>43</b>
Birth Certificate.....	43
Social Security Card.....	44
Non-Driver’s ID.....	45
Police Clearance.....	45
<b>Appendix C: Tenants’ Rights Information</b> .....	<b>46</b>
<b>Appendix D: <u>Cover Letter to Service Providers</u></b> .....	<b>48</b>

## A Housing Guide for Reentering Women in DC: Introduction<sup>1</sup>

This guide is meant to be a tool to help make you – a woman transitioning from incarceration into the D.C. community – successful by empowering you to effectively handle one of the most important but complex issues women face on reentry: finding housing. Getting out of prison can seem overwhelming, and the challenges of reentry can seem insurmountable, but finding a place to live is the first step in your road to success. **With the right tools, knowledge, and persistence, finding safe and affordable housing that meets your needs (and the needs of your family) is within reach.** This guide will give you the tools to navigate the complicated web of housing options, access resources that can help you transition back into the community successfully, and help make safe and affordable housing a reality.

There are a few basic steps you can take to help ease your reentry and secure housing. They are 1) taking advantage of a multiservice agency, 2) obtaining ID documents, and 3) being persistent. Appendix A (p. 41 lists multiservice agencies in DC and what they do. Appendix B (p. 44) details how to get different kinds of ID (e.g. social security card).

### **The guide is broken down into two parts (with appendices at the end):**

1. **Part I: Finding Housing That Is Right For You:** This part describes the three general types of housing: short-term, transitional, and permanent. To make the process of finding housing easier to navigate, we give information to consider while thinking about each type of housing, and things you need to do to be eligible. The section on permanent housing also includes information about your rights as a tenant if you become a renter, including how to protect against eviction and where to turn to for help.

Part I also includes specific housing information for families, and for women (individuals and families) who have specific needs, such as domestic violence support, mental health or addiction treatment, and illness or disability support.

2. **Part II: The List of Resources\*\*:** The second part gives you specific listings for each type of housing, including the name and address, requirements for eligibility, and how to get into the housing program or on its waitlist.

\*\* This list does not cover all the housing programs around D.C. Instead, it covers programs and service providers the authors spoke with directly; most programs included are larger programs where an applicant might be more likely to find space available. Exclusion from this list is not a judgment about the merits of any excluded programs and the choice to list a program here is not the result of any evaluation of its merit. For additional resources, contact your CSO, or contact a multi-service agency in Appendix A (p. 40).

Hopefully, this guide will make the housing process less confusing and easier to navigate, and will help make your reentry a success. Good luck!

---

<sup>1</sup> Zachary Best, Cynthia Heidelberg, and Susan Smith Webb created this guide as part of the Community Justice Project at Georgetown Law. The Community Justice Project is a clinical legal program focused on using clinical education to enhance the students' commitment to social justice.

## Part I: Finding the Housing Option that is Right for You

---

There are three main types of housing for returning citizens: short-term, transitional, and permanent. There are also housing programs for people with **specific needs** (such as addiction treatment) and housing programs for **women with children**. Each type of housing is briefly described here, and the pages after provide more details.

1. **Short term.** The most common short-term options are:
  - Staying with a family member or friend;
  - Staying in a shelter, which offer a bed and shower for one night or multiple nights, and sometimes services such as counseling and job-search assistance.
2. **Transitional Housing.** These are temporary programs that offer housing and services designed to help you get a job, find permanent housing, and get back on your feet. These programs can help make your reentry more successful, but they have requirements you have to meet before you are eligible to move in, and there are usually waitlists.

***\*\* The transitional housing application process takes some time, so it's a good idea to find somewhere to spend the first few nights or weeks after reentry – whether with friends, family or in a shelter – while you look for transitional housing. \*\****

3. **Permanent Housing.** Permanent housing includes apartments and houses that you can stay in for multiple years. There are several options for finding affordable long-term housing in D.C., including:

- D.C.'s Public Housing and the Housing Choice Voucher Program (formerly known as "Section 8");
- Single-room occupancy (SRO) apartments (private bedroom and bathroom, and shared living space and a kitchen);
- Affordable apartments

***\*\* The waitlist for public housing and vouchers often takes multiple years, so it's a good idea to get on the waitlist and then look for more immediate options, such as staying with family, a friend, in a shelter, or in transitional housing. \*\****

### Did you know?

Many Returning Citizens are NOT Automatically Disqualified From Public Housing

- You may not be automatically disqualified, so it is good to apply and get on the waitlist ASAP.
- There are steps you can take to improve your chances of getting vouchers once you reach the top of the waitlist. See p. 10 for more info.

4. **Specific needs housing.** There are housing programs of each type that are aimed at women with specific needs.
  - See page 16 for information about domestic violence housing programs.
  - See page 17 for information about mental health housing programs.
  - See page 18 for information addiction treatment and recovery housing.
  - See page 18 or disability and illness housing programs.
5. **Women with children.** See page 34 for housing programs for women with children (general programs and programs that serve women with each of the specific needs listed above).

## Some Helpful Information Before You Get Started

### CSOSA and Your CSO

- Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (“CSOSA”) is the agency that manages your supervised release.
- Depending upon the terms of your release, you may be required to check in with a Court Supervision Officer (“CSO”) and follow the terms of an accountability contract.
- Your CSO is responsible for your supervision. But he or she can also help your reentry by connecting you with helpful resources that have partnerships with CSOSA.
- For example, if you are interested in getting into a transitional housing program, a drug treatment or recovery program, or going back to school, tell your CSO of your plans. Your CSO might have suggestions of resources.

### Many Housing Programs Require a Referral

- Many housing programs require that you have a referral to enter the program (the referral usually must be from your CSO or caseworker, but can sometimes be from another service provider, friend, pastor, etc.).
- You can ask your CSO to give you a referral to a housing program.
- You can also go to a multi-service agency and meet with a caseworker who will learn about your situation and your needs. Look at page 40 for a list of multi-service.
- Your CSO or caseworker will then write you a letter to bring to a specific place, or will call that organization and say he or she is sending you there.

### Multi-Service Agencies

- Going to a multi-service agency can be a good first step in the process of finding housing on reentry.
- Multi-services agencies are helpful because they serve as an access point for various resources that can help you reenter successfully.
- They offer an array of services such as case management (figuring out what services you need from organizations and the government and helping you apply for those services), counseling, and sometimes emergency assistance such as clothing and food.
- They can also give you referrals to other organizations and help you access public benefits (food stamps, TANF, Medicaid, etc.) and housing programs.
- For a list of multi-service agencies, see appendix A (p. 40).

## Short-Term Housing

### What is Short-Term Housing?

- Short-term housing options are places you can go immediately after you leave prison or jail, for one night, several nights, or even a few weeks.
- Short-term housing can give you time to look for something more permanent.
- **There are two common options:**
  - 1) **Staying with a friend or family member**
  - 2) **Staying in an overnight shelter**

---

### 1. Staying with a friend or family member

#### The Pros and Cons of Staying with A Friend of Family Member

- If you have friends or family in the area, staying short-term with them can be an option for immediate housing.
  - Friends and family can be supportive and useful in helping you successfully reenter the community.
  - A few days or weeks on someone's couch or in their spare bedroom can give you enough time to go to a multi-service agency (p. 40), start looking for jobs, and arrange for longer term housing.
- However, staying with friends or family could also raise some issues for your supervised release or for your host. These issues are discussed below.

#### Choosing a Place to Stay – Release and Supervision Consequences

##### **CSOSA Must Approve Your Residence**

CSOSA, the agency that will monitor you after you're released, requires as part of your "release plan" that you list where you will be staying. CSOSA will send someone to the address you've listed *before they approve your release*.

CSOSA will check to make sure it's safe, no one is involved in criminal activity, and you have permission to stay there. If someone living there has a felony conviction, CSOSA may consider things like the type of conviction and whether or not you and this person were involved in criminal activity together. If they decide the housing is appropriate, they will approve it.

##### **CSOSA Will Do Home Visits After You Are Released**

After you are released, CSOSA will do home visits. How often depends on your level of supervision. CSOSA considers anywhere you sleep to be your "home."

You can be subject to sanctions from increased supervision and drug testing to going back into custody if:

- You are associating with people engaged in criminal activity<sup>1</sup> or
- You are associating with someone who has been convicted of a felony,<sup>1</sup> without getting your CSO's permission.

So, if your household changes (if someone moves in or starts to engage in criminal activity), or you are staying somewhere new, check with your CSO.

## Staying with someone who lives in Public Housing or uses a Housing Voucher

- If the person you're thinking about staying with lives in public housing or uses a housing choice voucher ("Section 8"), there are some additional things to consider.
- The person you might move in with is required by law to notify the resident manager and apply to have your name added to their lease *if you will be staying for more than 1 month.*
- Only "family" members can be added to the lease. The following are considered to be family members:
  - People related by blood, marriage, or operation of law
  - People who you have had a stable relationship with, if you can show evidence that the stable relationship has existed over a period of time
- This process can take several months, so it is a good idea for the person you will be staying with to begin the process of applying a few months before you get out.
- If your family member has internet access, he/she can download the application form at <http://www.dchousing.org/docs/HousingUpdate.pdf>. Then, he/she must call (202) 435 3245 between 8:30am-4:30pm to make an appointment to bring the form in. (If your family member does not have internet access, he/she can fill out the form at the appointment).
- DCHA will have to find you eligible before you can be added to the lease (see page 10 for details).

## Communicating with your host

- Consider communicating with your friend or family member about the ground rules of your stay, like:
  - How long you think you'll be staying
  - What you can do around the house to help out
- Long-term housing that is affordable can take time to find – and if you're staying with a family member or friend while you search, it could be useful to make the stay as conflict-free as possible.

### Tip: Having a Mailing Address

If you can't stay with a friend or family member, consider asking if you can use one of their addresses as your mailing address. Having a reliable mailing address makes social services like food stamps easier to arrange and helps employers get in touch with you when you're job searching.

---

## 2. Shelters

If staying with friends or family is not an option, you will still need a place to stay immediately after you get out. While transitional and permanent housing situations often take time to arrange, shelters can often be accessed immediately.

Shelters vary in the services they offer and the type of sleeping space they provide. **The listings on p. 19 for shelters for individuals and on p. 34 for shelters for families give detailed information about a few shelters around D.C.**

**\*\*Call the Shelter Hotline at 1-800-535-7252 if you need more information or to find shelters other than the ones listed in this guide. The Shelter Hotline has up to date information regarding which D.C. shelters have available beds.\*\***

### **Types of Shelters**

- 24-hour Shelters allow you to stay at night and during the day and participate in the services the shelter offers (meals, counseling, and job training to name a few).
- 12-hour Shelters let you stay for a 12-hour period overnight (usually 7:00pm to 7:00am), but require you to leave in the morning.
- Day Shelters let you come and take advantage of their services during the day, but you can't stay overnight. Services include showers, meals, computer access, and optional programs like case management services and counseling sessions. Listings for day shelters are on p. 22.
- Family Shelters have places to stay for you and the rest of your family. They tend to be 24-hour shelters. See p. 34.
- Domestic Violence Shelters take women who are trying to find safety from someone who is abusive. They usually have confidential addresses. You may need a Civil Protection Order to access some of these shelters (see p. 28 for organizations that can help).

#### **More Info About Shelters**

- Sleeping arrangements: Some shelters are dormitory-style, and others are more like shared rooms or have more privacy.
- Storage: Some shelters, both 12-hour and 24-hour, have a place for you to store some belongings. Ask at the shelter to find out. But consider keeping your most valuable belongings and identity documents like your birth certificate with you because things may get stolen at shelters.

#### **What you need to know about DC's Hypothermia Law...**

- When the temperature or wind-chill is below 32 degrees or above 95 degrees, D.C. is required by law to make a shelter available for everyone.
- On cold days between November 1 and March 31, call the shelter hotline and they will send a van to pick you up and take you to a shelter.
- On a Hypothermia Alert Day (temperature below 32) or Heat Emergency Day (temperature above 95), even those shelters that are normally only open from 7pm-7am are open 24-hours per day.



## Transitional Housing

### **What is transitional housing?**

Transitional housing programs can be a useful way to transition back into the community, but require persistence and meeting the requirements listed below. Transitional housing is usually:

- Shared or private apartments
- Temporary stays – from 3 months to 2 years
- No cost or low cost
- Many programs have services like job training, counseling, GED programs, and computer classes
- Some are for specific needs such as mental health, addiction treatment and recovery, and domestic violence support

### **What do I need to do to get transitional housing?**

#### 1. Step 1: Gather your documents

##### **Identity documents**

- You need identity documents for yourself and any children who will be living with you in order to apply and get on the waitlist for transitional housing. See page 43 of this guide for how to get these documents.

##### **Proof of homelessness**

- Some transitional housing programs require you to prove that you are or will soon be homeless.
- Call the individual program for its specific requirement, but usually you can “prove homelessness” with:
  - 1) an eviction notice from your landlord,
  - 2) a letter from whoever you’re currently staying with saying that you can’t stay there anymore and giving the date you must move out, or
  - 3) If you were recently released, you could prove homelessness with:
    - a letter from a staff member at a homeless shelter where you’ve been staying
    - a letter from a caseworker or lawyer you’ve been working with who knows you are homeless
    - a letter from your CSO saying you’re homeless

##### **Proof of sobriety**

- Unless you’re going to a treatment program, most programs require that you’ve been clean and sober for some amount of time.
- If you can show that you continuously passed urine tests while you were incarcerated, a program is likely to consider your jail time as “clean time.”
- Ask your facility for the records of your drug tests before you are released. After you are released, ask your CSO for records of your drug tests.

##### **Police clearance**

- Some transitional programs require that you have police clearance – a form that lists your criminal history and whether you have warrants out for your arrest. See Appendix C (p. 46) for how to obtain police clearance.

## 2. Step 2: Get a referral

- Many transitional housing programs, especially family programs, require you to have a referral to enter the program. The referral often needs to be from a case worker, but it could be from your CSO, or even sometimes a pastor, social worker, or counselor.
- For a list of multi-service agencies that provide intake and referrals, see Appendix A (p. 40).
- For a list of day centers that provide intake and referrals, see page 22.

## 3. Step 3: Get on the Waitlist for Public Housing

- Many transitional housing programs require you to be eligible and on the waitlist for public housing.
- Multi-service agencies or day centers can guide you through the application process, or you can look at the public housing section in this guide on page 10 for information about how to apply.
- It may seem like unnecessary paperwork right now, but it could pay off later if you reach the top of the waitlist and become eligible for public housing or vouchers.

## 4. Step 4: Contact specific transitional housing programs that fit your needs:

Many transitional housing programs provide services to a specific group of people. Often, an interview (or two) is required before you are accepted to a program. Unfortunately, most transitional housing programs will not let you fill out an application or get on the waitlist before your release. (Those that allow applications from prison are noted.)

- For women without children, see page 20
  - For mental health, see page 31
  - For addiction treatment and recovery, see page 32.
  - For domestic violence programs, see page 28
  - For disability and illness programs, see page 34.
  - For families, see page 35.
-

## Permanent Housing

Finding an affordable place to rent in D.C. is a challenge, but this section will walk you through a few options:

- Public housing or housing vouchers (formerly known as “Section 8”) - this section will guide you through the process of getting on the waitlist.
- Affordable permanent housing – this section will suggest potential options like Single Room Occupancies (SROs) and affordable apartments.
- Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) –this section will give you information about the requirements for ERAP, a government program that can help you pay rent under certain circumstances.
- Your Rights as a Tenant – this section will give you information for if you’re renting about your rights as a tenant if you’re facing eviction.

### Public Housing and Housing Vouchers

Public Housing and housing vouchers make permanent housing more affordable. The waitlists are long, so this is not an immediate housing option. Apply to get on the waitlist (even if you don’t know if you will be eligible) as soon as you can. While some crimes or activities automatically disqualify you from eligibility, some do not. This section outlines concrete steps you can take to improve your chances of being eligible while you move up the waitlist.

#### Step 1: Apply to Get on the Waitlist

- Apply to get on the waitlist kept by the DC Housing Authority (DCHA).
- DCHA does not determine your eligibility until you get to the top of the waitlist.
- Because it’s long, the sooner you can get on the waitlist, the better.

#### What About My Conviction – Should I Still Apply?

Yes, you should still apply. Having a conviction will not stop you from being on the waitlist. Apply and then focus on improving your chances of being eligible once you get to the top (see page 12 for how to do that).

#### How to Apply and Get on the Waitlist

- Go to <https://dchousing.org/ssl/residents/appHousing.aspx> to fill out an application, or call 202-435-3245 to set up an appointment in the DCHA office at 1133 North Capitol NE, room 170A.
- Once you reach the top of the waitlist, you will be invited to interview at DCHA where they will evaluate your eligibility for admission to the program.
- For help applying, talk to:
  - Multi-service agencies (listed on page 40).
  - If you are staying at a shelter, you can ask a case worker.
- Even if you get help, we recommend that you read through the information in the next pages about how to make yourself more likely to become eligible.

#### Step 2: Your Eligibility

This part tells you what can automatically disqualify you, what can make it harder for you to become eligible, and what you can do to improve your chances of becoming eligible.

## What the DC Housing Authority (DCHA) Looks At

- You will have to list each person that will be living with you in your unit.
- Everything below applies to you and everyone else you will be living with.
- DCHA can review the history of each person listed on your application—they can look at employment history, personal habits or practices, and rental and personal credit history.
- DCHA can review police reports and conduct criminal background checks.
- DCHA can also speak with your current and previous landlords, current and past neighbors, and make home visits to gather more information.

## When a Conviction Automatically Disqualifies You

Even if you have been convicted of a crime, you may still be eligible. However, there are some circumstances that will *automatically* disqualify you from eligibility.

You will not be eligible if you or any member of your household:

- Has ever been convicted for manufacturing crystal meth inside public housing
- Has to register under a state sex offender registry program for life, or
- Has been evicted from public housing for drug-related activity *within the past 3 years*.
  - But, DCHA may still choose to admit you if:
    - The person evicted has completed a rehab program or therapy; or
    - The household member who created the situation is no longer present (ex: has died or is imprisoned);
    - DCHA can also consider whether the person evicted:
      - Has acknowledged culpability
      - Has found a job or participated in a training program, or
      - Has a good support network

Note: If the last disqualification—being evicted in the past 3 years—applies to you now, it may not apply by the time you make it to the top of the waitlist.

## When DCHA Has Discretion About Your Eligibility

In other situations, DCHA has a choice about whether to deny or grant eligibility.

DCHA will consider criminal history, but DCHA will also consider your efforts to change in the time since the criminal activity.

When you apply, show DCHA your efforts to change (preferably with documentation), so that you increase your chances of eligibility.

### What DCHA can consider (can choose to deny or admit you):

1. Criminal activity that you or anyone in your household is currently/recently engaged in, including:
  - Drug or alcohol abuse
  - Drug-related or violent criminal activity;
  - Criminal activity that could threaten the health/safety of anyone who lives

or works on the premises

2. Criminal convictions of you or any adult family members (or juveniles convicted as adults), including:
  - Felonies other than the automatic disqualifiers above;
  - Misdemeanors involving destruction of property or physical violence; or
  - Violent criminal behavior within the last five years, even if there was no conviction.
    - But, to use this information, DCHA must have: an arrest record, a parole violation report, a law enforcement criminal history report, or another official law enforcement record.

### **Steps You Can Take To Improve Your Chances**

#### **If any of those possible disqualifications apply to you, don't give up:**

- When DCHA finds unfavorable information about you or someone in your house, you will have the chance to show that you have taken positive steps that show the criminal behavior won't happen again;
- The more positive things you can show, the better your chances.

#### **\*\*6 things you can provide to help your application\*\*:**

- Documents showing:
  - you successfully completed a drug rehab program
  - you currently attend AA, NA, other support group meetings
  - you have used counseling or case management services, including what your goals are and how you plan to meet them
  - you are engaged in community service
  - you are employed or are enrolled in job training program
- A letter from you, a case worker, or someone else who knows you well that explains why you are unlikely be involved in criminal activity in the future.
  - **For example:**
    - You have a job, or are in a job training program
    - You have a strong support network of people, such as family, case workers, religious leaders, and/or AA/NA sponsors
    - You have participated in reentry programs
    - You are receiving social services
    - You are in addiction recovery
    - You are committed to a crime-free lifestyle
    - You are volunteering your time for community service
    - You have a renewed sense of religious devotion

#### **Also Keep in Mind . . .**

DCHA can require you to submit consent forms for all household members who are 18 years or older that allow DCHA to get information from drug abuse treatment facilities. DCHA will only use the information to determine your eligibility; they will not release the information for any other use. Your failure to give consent could result in your removal from the waitlist.

### **Appealing a Denial of Eligibility**

- If you are denied eligibility, you have the right to a hearing to contest the denial.

- You have one year to appeal DCHA’s findings with a “written grievance.”
- For more information about the grievance procedure, and a detailed explanation of your rights, visit [www.dchousing.org](http://www.dchousing.org) and click on the tab that says “Your Rights/The Law.”
- You can also call the Office of Fair Hearings at (202) 535-1245.

## Searching for Permanent Rental Housing

### Helpful Websites

In addition to looking at newspaper listings, if you have access to the internet (public libraries and day shelters usually have free access), there are two websites that may be helpful for your search:

- [DCHousingSearch.org](http://DCHousingSearch.org) - a website where you can view up-to-date listings of rentals in D.C., including those built using government money that might be more affordable. Also, if you later receive a housing choice voucher, properties managed under DCHA’s voucher program are listed too.
- [WashingtonDC.craigslist.org](http://WashingtonDC.craigslist.org) - a website where you can find a lot of apartment listings by landlords, current tenants, and property management companies.

### Organizations that might be able to help you search for housing

- Multi-service agencies (p. 40) or day centers (p. 22)
- Housing Counseling Services –(202) 667-7006, 2410 17<sup>th</sup> St NW # 100
  - You can make a housing counseling appointment by calling.
  - They also have weekly Housing Search workshops on Thurs. at 4pm.
  - Appointments fill up quickly. Try calling at the beginning of the month.

### Single Room Occupancies (SROs) and Affordable Apartment Programs

#### What is an SRO?

- Usually a building with several private individual bedrooms and common areas shared by all of the residents, including kitchens, bathrooms, and lounge areas.
- Affordable - many require that you pay 30% of your monthly income as rent, which is usually far less than rent would be elsewhere.
- A communal living situation that comes with certain rules --- be sure you know what the rules are and be prepared to abide by them before applying.
- There can be long waitlists.

See page 26 for a list of SRO’s in D.C. that accept women.

#### What are Affordable Apartments?

- Apartments that were built using government funds or private donations
- Rent is usually lower than market rate
- Size of apartments ranges from efficiencies (studio) to 2- or 3-bedrooms
- Apartments do not usually become available often. Check back often.

See page 27 or a list of affordable apartments in D.C.

### Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)

The ERAP program is designed to help low-income D.C. households with children, elderly persons, or persons with disabilities handle housing emergencies. The program may be able to provide you with 1) money for overdue rent if you are facing eviction, or 2) a security deposit and first month's rent *if* your household is eligible. Keep in mind that, especially during an economic downturn, funding for this program may not always be available, but call the providers to check for availability.

### Who is eligible for ERAP?

- Your household must have one child, elderly person, or person with a disability.
- You must be:
  - Homeless (living on the street, in a shelter, or in transitional housing) OR
  - In immediate danger of becoming homeless, see below.
- You must be very low income (125% of the Federal Poverty Level).
- The amount of assistance you can receive depends on your household's income and available resources, and the payments can only be received once per year.

To see if funds are currently available and to apply, call one of the following service providers who participates in the ERAP program:

<b>The Salvation Army</b> 202-678-9771 x61100	<b>Housing Counseling Services</b> 202-667-7339	<b>The Community Partnership</b> 202-479-2845	<b>Catholic Charities</b> 202-574-3442
--------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------

---

## Your Rights as a Renter if Your Landlord Tries to Evict

If you are in jail or prison right now or were recently released, you could be staying in a rental apartment in the future. Or if you picked up this guide after you got out, you may be renting right now. This section provides important information about your rights as a tenant.

### **Part 1: What if my landlord is trying to evict me?**

- If your landlord starts the eviction process, it is important that you act quickly.
- You have rights as a tenant and there are many ways to fight eviction that may help you stay in your apartment or house longer.
- One of the most important things you can do is try to get a lawyer. See Appendix C (p. 47) for organizations that may be able to provide legal help and for how you can access more information about your rights as a tenant.
- Also look into the ERAP program because you might be eligible for money to pay the rent you owe and stop eviction.

### **How the eviction process works - steps your landlord must take**

You cannot be evicted unless your landlord has given you proper notice and you have had a chance to go to court to defend yourself. In addition, landlords are not allowed to evict their tenants on their own. Only the U.S. Marshall can evict you, and only with a court order.

Your landlord *must* go through the following steps before you can be legally evicted.

1. Notice from Your Landlord – your landlord must give you a written notice letter
  - When you receive this notice, consider getting legal help. See page 47 for a

list of free legal services.

2. Summons to Appear in Landlord-Tenant Court –notice of eviction is not enough; your landlord must also file a suit “for possession” against you in court and get a court order (win).
  - If your landlord sues, you will receive a summons from your landlord telling you the date of your court appearance.
  - **It is very important that you follow the instructions and go to court on the date stamped on the summons. If you do not, your landlord could get a court order to evict you.**
3. Trial – you have the right to a trial.
  - When you go to court on the date listed on your summons, you can tell the judge you disagree with the reasons your landlord is giving to evict you and ask the judge to set a trial date.
  - You can ask the judge to appoint you a lawyer or for time to find a lawyer.
4. Judgment & writ of eviction – your landlord must win the case and get a court order and “writ of eviction” to evict you.
  - If you have a writ of eviction against you, you may be able to get emergency rental assistance through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

### **More information**

For more information about your rights, and about finding free legal help in fighting your eviction, see Appendix C. (p. 47).

And if you are in an abusive situation at home, see page 17 (in the domestic violence specific needs section) for information about your options and rights as a tenant.



## Specific Needs Housing Programs

There are housing programs in D.C. aimed at women with specific needs, such as domestic violence programs, mental health programs, addiction treatment and recovery programs, and programs for people with disabilities or illnesses.

If any of these apply to you, read the general info below and look at the listings on:

- P. 16 (domestic violence)
  - P. 17 (mental health)
  - P. 18 (addiction treatment and recovery)
  - P. 18 (disability/illness)
- 

## Domestic Violence Housing Programs

**In an emergency, call 911. You can also call the Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or toll-free at 1-800-787-3224, or My Sister's Place 24-hour hotline at (202) 529-5991.**

If you are one of the many women coming out of prison with a history of domestic violence or other abuse, there are many resources devoted to finding safe and stable housing, counseling, and other services so that you don't have to return to an abusive situation and can work to heal past harms.

The questions below are meant as guidance about whether it could be useful to consult a domestic violence service agency. You may not think these apply to you, but consider taking a look at the questions below and asking yourself if they apply to any of your previous or current relationships (romantic or other), to decide if some of these resources might be helpful for you:

- Has a loved one ever:
  - Constantly kept track of your time?
  - Acted jealous and possessive?
  - Accused you of being unfaithful or flirting?
  - Discouraged your relationships with friends and family?
  - Prevented or discouraged you from working, interacting with friends or attending school?
  - Constantly criticized or belittled you?
  - Controlled all finances and forced you to account for what you spend?
  - Humiliated you in front of others? (Including "jokes" at your expense.)
  - Destroyed or taken your personal property or sentimental items?
  - Threatened to hurt you, your children or pets? Threatened to use a weapon?
  - Pushed, hit, slapped, punched, kicked, or bit you or your children?
  - Forced you to have sex against your will, or demanded sexual acts you are uncomfortable with?<sup>2</sup>

**For a list of organizations that provide counseling, legal advice, referrals to housing resources, and other support for women with histories of abuse, see page 28.** Note that some housing programs may require that you are in serious and immediate danger

---

<sup>2</sup> Tabula Rosa Foundation, available at <https://www.tabularasafoundation.org/the-tabula-rasa-foundation/the-cause/signs-of-an-abusive-relationship.html>.

from your abuser, or that you have a civil protection order.

### **Your Rights As a Renter if You Are Subject to Domestic Violence**

If you are currently in an abusive situation and live in a rented apartment or house, you may have special protections under D.C.'s landlord-tenant laws. For example, you may have certain rights if your landlord tries to evict you due to the violence or refuses to make repairs to your apartment. You may also have special rights if you're living in public housing or use a housing voucher.

For more information about your rights and to get legal help, contact any of the domestic violence resources located on page 28 or the legal resources listed on page 47. The District Alliance for Safe Housing (DASH) also has a brochure that provides more information about the housing rights of women who are victims of domestic violence. That brochure can be found online at: [http://www.dashdc.org/files/Housing\\_Rights\\_Brochure.pdf](http://www.dashdc.org/files/Housing_Rights_Brochure.pdf).

---

### **Mental Health Housing Programs**

**If you are having a mental health crisis, call 1-800-273-TALK (8255).**

- If you think you may have mental health needs, consider calling the Department of Mental Health's (DMH) 24-hour Access Helpline at 1 (888) 793-4357 for information about mental health clinics, services, and housing programs.
- A mental health professional on the phone can help you with finding a place to get mental health services, whether you're in an emergency or looking for ongoing care.
- If it's an emergency and you cannot get to a mental health clinic, the helpline will send in mobile crisis team to respond.
- You can also call the Helpline if you just need someone to talk to. They can help sort out feelings of hopelessness, anger, grief, stress, or anything else that is bothering you.

DMH will refer you to a "core service agency" for treatment & referrals.

- A core service agency (CSA) is a private mental health provider certified by the D.C. Department of Mental Health to provide mental health care and other services, such as referrals to transitional and subsidized housing program.
- There are 27 core service agencies, so there is likely to be one near where you're staying or thinking about living. Examples from Northwest, Northeast, and Southeast are:

<b>Green Door</b> 1221 Taylor Street NW Phone: (202) 464-9200 <a href="http://www.greendoor.org">http://www.greendoor.org</a>	<b>Community Connections</b> 801 Pennsylvania Ave SE # 201 Phone: (202) 546-1512 <a href="http://www.communityconnectionsdc.org">www.communityconnectionsdc.org</a>	<b>Anchor Mental Health</b> 1001 Lawrence St., NE Phone: (202) 635-5900 <a href="http://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/page.aspx?pid=366">http://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/page.aspx?pid=366</a>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

- Core service agencies will also help you find and apply for housing devoted specifically to treating men and women with mental health issues.
- If you have children, there are also mental health housing options for families.

---

## Addiction Treatment and Recovery Housing Programs

- Reentering society may be even harder when you're facing addiction issues.
- There are emergency and transitional housing programs that specifically treat drug and alcohol addiction.
- There are also many "recovery" housing programs devoted to helping you stay clean and move forward from addiction. Many recovery programs require that you transition directly from a treatment facility.
- **See page 32 for listings for addiction treatment and recovery housing.**

### **CSOSA – talk to your CSO about treatment and recovery programs**

CSOSA offers substance abuse programs and contracts with many treatment housing facilities. If you have struggled with addiction, consider talking to your CSO if you feel comfortable doing so.– he/she may be able to lead you to a program or offer a referral.

You can also call the Department of Health at (202) 727-8857, or (202) 698-6080 (24-hour) if you would like to be connected to other addiction treatment programs, recovery programs, counseling, support groups, or mentors. DOH provides central intake for substance abuse treatment services in D.C., including inpatient and outpatient care.

Consider attending AA or NA meetings.

Some transitional housing options require a period of being clean and sober. Narcotics Anonymous or Alcoholics Anonymous may be able to help you get to that point. Additionally, if you were in AA or NA in prison, it can serve as a valuable connection between your life inside and your new life as a returning citizen, as well as keep you on the recovery path. Your prison AA or NA group will probably have helped you find a meeting outside, but you can also find an AA meeting by calling (202)966-9115 or an NA meeting by calling 202-399-5316 or toll-free 1-888-476-2482.

---

## Illness and Disability Housing Programs

- There are housing programs in D.C. that are meant to accommodate people living with an illness or disability, including people with HIV/AIDS.
  - Some of these resources are listed on page 33
  - If you have an illness or a disability and have specific housing needs, consider talking to your CSO or visiting a multi-service agency listed on page 40 to find out more about other housing resources that might be right for you.
-

## Part II: Specific Housing Listings

The section below contains detailed listings of housing programs around D.C. The housing programs included are those that house women with criminal records, and that we were able to verify the name, address, services, eligibility conditions, and intake procedures. This list does not cover all of the resources in D.C. and the choice to list a program here is not the result of any evaluation of its merit. For additional listings of housing resources, talk to your CSO, or go to a multi-service agency listed in Appendix A (p. 41). You can also view the PDS guide at <http://www.pdsdc.org/Resources/ORD/Adult-Directory-10-9.pdf>, or DASH DC guide (mainly for domestic violence resources) at [http://www.dashdc.org/files/HRC\\_PDF\\_1.pdf](http://www.dashdc.org/files/HRC_PDF_1.pdf).

---

### Individuals

#### 1. Shelters

- The shelters listed here are for women only and accept Returning Citizens
- These shelters have said they don't require any sort of identification or special paperwork to get in (this might not be true of other shelters).
- Each listing has the nearest Metro rail station and any bus lines than stop a ¼ mile away or less.
- If you are talking to the shelter hotline or an individual shelter, make sure to ask if there's anything you need to bring.
- Call the **Shelter Hotline at 1-800-535-7252** or go to a multi-service agency (p. 41) for other shelters around the city.

#### **The Shelter Hotline**

- Sometimes called the "hypothermia hotline," but it runs all year. (It offers extra services when the temperature is below 32 or above 95).
- Has information about shelters all across D.C.
- Most shelters in the city fill up by the end of the night, but you have a better chance of getting a bed if you know when to show up (especially for first-come, first-serve shelters) or how to get on the waitlist. The shelter hotline has this information.

#### **Open Door**

**(202) 639-8093**

**425 2nd St. NW** (Behind Community for Creative Non-Violence)

Bus Lines: D6, A11

Metro rail: Judiciary Square on the Red Line (.25 miles away)

Beds	108; 24 with case management; 18 in transitional program
Turnover	Constant (first-come, first-serve, every night). Line up outside at 9pm
Requirements	Women only
Hours	Overnight shelter (7 pm- 7am). But residents who spend the night at Open Door can go next door to CCNV, which includes a day shelter. Open Door's 18 residents in the transitional program are allowed to remain at the shelter on a 24-hour basis.

Belongings	24-hour residents receiving case management are allowed to keep some belongings. Limited locker space is available for other residents, but tends to fill up.
Drug Testing	Not required for overnight shelter; may be part of transitional programs.
Services	Open Door provides services to transitional residents (life skills classes, substance abuse treatment and counseling). For admission into that program, talk to one of the case managers at the shelter. Open Door is also right behind CCNV, the largest shelter in the city, and Open Door residents can participate in CCNV's programs. CCNV offers drug and alcohol rehab, health care, job skills, and education and computer classes.

### **Calvary Women's Shelter**

**202-289-2111**

**928 5th street NW**

Bus Lines: P6, D4, 80, X2, 70, DC Circulator

Metro rail: Gallery Place-Chinatown (.38 miles away)

Beds	25 beds in semi-private rooms
Turnover	Calvary has a waitlist and the length varies. The waitlist is usually longer in the winter (there is less turnover) and shorter in the summer. Call the number listed to get on the waitlist. You must call back every day to check in and stay on the waitlist. If you don't call for 3 days, you'll get taken off.
Requirements	Must be female, must be at least 18
Hours	24-hour shelter with day programs
Belongings	Residents may store belongings at Calvary.
Drug Testing	Calvary does not require you to be clean upon entry, but does drug test people who stay regularly. You will be asked to leave if you fail three tests.
Services	Meals, addiction recovery, life skills classes, job-search assistance and mental health services. It is in some ways much closer to being a transitional housing program than a shelter, but they consider themselves a little of both. (Note: this is why Calvary is also listed in the transitional housing section.)

### **John L. Young Women's Center**

**202-639-8469**

**119 D St NW**

Bus Lines: D6, 96, A11

Metro rail: Judiciary Square (.35 miles away)

Beds	85 in a large open space
Turnover	Frequent. You're advised to be there at 7pm to get in line. At 8pm, they admit everyone who spent the previous night there. Extra beds are then given to the new arrivals based on your place in line.
Requirements	Women only
Hours	7pm - 7am
Belongings	For the first five days residents must take their belongings with them. After five days, residents will be assigned a locker.

Drug Testing	No drug testing for overnight clients
Services	Meals

**Harriet Tubman Emergency Women's Shelter (at DC General)**

**(202) 547-1924 or (202) 547-1925**

**1900 Massachusetts Ave. SE #9**

Bus Lines: B6, 92,

Metro rail: Stadium Armory Station (.28 miles away)

Beds	100 in a large open space
Turnover	Frequent. All beds are assigned first-come, first-serve. Be at the shelter at 7pm for intake for the best chance of getting in.
Requirements	Women-only, 18 or older, no communicable diseases, only two bags
Hours	Shelter is 7pm – 7am. There is also a day program from 9am-3:30pm.
Belongings	After five days in the shelter, residents will be assigned a small locker.
Drug Testing	No drug test is required to spend the night.
Services	Breakfast and dinner is served at the shelter, and lunch is served at the day program. Case management services at the shelter's day program include assistance with life skills, employment, hygiene issues, drug rehab and financial management.

**Covenant House Crisis Center** (youth, ages 18-21)

**(202) 610-9600**

**2001 Mississippi Avenue, SE**

[www.covenanthouse.org/youth-shelter/dc-washington](http://www.covenanthouse.org/youth-shelter/dc-washington)

Bus line: 32, 94, W2, W3

Metro rail: Southern Avenue (.51 miles away)

Beds	42
Turnover	It varies. Show up at 9:00am. There is 72-hour intake screening process. After the initial intake period, if a youth commits to Covenant House, the minimum stay is 30 days.
Requirements	Co-ed; must be ages 18-21.
Hours	24 hour shelter
Belongings	Allowed to leave up to two large bags of possessions at the shelter.
Drug Testing	No drug test is required during the initial stay.
Services	Covenant House is an overnight shelter that offers a full array of services, including counseling, medical care, showers, mental health services, job and education services, and warm meals. Youth can then decide whether to commit to the residency program, which is dorm-style living on a longer-term basis.

**a. Day Shelters**

- Consider going to a day shelter if:
  - You are staying in a homeless shelter that is only 12-hour or doesn't offer

- comprehensive services, or
- You are staying on someone’s couch or in their spare bedroom and would like a place to go during the day to receive services and a meal.
- Services that day shelters offer:
  - Day shelters offer different services, but most of them offer at least lunch and a place to relax.
  - Some day shelters also allow overnight stays when the hypothermia law is in effect (see the box on page 7.)
  - Night shelters are usually divided by gender, but some are co-ed.

Some of the day shelters in the area include:

**Hermano Pedro Day Shelter**

**(202) 246-6643**

**Sacred Heart Parish, 3211 Pine St., NW**

Bus lines: S4, H8, 42, H2, H4, S2, DC Circulator,

Metro rail: Columbia Heights (.34 miles away)

Hours	7:30am-4:30pm (note: also an overnight shelter November-March when the temperature drops below 32 degrees)
Women only?	No. Co-ed.
Services	Hermano Pedro provides showers, laundry, breakfast, lunch and clothing donations. There are also case management services available.
Intake	You can walk in during open hours. If you would like to access case management services, a case manager will have to do an intake. Case managers usually arrive at about 8am.

**Bethany Women’s Center**

**1333 N St., NW**

<http://www.nstreetvillage.org/programs/4/>

Bus Lines: 52, 53, 54, 63, G2, G8, 64, DC Circulator

Metro rail: McPherson Square (.44 miles away)

Hours	Mon.-Fri. 7:30am-4pm; Sat.-Sun. & Holidays 9am-4pm
Women only?	Yes
Services	Referrals to shelters and transitional programs, support groups, lunch, counseling and case management. The case management process includes sitting down with the client and figuring out what they need, from a drivers license to job training to a substance abuse program and working together with the client to get it.
Intake	Attend a “Get Acquainted” Session at BWC. Sessions are offered Monday through Friday at 10am. Arrive no later than 9am to line up (first-come, first-serve). If you’re interested in being connected with a housing program, a case manager will schedule a personal intake appointment with you.

**Rachel’s Women’s Center**

**(202) 682-1005**

**1222 11th St. NW**

Bus Lines: 64, G8, 63, DC Circulator

Metro rail: Mount Vernon Square/Convention Center (.3 miles away)

Hours	Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 7am-4pm; Tues. 7am-3pm; Sat. 9am-3pm, Holidays 8am- 4pm
Women only?	Yes
Services	Health care, referrals to shelters and to benefits programs, legal advice, help with housing, NA/AA meetings, lunch and job referrals.
Intake	Show up during the hours listed above and sign-in.

**Charlie's Place**

**(202) 232-3006**

**830 Connecticut Avenue**

Bus lines: 32, 36, 42, 38B, G8, L2, N6, 80, D6, L2, S2, S4, X2, DC Circulator

Metro rail: Farragut North (.11 miles away)

Hours	Tuesday-Friday 6:30-8:30am
Women only?	No; co-ed
Services	Breakfast, barbering services, writing classes and medical care for minor ailments from a nurse who is there twice per week. Clients are also allowed to receive mail there.
Intake	Show up during hours listed above

**Miriam's Kitchen**

**(202) 452-8926**

**2401 Virginia Avenue NW**

Bus lines: 80, 31

Metro rail: Foggy Bottom (.26 miles away)

Hours	Monday-Friday from 6:30-9:45am and 2:30-5:45pm, and on Wednesday afternoons from noon-2pm
Women only?	No; co-ed
Services	Breakfast, lunch on Wednesdays, art and yoga classes, some clothing and toiletries, individual meetings with case managers who can help find housing or employment and help sign up for social services programs and obtaining birth certificates and IDs. Clients can also receive mail and phone messages there.
Intake	Show up during the hours listed above

**2. Transitional Housing**

For additional resources, contact one of the multi-service agencies listed on p. 40 or talk to your CSO. If you have internet access, you can also look through the Public Defender Service Guide at <http://www.pdsdc.org/Resources/ORD/Adult-Directory-10-9.pdf>, or the DASH DC guide at <http://www.dashdc.org/files/HRC PDF 1.pdf>.

**Calvary Women's Services**

**(202) 783-6651**

**110 Maryland Ave NE, Suite 103**

[www.calvaryservices.org](http://www.calvaryservices.org).

Bus lines: 96, A11, DC Circulator



Metro rail: Capitol South Metro Station (.4 miles away)

Referral	No
Services	The usual stay at Calvary is 3 to 6 months. Calvary has case management and skills classes on-site (life skills, GED, employment readiness), and provides referrals to other programs.
Requirements	You must be a female and over 18. You don't have to be clean (drug-free) at admission, but if you test positive, Calvary will require you to attend AA, NA, or other counseling. If you test positive 3 times, you will be asked to leave.
Intake & waitlist	Calvary has a waitlist, but only allows ten people on the waitlist at a time. Call in each day to get on the list. Once you get on the waitlist, you must call in each day to stay on the list. If you don't call for 3 days, you will be taken off the waitlist.

**Covenant House Rights of Passage Apartment Living (ROPAL)** (ages 18-21)

**(202) 610-9600**

**2001 Mississippi Avenue, SE**

[www.covenanthouse.org/youth-shelter/dc-washington](http://www.covenanthouse.org/youth-shelter/dc-washington)

Bus line: 32, 94, W2, W3

Metro rail: Southern Avenue (.51 miles away)

Referral	Enter ROPAL through the Covenant House Crisis Center (see page 21.)
Services	Covenant House Crisis center is an overnight shelter that offers a full array of services, including counseling, medical care, showers, mental health services, job and education services, and warm meals. Youth can decide whether to commit to the residency program, which is dorm-style living on a longer-term basis, and can apply for ROPAL. ROPAL is apartment-style living program – for up to 18 months -- where youth cook their own meals, go to work or school, and receive full case management services.
Requirements	Must be ages 18-21, and working, looking for work or in school.
Intake & waitlist	After the initial 72-hour intake period at the Crisis Center, if a youth commits to Covenant House, the minimum stay at the Crisis Center is 30 days. Youth can then be considered for ROPAL. Covenant House Crisis Center has information about the current waitlist.

**Guest House** - can apply from prison

**(703) 549-8072**

**1 East Lurray Ave, Alexandria VA 22301**

Bus lines: Dash Bus 10, Dash Bus 34,

Metro rail: Braddock Road (.66 miles away)

Referral	No
Services	10 beds. 90-day residential facility for female ex-offenders (in Alexandria, but takes DC residents). Can stay up to 6 months. DC residents under CSOSA supervision must be approved for VA supervision. Children are allowed to visit their mothers once per month.
Requirements	Guest House will do a drug test on intake. If you test positive, they will enroll you in a detox program rather than in the facility. They drug test three times a month. (The majority of residents are in recovery.)

Intake & waitlist	Write to Emma Waller at Guest House (address above) to request an application, and can mail in the application to be placed on the waiting list. The waitlist is usually 1-90 days.
-------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Hannah House – HERS** - will interview in prison

**(202) 289-4840**

**612 M Street NW, 20001**

Bus Lines: 70, G8, P6, Circulator

Metro rail: Mount Vernon Square/Convention Center

Referral	Yes (can be from a case manager, social worker, parole officer, etc.)
Services	Hannah House HERS houses 15 women without children, and is a structured program focusing on employment, long-term housing, and recovery. Participation in programs is required. The average stay is 6 months.
Requirements	You must have 30 days clean time before entering. Once a woman has a job, she is required to pay 20% of her income as a participation fee. During the first 30 days, women are required to participate in 40 hours of volunteer service. An additional 20% of income is put in a savings account to be used as security deposit for permanent housing after the program.
Intake & waitlist	Call to apply. An interview is required (they will interview in prison).

**House of Ruth** (multiple housing programs)

**(202) 667-7001**

**651 10th St. NE (Madison Program -intake)**

Bus lines: X8, 90, 92, 93, D6, X2

Metrorail: Union Station (.88 miles away)

Referral	Depends on the program. All programs will take referrals from the Madison Program (House of Ruth's central intake facility).
Services	House of Ruth has multiple transitional housing programs for women, including Family Space, Reunified Families, Three Sisters, and Unity Inn. Programs include services such as job training, counseling and referrals to social services.
Requirements	Requirements vary based on the program.
Intake & waitlist	Intake for House of Ruth is conducted at the Madison Program, 651 10th Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002 on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday between 5pm and 6:30pm.
Directions	Near Union Station (Red Line) – Walk East on F St; turn Left on 10th St

**N Street Village**

**(202) 939-2076**

**1333 N St., NW (Bethany Women's Center)**

<http://www.nstreetvillage.org/programs/4/>

Bus Lines: 52, 53, 54, 63, G2, 64, DC Circulator

Metro rail: McPherson Square

Referral	Depends on the program. All programs will take referrals from the Madison Program (House of Ruth's central intake facility).
----------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Services	N Street Village is a community of empowerment and recovery for homeless and low-income women. N Street Village has multiple transitional and permanent housing programs, which include mental and physical health care, addiction recovery services, and support to re-enter the workforce.
Requirements	Requirements vary based on the program.
Intake & waitlist	The entry to N Street Village's continuum of housing programs is through a "Get Acquainted" Session at the Bethany Women's Center. Sessions are offered Monday-Friday at 10am. Arrive no later than 9am to line up (first-come, first-serve). If you're interested in being connected with a housing program, the case manager at the Center will schedule a comprehensive intake appointment with you.

### 3. Permanent Housing

#### 1) Single Room Occupancy's (SRO's)

##### So Others May Eat (SOME)

[http://www.some.org/services\\_stability\\_housing.html](http://www.some.org/services_stability_housing.html)

Locations:	<p><b>Anna Cooper House</b> 1338 R Street, NW Washington, DC 20009 202.328.6644</p> <p><b>Freedom House</b> 2125 18th Street, SE Washington, DC 20020 202.797.8806 ext. 2202</p>	<p><b>Jeremiah House</b> 2 18th Street, SE Washington, DC 20003 202.292.4401</p> <p><b>Shalom House</b> 1876 4th Street, NE Washington, DC 20002 202.292.4440</p>
Services	SOME provides single adults with affordable efficiencies and single rooms. Tenants sign a renewable one-year lease and pay rent and their living expenses. Rent is set at 30% of each resident's income.	
Requirements	Applicants must be eligible for the Housing Choice Voucher Program (see page 10). You must also be willing to live in a drug and alcohol free environment, and be able to live independently but able to share common living areas. You cannot have custody of any children, and cannot have a recent history of violent or disruptive behavior (within one year). You must have a stable source of monthly income and make a commitment to a drug treatment program where appropriate. 6 months of documented (usually passed urine tests) sobriety is also required.	
How to apply	Applications are accepted from individuals, as well as on a referral basis from service providers. To apply as an individual, call 202-292-4440 and ask to speak to someone in intake. They will help you apply over the phone and schedule an interview.	

##### **Milestone Place - Community Family Life Services**

**202-635-1744**

**305 E Street NW**

Services	Milestone Place provides affordable long-term housing for 35 single adults (men and women). They specialize in addiction recovery and offer intensive case management, substance abuse counseling, life skills, employment development, and emergency services.
Requirements	You must be able to verify that you are homeless (living on the street, in a shelter, or with a friend); must have 6 months documented clean time (if you have passed urine tests from inside jail or prison, that time may count towards the 6 months); TB test; and they encourage people to have some sort of income. You must be eligible for a DCHA voucher (see page 10 for more information).
How to apply	Go to their main office at 305 E Street NW to pick up and fill out an application. After you fill out an application, you may have to go in for an interview. Waitlists vary from a few months to over a year.

## 2) Affordable Apartments (for families *and* women without children)

### **The Summit at St. Martin's**

202-526-0060

116 T Street, NE

<http://www.thesummitdc.com>

Description	"Luxury" apartment complex providing 178 units of permanent affordable housing. No special services attached; some residents may be eligible for case management services.
Eligibility	Income restrictions: minimum income for 1 BR apartment is \$34,000 and for a 2 BR is \$39,000. Maximum income limits apply. No other special criteria necessary.
How to apply	First call for availability. If apartments are available, you can make an appointment to pick up and fill out an application.

### **Jubilee Housing**

202-299-1240

1640 Columbia Road NW

<http://www.jubileehousing.org/template/index.cfm>

Description	Affordable permanent apartments throughout Adams Morgan
Eligibility	Income restrictions apply – call for details
How to apply	Pick up an application at 1640 Columbia Road and fill it out. Check first for availability. If nothing is available, call once or twice a month to check again. Right now Jubilee Housing is temporarily closed to new applicants as there are 600 people on the waiting list.

### **Building Futures, Daffodil House**

202-639-0361 x303

Description	30 permanent and affordable efficiency apartments
Eligibility	Must have a voucher from the Housing Choice Voucher Program (see page 10)
How to apply	Call for details. As of May 2011, there were apartments available at Daffodil House (if you have a housing voucher).

**Eden House** (N Street Village) (individuals and families)  
**202-319-9100**  
**1301 14th Street NW**

Description	Eden House is a 51-unit apartment complex that offers housing for low-income individuals at 50-75% of market rate.
Eligibility	There are minimum and maximum income requirements depending on apartment size and number of people in your household. Eden House also conducts a background check that costs \$25.
How to apply	Contact the resident manager 202-319-9100 to discuss availability. Check back every couple of weeks. If an apartment becomes available you can pick up and fill out an application.

## 4. Specific Needs Housing Programs

### a. Domestic Violence

**In an emergency, call 911. You can also call the Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233), or My Sister’s Place 24-hour hotline at (202) 529-5991.**

There are many programs devoted to helping women secure safe housing, both in an emergency and long-term (among other services). If you are currently in an abusive situation, had a history of abuse before you were incarcerated, or fear that you will have to return to an unsafe environment, consider going to one of the multi-service agencies that are devoted solely to providing resources and support to women with histories of domestic violence.

Some of these organizations are:

**Lighthouse Center for Healing**  
**202-742-1720**  
**5321 First Place, NE**

Services	The Lighthouse Center for Healing brings together specialists from a variety of DC-area organizations to assist victims of intimate partner violence, sexual violence, aggravated assault and other traumatic events, as well as family members of homicide or suicide victims. By combining resources and expertise into one central location, the Lighthouse provides coordinated, collaborative care to help clients need heal and move forward with their lives. All services are free of charge.
Intake	Walk-ins welcome
Directions	Near the Fort Totten Metro Station (Red, yellow, green lines), and on the bus routes of E2, K2, K6, R3, 60, 64, and 80.

**DC DASH Housing Resource Center** (located at the Lighthouse Center for Healing)  
**202-742-1728**  
**5321 First Place, NE**

Services	The Housing Resource Center provides counseling and support services. They have up-to-date information about affordable housing resources, computers for you to conduct a personalized internet search, and staff on hand to help you fill out forms for transitional and other housing programs.
Intake	Call to make an appointment, or walk in on Tuesdays from 2-4:30pm.
Directions	Near the Fort Totten Metro Station (Red, yellow, green lines), and on the bus routes of E2, K2, K6, R3, 60, 64, and 80.

**House of Ruth Domestic Violence Support Center**

202-667-7001 x 515, location confidential

Services	Provides individual counseling to work through issues surrounding domestic violence. The Support Center also case managers who can help you gain access to critical resources for: housing, employment, education and training, child care, legal issues, budgeting, and safety planning. Your children can accompany you to The Domestic Violence Support Center, and the Center has therapists and counselors trained in working with children. All services are free and confidential.
Intake	Call to set up an appointment

You can also apply directly to housing programs for women with histories of domestic violence or other abuse:

Individuals and Families

**Cornerstone Housing Program** (District Alliance for Safe Housing)

(202) 462-3274 (then press 1)

PO Box 91730, [www.dashdc.org](http://www.dashdc.org)

Services	Discretely located emergency and transitional housing for survivors of domestic violence (women or women with children). Programs usually last for 6-24 months and include individual advocacy, referrals, children’s programs, and wellness programs.
Eligibility	Must be survivor of domestic violence; must be homeless due to domestic violence (can come from prison as long as you are homeless due to domestic violence, meaning you can’t go home because of fear of abuse).
Intake & waitlist	Can self-refer (call number above), or get a written or phone referral from a case worker, or from the DASH Domestic Violence Resource Center – see page 29. If space is available, Cornerstone will call and schedule you for an intake session. No waitlist. Applicants are prioritized based on severity of threat.

**House of Ruth** (multiple housing programs)

**(202) 667-7001**

**651 10th St. NE (Madison Program)**

Services	House of Ruth has a wide variety of housing programs for women who are victims of domestic violence (both for women without children and women with children). The programs include emergency shelter, transitional housing, and long-term housing. Longer term programs include services such as counseling, job training, parenting classes, and other supports.
Eligibility	Some programs require that you have a temporary restraining order or civil protection order against your abuser.

Intake & waitlist	Complete an application at House of Ruth's Madison Program (651 10th St.) between 5:00 and 6:30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays or Thursdays.
Directions	Near Union Station (Red Line) – Walk East on F St; turn Left on 10th St.

**My Sister's Place** (multiple housing programs)  
**(202) 529-5261**

Services	My Sister's Place has emergency housing and transitional housing programs for battered women and their children. Transitional housing programs offer full case management services, including therapy, referrals to social services organizations, job training, and life skills.
Eligibility	Must be an emergency, must be in immediate danger from abuser (would not take women directly from prison who are homeless).
Intake & waitlist	Contact the 24-hour hotline for information about My Sister's Place housing programs and about other domestic violence resources: (202) 529-5991

**b. Mental Health**

Many mental health housing programs require a referral from a "core service agency."  
 Call the Dept of Mental Health's ACCESS Helpline at 1-888-793-4357 to find the core service agency near you (see page 17 or more information).

**So Others Might Eat (SOME) (Jordan House, Mary Claire House)**  
**(202) 797-8806**  
**60 "O" Street NW**

Referral	No.
Services	SOME provides a continuum of mental health care housing facilities, including the Jordan House (emergency placement) and the Mary Claire House (transitional housing for residents with long-term mental illnesses which focuses on life skills, self-care, and independent living).
Eligibility	Must be homeless, a DC resident, and have mental illness.
Intake & waitlist	All placements for SOME's mental health facilities go through their Behavioral Health Services (BHS) center at 60 'O' Street, NW. You can call (202) 797-8806 ext. 1116 for information. Walk-ins are welcome on weekday mornings.

**Careco**  
**(202) 722-7214**  
**6323 Georgia Ave. NW**

Referral	Yes – must have a referral from a core service agency (see page 17.)
Services	Transitional and long-term supervised housing located throughout the DC area. All housing includes case management services, including mental health services, counseling, day programs, and skill building
Eligibility	Must be diagnosed with a chronic mental illness.

Intake & waitlist	Call the ACCESS helpline at 1-888-793-4357 and state that you'd like to be linked with Careco (a core service agency). Careco can connect you to its array of housing services
-------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Calvary – Pathways**

**(202) 216-9227**

**110 Maryland Avenue NE**

Referral	Yes – must have a referral from a core service agency (see page 17.)
Services	Transitional housing program that offers stability and support for 10 women who have been chronically homeless. The program prepares women for independent living, and has a full array of case management and counseling, including life skills. The program is 2 years.
Eligibility	Must have mental health diagnosis (access 1: depression, bipolar, schizophrenia). Must be chronically homeless (for one year or more). Homeless is defined broadly and includes staying with a friend or at a shelter.
Intake & waitlist	Once you have a referral from a Core Service Agency, you can apply directly to Pathways. Call Janet Norris at (202) 216-9227. The waitlist length varies, but preference goes to people at Calvary Women's Shelter (see page 22 for information about the shelter).

**Community Connections**

**(202) 546-1512**

**801 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E., Suite 201**

Referral	Yes – must have a referral from a core service agency (see page 17).
Services	Community Connections is a core service agency with a full continuum of mental health housing programs, including supportive group homes, and long-term, supported independent living.
Eligibility	Must be diagnosed with chronic mental illness
Intake & waitlist	Call the ACCESS helpline at 1-888-793-4357 and state that you'd like to be linked with Community Connections (a core service agency). Community Connections can connect you to its array of housing services (in addition to its mental health treatment services).

**House of Ruth** (multiple housing programs)

**(202) 667-7001**

**651 10th St. NE (Madison Program)**

Referral	No
Services	House of Ruth has a wide variety of housing programs for women with mental illness. The programs include emergency shelter, transitional housing, and long-term housing. Programs include services such as counseling, job training, life skills classes, and other supports.
Eligibility	Must be diagnosed with chronic mental illness
Intake & waitlist	Complete an application at House of Ruth's Madison Program (651 10th St.) between 5:00-6:30pm on Mondays, Wednesdays or Thursdays.

**Holly House**



**202-291-6696**

**7426 13th Street NW**

Referral	Must have a referral from a core services agency (see page 17).
Services	Long-term residential facility for mentally ill and homeless adults.
Eligibility	Must be diagnosed with chronic mental illness and be homeless.
Intake & waitlist	Contact the Woodley House Central Intake at (202) 518-0061. There is a waitlist, and the length varies.

**Pathways to Housing**

**(202) 529-2972**

**101 Q St., NE Suite G**

Referral	Must have a referral from a core services agency (see page 17).
Services	Pathways has a unique model of mental healthcare that stresses housing first. Pathways helps place clients in apartments and then treats mental healthcare like outpatient care.
Eligibility	Must be homeless and have a psychiatric disability
Intake & waitlist	Go through a core service agency, or call Pathways at the number above.

**c. Addiction Treatment & Recovery**

**Clean and Sober Streets**

**(202) 783-7343**

**2 North, Federal City Shelter, 425 2<sup>nd</sup> St. NW**

<http://www.cleanandsobersstreets.org>

Referral	No
Services	Clean and Sober Streets provides residential treatment facilities and transitional housing throughout D.C..
Eligibility	You must attend a “Phase 1” intake session, where you will be given a meeting sheet to record your AA/NA attendance. You must attend a series of 16 meetings over a week long period, and then you can turn in your sheet and are eligible for Clean and Sober Streets’ Phase I programs.
Intake & waitlist	Clean and Sober Streets holds “walk-in” intake for its “Phase I” programs several times a year. Call (202) 783-7343 for information about the next intake session and how to apply.

**Micah House**

**(240) 274- 3785 (Cynthia Morris)**

Referral	No
Services	2-yr transitional housing program for 4 women recovering from addiction. Residents have their own rooms, and share communal areas. Case management services include counseling and social service referrals.
Eligibility	Women must be at least 3 months clean, but preferably should be 1 year clean. Women must be working, and pay 30 % of income toward rent. Any contribution above \$300 goes into a savings account that will be matched by Micah House (up to \$1000) and given to the women upon graduation.

Intake & waitlist	Call and speak with Ms. Morris. She will explain the program's structure and requirements and if they have a vacancy, will set up a meeting with you. If the meeting goes well, the Board and the program's other participants will decide whether to admit you.
-------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**So Others May Eat (Michael Kirwan House, Maya Angelou House, Harvest House, Ralph Kuener House)**

**(202) 797-8806**

**60 "O" Street NW**

Referral	No
Services	So Others May Eat provides a continuum of addiction treatment and recovery housing facilities, including the Michael Kirwan House (emergency placement) the Maya Angelo House (treatment), the Harvest and Ralph Kuener Houses (recovery transitional housing).
Eligibility	Must be homeless and a DC resident
Intake & waitlist	All placements for SOME's addiction treatment and recovery facilities go through their Behavioral Health Services (BHS) center at 60 'O' Street, NW. You can call 202.797.8806 ext. 1116 for information. Walk-ins are welcome on weekday mornings.

**N Street Village**

**(202) 939-2076**

**1333 N St., NW (Bethany Women's Center)**

Referral	No
Services	N Street Village has various housing programs for women struggling with addiction, and for women with co-occurring substance abuse and mental illness
Eligibility	Must be a DC resident struggling with addiction
Intake & waitlist	Intake begins at a "Get Acquainted" Session at the Bethany Women's Center. Sessions are offered Monday through Friday at 10am. Arrive no later than 9 a.m. to line up (first-come, first-serve).  The waitlist varies, but women exiting jail/linked to the criminal justice system are given priority in N Street Village's "Recovery Housing" (for co-occurring mental health and addiction). Call Nancy Nerad at (202)939-207.

**d. Illness and Disability**

**Christ House (respite care)**

**(202) 328-1100**

**1717 Columbia Road NW**

Referral	Yes – from an agency or hospital (including a Unity Healthcare clinic). Or, can self-refer by calling John Craig at extension 241 and checking on bed space.
Services	Medical care facility with 33 beds for homeless men and women. Provides case management services and 24-hour care for people in recovery.
Eligibility	Must be homeless and have a medical condition.

Intake & waitlist	Your social worker/case manager/medical facility professional must fax paperwork and call and check on bed space. If you're self-referring, call John Craig to check on bed space. The waitlist depends on bed space.
-------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Camille's Place** (HIV/AIDS)  
**(202) 543-6903**  
**1236 Pennsylvania Ave SE**

Referral	No.
Services	Transitional housing for formerly incarcerated women who have HIV/AIDS. Camille's Place also helps with other needs such as skill building, interview clothing, job training, and referrals.
Eligibility	Cannot have severe mental health issues unless they are under control.
Intake & waitlist	Intake is conducted through Our Place, DC (see page 40).

**Miriam's House** – *can apply from prison*  
**202-667-1758**

Referral	No.
Services	Permanent housing for women with HIV
Eligibility	Must have HIV.
Intake & waitlist	Call the intake coordinator at the number above or email <a href="mailto:intake@miriamshouse.org">intake@miriamshouse.org</a> .

---

## Families

### 1. Shelters

Family shelters are in short supply in the District of Columbia. If you are looking to house your family, the first step is to call the Virginia Williams Family Resource Center, because nearly every family shelter in the city requires families to go through Virginia Williams.

**Virginia Williams Family Resource Center**  
**(202) 526-0017**  
**920A Rhode Island Ave. NE, [www.dccfh.org](http://www.dccfh.org)**

Description	The Virginia Williams Family Resource Center helps connect families with housing. Its caseworkers can help you find and apply for the right places to stay.
Eligibility	You must be a DC resident, homeless, and have custody of at least one child under 18. You must have a birth certificate, ID, and social security card for you and your children. You need proof of homelessness (an eviction notice or letter stating why you can't live at your current location and the date you must leave).
Intake	Mon-Fri., starting at 8 am (arrive early)
Directions	Rhode Island Ave & 10 St. NE, near Rhode Island Ave metro (Red Line).

Call the **shelter hotline at 1-800-535-7252** or go to a multi-service agency (p. 40) for information about other family shelters around the city.

**a. Day Shelters** for families

**Shirley’s Place** (Capitol Hill Group Ministry)

**(202)544-0631**

**1338 G Street, SE**

Bus Lines: 32, 34, 36, A11, J13, K11, M6, V7, V8, B2, M6

Metro rail: Potomac Avenue

Description	Day center for homeless families. It is a place where families can be safe from rain, heat, and cold, small children can nap, and parents can use telephones, bathrooms, and laundry facilities. Staff provides case management to encourage steps toward independent living. Families participate in life skill building workshops, such as money management and child development. Computers are available for resume writing, job searches, and homework.
Eligibility	No requirements. Children of all ages are welcome.
Intake	Monday-Friday, starting at 8am (arrive early)

**2. Transitional Housing**

The listings for family transitional housing programs are broken up into two categories: need referral and don’t need referral.

- Many transitional housing programs require that you get a referral from the Virginia Williams Family Resource Center.
- The listings under “need referral” tell you whether you need a referral from Virginia Williams or if other referrals are okay.

**Need referral**

**Community of Hope** (Hope Apartments)

**(202) 563-1060**

**3715 2nd Street, SE, [www.communityofhopedc.org](http://www.communityofhopedc.org).**

Referral	Yes –must be from Virginia Williams
Services	6-7 month apartment-style transitional housing program for families. Includes family case management, long-term housing search and support, employment search and job training referrals, connections to benefits, activities for children and youth, mentoring, life skills, and parenting classes.
Eligibility	Must have custody of at least one child under 18; there is no requirement that you be clean (if you have addiction issues, they will refer you to outside drug and alcohol counseling).
Intake & waitlist	Must go through Virginia Williams Resource Center (p. 35). The waiting list length varies.

**Families Forward**

**(202) 639-9760**

**422 'C' Street NE, Suite B**

Referral	Yes – must be from Virginia Williams
Services	Transitional housing for 36 homeless families (Families Forward links families with private landlords and pays rental bills). Services include case management,

	job search and training, education and computer training.
Eligibility	Homeless family in DC.
Requirements	Families must pay up to 30 % of income for rent. Must participate in services to stay in the program
Intake & waitlist	Must go through Virginia Williams (p. 35) Virginia Williams will help you fill out the application for the program. An intake worker at Families Forward then reviews the application. There are usually two in-person interviews, and some applicants go to a panel interview, after which you're usually accepted into the program. This process takes about 2 to 3 weeks. Waiting list length varies and depends on the family size.

**Hannah House - THEIRS**

**(202) 289-4840**

**612 "M" Street, NW**

Referral	Yes- can be from a social worker, case manager, CSO, etc.
Services	THEIRS 12-month residential, reunification program for five homeless mothers with no more than three children between the ages of 3 and 12; many women are in recovery from substance abuse. Families live in private apartment-style housing. Children live apart from their mothers for the first 60 days of the program.
Eligibility	Homeless family in DC.
Requirements	Once a woman is employed, she must pay 20% of her income for program fees. Women are required to make their own childcare arrangements; if you are not eligible for TANF, Hannah House will pay the costs.
Intake & waitlist	Call for an appointment. An interview is required. The waitlist length varies.

**Spring Road Family Program** (Coalition for the Homeless)

**(202) 726-2203**

**1433 Spring Road NW**

Referral	Yes- from Virginia Williams
Services	Transitional rehabilitation homes for 28 families. The usual stay is 4-6 months. Families prepare their own meals and maintain their apartments, while participating in self-empowering activities. Staff offers substance abuse counseling, mental health, long-term housing and employment services.
Eligibility	Homeless family in DC.
Requirements	Must participate in rehabilitation programs.
Intake & waitlist	Intake is conducted through Virginia Williams (p. 35). The waiting list varies, but is usually a few months long.

**Valley Place** (Coalition for the Homeless)

**(202) 610-5563**

**1357 Valley Place SE**

Referral	Yes- preferably Virginia Williams, but can be from CSO, case manager, etc.
Services	2-year transitional rehabilitation program. Families live in apartment homes. Valley Place provides general case management services, substance abuse counseling, assistance with finding jobs and long term housing

Eligibility	Homeless family in DC.
Requirements	Must participate in rehabilitation programs.
Intake & waitlist	Valley Place prefers that you do intake through Virginia Williams, but you can also get referral and intake paperwork processed at a different multi-service agency (or with your CSO) and then contact Valley Place directly (at the phone number above).

### Don't need referral

#### **Trinity Arms** (Community Family Life Services)

**(202) 347-0511**

**305 E Street NW, [www.cflsdc.org](http://www.cflsdc.org).**

Bus lines: D6, 80, X2

Metro rail: Judiciary Square

Services	CFLS has a two-year transitional housing program for 17 families that includes case management, counseling, and life-skills services.
Eligibility	Must be a homeless family (either a single woman with children or a married couple with children).
Requirements	Must participate in rehabilitation programs.
Intake & waitlist	You can stop by the main office (305 E St. NW) and fill out an application on Monday-Friday from 10-5pm. You need a DC ID or birth certificate. If you don't have one, they will help you get one. The waitlist length varies.

#### **Hope and A Home**

**(202) 387-7091**

**1439 R Street NW**

Bus lines: 52, 53, 54, S2, S4

Metro rail: Logan Circle (.37 miles away)

Services	Transitional housing for homeless families. Case management support includes academic tutoring for children, employment assistance and job retention, other supports as necessary. The maximum stay is 3 years.
Eligibility	You must be homeless. Mothers must be over 18, children must be under 17 years old. You must have held a steady job for 3 months.
Requirements	Must participate in rehabilitation programs. For a 2 bedroom apartment, you must earn \$1350; 3 bedroom - \$1500; 4 bedroom - \$1600. Rent is \$325/month for the 1st year (and increases slightly for the 2nd and 3rd years).
Intake & waitlist	Call and make an appointment for an intake interview. Waitlist length varies.

#### **So Others Might Eat (S.O.M.E.) - Family Services**

**(202)797-8806**

**71 O Street, NW**

Locations	Barnaby (740 Barnaby St. SE) Zagami (1701 19 <sup>th</sup> St. SE) Thea Bowman (4065 Minn. Ave NE) Chesapeake Houses (730 Chesapeake Street, SE).
-----------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Services	Depending on the house, services include case management, counseling sessions, tutoring/after school program for kids, financial literacy training, parenting skills training, and employment workshops.
Eligibility	Must have one child under 18; eligible for public housing vouchers and on waitlist. Must be homeless (on street, in an emergency shelter, in unsafe housing, or paying over 50% of income for rent). Must be 6 months clean and sober (verified, usually passed urine tests). Cannot have recent history of violent behavior (usually within 1 year).
Requirements	Must participate in services, and pay up to 30% of income for rent.
Intake & waitlist	Call the intake Hotline (202-292-4494). If waitlist is closed, the message will say so. Check back in a week, and if the waitlist is open, it will ask you to leave your name and contact information. S.O.M.E. will call you back and you'll go through an interview process, and will then get put on waitlist.

### 3. Permanent Housing

See page 27 for listings of affordable apartments that take both individuals and families.

### 4. Specific Needs Housing

#### a. Domestic Violence

For information about housing programs for women in abusive situation, see page 16.

#### b. Mental Health

Many mental health housing programs require a referral from a “core service agency.” Call the Dept of Mental Health’s ACCESS Helpline at 1-888-793-4357 to find the core service agency near you (see page 17 for more information).

For information about mental health housing programs for families, contact your CSO, the Virginia Williams Resource Center or a multi-service agency (Appendix A, p. 40).

#### c. Addiction Treatment & Recovery

**Good Hope House**  
**(202) 678-4084**  
**1715 V Street SE**

Referral	Yes, must have a referral from a 90-day shelter or a substance abuse treatment program. Prefer Virginia Williams but will consider others.
Services	2 year transitional housing program with 7 beds for homeless families with parents in substance abuse recovery. Can have no more than 3 children (under 16).
Eligibility	Must be homeless and a DC resident, must show proof of three months’ sobriety (through drug screenings in prison and from letter through referral).
Intake & waitlist	Call the number above to get on the waitlist. Intake will be conducted after you reach the top of the list (length varies).

**Community of Hope** (Hope Apartments)

(202) 563-1060

3715 2nd Street, SE, [www.communityofhopedc.org](http://www.communityofhopedc.org).

Referral	Yes –must be from Virginia Williams
Services	6-7 month apartment-style transitional housing program for families. Includes family case management, long-term housing search and support, employment search and job training referrals, connections to benefits, activities for children and youth, mentoring, life skills, and parenting classes.
Eligibility	Must have custody of at least one child under 18; there is no requirement that you be clean (if you have addiction issues, they will refer you to outside drug and alcohol counseling).
Intake & waitlist	Must go through Virginia Williams Resource Center (p. 44) The waiting list length varies.

**House of Ruth – Reunified Families**

(202) 667-7001 (general House of Ruth number)

Referral	Yes – can be from anywhere (including a shelter).
Services	2 year transitional housing program for women who are in substance abuse recovery and have children. The program has 13 apartments for women who are in recovery from substance abuse, and has a full array of case management and counseling services.
Eligibility	Must be a woman with custody of at least one child (more than one preferred), and, preferably, who is trying to reunite with additional children. First priority should be sobriety and recovery, rather than housing. Must have 30 days document clean time.
Intake & waitlist	Must send referral and application to House of Ruth. Reunified Families does not keep a waitlist. When an apartment opens, they go through the stack of referrals and select candidates for interviews.

**d. Illness and Disability**

Contact your CSO, the Virginia Williams Resource Center or a multi-service agency (Appendix A., p. 40) for assistance finding illness (such as HIV/AIDS) or disability housing programs that allow women with children.



## Appendix A: List of Multi-Service Agencies

Multi-service agencies are organizations that offer an array of services such as counseling, case management (figuring out what services you need from organizations and the government and helping you apply for those services), and often emergency assistance such as clothing and food. They can also give you referrals to other organizations and help you apply to housing programs and for public benefits.

Here are some multi-service agencies to consider:

### **Our Place, DC**

(202) 548-2400

1518 K Street NW (mezzanine), [www.ourplacedc.org](http://www.ourplacedc.org).

Services	Our Place provides services specifically for women who are reentering. Our Place can help find housing and employment, and they provide legal services. They also have a clothing boutique, computers, copiers, and fax machines, and they provide vouchers to help pay for birth certificates, police clearances, and transportation tokens. Drop-in Center Manager: Agatha Malloy.
Eligibility	Formerly incarcerated women
Intake	Monday-Friday 9-5 (closed from 1-2 pm for lunch).
Directions	K Street NW & 15th Street NW, near the McPherson Square (Orange/Blue line) and Farragut North (Red line) Metros.

### **Bread for the City**

<http://www.breadforthecity.org>.

Services	Bread for the City has case managers available during walk-in hours give advice and referrals to services. It has two locations that provide case management. There are two locations, and they are listed below.
Eligibility	Any DC resident, regardless of income, can speak with a case manager during Bread for the City's walk-in hours.

#### Locations:

#### **Northwest Center** – (202) 265-2400

1525 Seventh Street, NW

Intake	(during walk-in hours): Mon., Tues. Thurs. 9-10:30 am, 1-2:30 pm.
Directions	Near the Shaw-Howard University Metro stop (Green Line). Take the R & 8th Street exit and walk to 7th Street between P and Q Streets.

#### **Southeast Center** – (202) 561-8587

1640 Good Hope Road, SE

Intake	(during walk-in hours: Mon-Thurs. 9:30-11:30 am)
Directions	The closest metro station is Anacostia (Green Line) (Turn left on Martin Luther King Ave. SE and walk .5 miles, turn right on Good Hope Road and walk .4 miles to 16 <sup>th</sup> St. SE); the closest bus stop is the 92.

**Bethany Women's Center**

(202) 939-2076

1333 N Street NW, [www.nstreetvillage.org](http://www.nstreetvillage.org).

Services	BWC is a day center that provides meals, showers, laundry machines, clothing, counseling sessions, and activities. The Center also provides optional case management services so you can get referrals and develop a case plan that includes things like mental health services, public benefits applications, and housing. BWC is also the entry point for N Street Village's array of housing programs, including an overnight shelter, addiction treatment and recovery programs, and transitional housing programs.
Eligibility	You must be a homeless, low-income resident of D.C.
Intake	Monday-Friday 7:30-4pm, Saturday-Sunday 9-4pm.
Directions	Accessible from the Blue or Orange metro lines. N Street Village is located behind the church on N St between 14th and Vermont.

**Reentry Health Center (Unity Healthcare clinic + access to social services)**

(202) 715-1601

Campus of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Roman Catholic Church

1604 Morris Road, SE

<http://www.unityhealthcare.org/HealthCenters/ServiceReentry.html>

Services	The Reentry Health Center provides primary healthcare for returning citizens, but they also have staff on hand to help you access and coordinate various social services. For example, they can help you apply for public benefits and provide referrals to other resources.
Eligibility	Must be reentering the D.C. community after release.
Intake	Walk-ins or appointments, Monday-Friday 8-4:30pm.
Directions	Accessible from the Green metro line. The Reentry Health Center is located about 1 mile from the Anacostia metro stop.

**LIFT**<http://www.liftcommunities.org/washington-dc>

Services: Employment (both lack of employment and underemployment), housing (including emergency housing, subsidized housing, and transitional housing), public benefits and tax credits, referral services (including health care, children's services, education/job training, legal services, immigration, food assistance, and computer literacy). There are three locations, and they are listed below.

Locations**Perry School Office**

(202) 289-2525, 128 M Street NW, Suite 320

Hours	Monday-Friday 9am-5pm.
Intake	Walk-in hours on Tuesdays from 9-5 (first-come, first-serve, get there early). Otherwise call for an intake appointment.

**Columbia Heights Office**

(202) 332-4200 x1116, c/o CentroNia, 1420 Columbia Road NW

Hours	Tuesday and Thursday 10am-6pm
Intake	Call for an appointment (no walk-in hours).

**THEARC Office**

(202) 450-2787, 1901 Mississippi Avenue SE

Hours	Wednesday and Friday
Intake	Call for an appointment (no walk-in hours).

**Specifically For Families:**

**Virginia Williams Family Resource Center**

(202) 526-0017

920A Rhode Island Ave. NE, [www.dccfh.org](http://www.dccfh.org).

Services	The main purpose of the Virginia Williams Family Resource Center is to help connect families with housing resources. The caseworkers there can help you find the right places to stay, and help you apply.
Eligibility	You must be a DC resident, homeless, have custody of a child under 18.
Intake	Monday-Friday, starting at 8am (arrive early). You must have a birth certificate, ID, and social security card for you and your children. You also need proof of homelessness (an eviction notice or a letter stating why you can't live at your current location and the date when you have to be out).
Directions	Rhode Island Ave & 10 St. NE, near Rhode Island Ave metro (Red Line).

## Appendix B: How To Get Identity and Other Documents

### 1. Birth Certificate

You will need a birth certificate to get copies of many other documents, including your non-driver's ID (photo ID is required for many housing programs and for getting government support when you get out (ex: food stamps and Medicaid)). Make sure to request a long form birth certificate. This version is certified and will work for all purposes.

If you were born in D.C., you or your family member can request a copy of your birth certificate from the DC Vital Records Division, by writing a letter with a check or going to in-person to the Department of Health Vital Records Division, 899 North Capitol Street, NE, 1st Floor, Washington, DC 20002. The Vital Records walk-in counter is open from 8:30 am-3:30 pm Monday-Friday. A long copy of your birth certificate costs \$23 (you can pay with a check or a money order payable to "DC Treasurer").

You (or your requester) will need to provide photo ID and the following information about you:

- Your name, your date of birth, place of birth (city, town, county), hospital where you were born, father's name, and mother's maiden name.
- If you're requesting the certificate by mail, type the information in a letter and include a photocopy of your (or your requester's) photo ID.

Alternatively, if your family member (your mother, father, or sibling) has access to the internet and is willing to pay \$38.95, he or she can order your birth certificate online through VitalChek Network, Inc at <https://www.vitalchek.com> and the birth certificate will be mailed within a few days to a week. The person ordering the certificate will need the information about you listed above (name, DOB, etc.).

If you were born in Virginia, call (804) 662-6200 to find out how to request a birth certificate from Virginia's Dept. of Vital Records. If you were born in Maryland, call (410) 764-3038. And if you were born anywhere in the U.S., you can also use VitalCheck.com.

### 2. Social Security Card

Social security cards are important because they are usually required to get social services, and are sometimes required for multi-service agencies, which can be very helpful in helping you find housing.

It can take several weeks to complete the process, so if you do not have your card, consider starting the process before you're released. Also, if you have children, consider obtaining their social security cards because they could be required for admission to a family program, like transitional housing.

To make the process easier, you can ask for help from a counselor, staff member at the prison, or a staff member at a multi-service agency.

#### How to get your Social Security Card

- 1) If you already have a social security number (SSN)

Mail your application, birth certificate, and one other proof of identity to any Social Security Office, Attn: SSN Unit. They will return your original documents when they mail you your new card.

The following things can serve as your proof of identity:

- Driver's License
- Statement from prison officials
- Marriage or divorce record
- Passport
- Health insurance card (not Medicare card)
- Prison ID (if you've left)
- School ID card
- Adoption record
- Military records (like a DD214)

You can mail the application to any of the Social Security Offices in D.C.:

- 2041 MLK Jr. Avenue, SE 20020
- 2100 M St., NW 20037
- 1905-B 9th St., NE 20018
- 7820 Eastern Avenue, NW 20012

If you have any problems or questions, you can call the 24-hour Social Security toll-free number at (800) 772-1213.

- 2) If you do not have a Social Security Number (ex: if you were born before social security numbers were given to children at or soon after birth)

You will have to apply for a social security number and card *in person* once you get released. You can apply at any of the offices listed above. All of the offices are open from 9:00am to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday.

Keep in mind that the offices operate on a first come, first serve basis. It can take several hours to process everything, so plan on arriving as early in the day as you can.

### **3. Non-Driver's ID**

Having photo identification is essential. Photo ID is often required to access housing and other programs, including shelters, transitional housing and multi-service agencies.

You can get a FREE non-driver's ID in D.C. if you request one within six months of your release from federal, state or private detention facilities.

#### **To get a non-driver's ID:**

- 1) Ask your Community Supervision Officer (CSO) for a letter to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).
- 2) Take the letter to DMV between 8:15am to 4:45pm for your free non-driver's ID card. DMV locations for Driver's and Non-Driver's Identification are:
  - 95 M Street, SW 20003
  - Penn Branch, 3220 Pennsylvania Ave, SE 20020
  - Georgetown Park Mall, 3222 M Street, SW 20007

If you want to obtain a driver's license, the process is more complicated than getting the free identification card (and is not free). You will need to fill out an application, provide several documents, and pass an eye and driving test. Visit any of the locations above or visit the DMV website at [http://dmv.washingtondc.gov/serv/dlicense/get\\_DL.shtm](http://dmv.washingtondc.gov/serv/dlicense/get_DL.shtm) for information and instructions.

#### **4. Police Clearance**

Many housing programs and some jobs require that you have police clearance. You can get a police clearance at:

**Metropolitan Department Police Headquarters**

(202) 727-4245, 300 Indiana Avenue, NW (3<sup>rd</sup> floor)

Directions: across the street from Judiciary Square metro (Red Line)

When you arrive, go to the third floor to the Arrest and Criminal History Section (Room 3055). You will need to complete a PD Form 70 (Criminal History Request). A police clearance costs \$7 (cash or money orders only). You will need to bring a government issued photo ID, a birth certificate and a social security card. Requests will take approximately 24 hours to be processed.

## Appendix C: Tenants' Rights

### Where You Can Find More Information and Free Legal Help

You can find more information about your rights as a tenant on the Landlord-Tenant Resource Center website at [http://www.dccourts.gov/dccourts/superior/civil/landlord\\_tenant\\_prose.jsp](http://www.dccourts.gov/dccourts/superior/civil/landlord_tenant_prose.jsp). You can also walk into the Landlord-Tenant Resource Center at the court (see contact information below).

Also, the information from this section was gathered from the Tenant Survival Guide published by the Harrison Institute for Public Law at Georgetown University Law Center. You can find more information online at [http://och.georgetown.edu/uploadedfiles/Tenant\\_Survival\\_Guide.pdf](http://och.georgetown.edu/uploadedfiles/Tenant_Survival_Guide.pdf). You can also pick up a hard copy of the Guide at:

**Harrison Institute for Public Law**  
(202) 662-9600, 111 F Street, NW, Suite 102

#### Places to Go for Free Legal Help

<p><b>Archdiocesan Legal Network</b> (202) 772-4324; 924 G Street, NW <a href="http://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/center/sp/ec_services/arch_legal.html">http://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/center/sp/ec_services/arch_legal.html</a> Hours: 9a.m.-5p.m. Provides pro bono legal assistance to low income individuals and families.</p>	<p><b>Neighborhood Legal Services</b> (202) 682-2700; 680 Rhode Island Ave., NW Hours: 9a.m.-5p.m. <a href="http://www.nlsp.org">www.nlsp.org</a>, <a href="http://www.lawhelp.org/dc">www.lawhelp.org/dc</a> The main office will refer the case to a local office based on the zip code. Call for income eligibility.</p>
<p><b>D.C. Law Students in Court</b> (202) 638-4798; 616 H Street, NW Hours: 10 a.m.-2p.m. Inquire about the income criteria for these services.</p>	<p><b>D.C. School of Law - Housing Clinic</b> (202) 274-5120; 4200 Connecticut Ave, NW, Building 38, 2nd Floor Hours: 9a.m.-5:30p.m. Income for 1 person must be less than: \$119.71/wk, for 2 people less than \$161/wk and for 3 people less than \$203/k.</p>
<p><b>Catholic University- Columbus Community Law Services</b> (202) 319-6788; 3602 John McCormack Road, NE Hours: 9a.m.-5p.m. In order to use these services, annual income for 1 person must be under \$17,720; for each dependent, add \$6,140/year</p>	<p><b>Landlord Tenant Resource Center</b> (202) 508-1710; 510 4th Street, NW, Court Building B, Room 115 Hours: 9:15a.m.-12p.m. Volunteer attorneys provide free legal information to unrepresented landlords and tenants who have housing disputes in D.C.</p>
<p><b>Legal Counsel For The Elderly</b> (202) 434-2170; 601 E Street, NW, Building A, 4th Floor Hours: Legal hotline open from 9:30-5:30 <a href="http://www.aarp.org/states/dc/dc-lce/">www.aarp.org/states/dc/dc-lce/</a> Generally for tenants over 60; however, handles disability cases for tenants over 55. Provides over-the-phone advice. Inquire about income criteria needed for legal services.</p>	<p><b>Legal Aid Society</b> (202) 628-1161 (intakes); 1331 H Street, NW, Suite 350 <a href="http://www.legalaiddc.org">www.legalaiddc.org</a> Hours: Mondays, 9a.m.-7p.m.; Tuesdays 9a.m.-3p.m.; Thursdays 9a.m.-3p.m. Income must be under \$19,140 for individuals plus \$6,800 per dependent. Handles landlord-tenant, family law, and public benefit cases.</p>
<p><b>Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless</b> (202) 328-5500; 1200 U Street, NW <a href="http://www.legalclinic.org">www.legalclinic.org</a> Hours: No walk-ins; call for location and hours Inquire about the income criteria for these services, which are generally for homeless or those at risk of becoming homeless.</p>	<p><b>Office of the Tenant Advocate</b> (202) 442-8359; 941 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 9500 Provides information and resources for tenants on a variety of issues. Offers assistance in forming a tenant organization.</p>

## Additional Information – D.C. Agency Resources

<p><b>Landlord and Tenant Court</b> (the Landlord and Tenant Branch of the Superior Court of D.C.)          Court Building B          510 4th Street N.W., Room 110          Washington, D.C. 20001          Information: (202) 879-4879          Branch Chief: Tiffany Adams-Moore, Esq., Branch Chief; phone: (202) 508-1619          Mondays-Fridays: 8:30a.m.-5:00p.m.          Saturdays: 9:00a.m.-12:00p.m.          Wednesdays: 6:30p.m.- 8:00p.m. (protective order payments only)</p>	<p><b>Landlord Tenant Resource Center</b>          (202) 508-1710; 510 4th Street, NW, Court Building B,          Room 115          Hours: 9:15a.m.-12p.m.          Volunteer attorneys provide free legal information to both unrepresented landlords and tenants who have residential housing disputes in the District of Columbia.</p>
<p><b>Housing Customer Service Center, Rental Accommodations And Conversion Division (RACD),</b>          Dept. of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs          (202) 442-4477; 941 N. Capitol St, NE, Ste 7100          Hours: Walk-ins, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.          File tenant petitions related to improper rent increases, housing code violations, decreases in services, retaliatory actions, illegal evictions, security deposit problems, etc.</p>	<p><b>Office of the Tenant Advocate</b>          (202) 442-8359; 941 N. Capitol St., NE, Ste 9500          Provides information and resources for tenants on a variety of issues. Offers assistance in forming a tenant organization.</p>
<p><b>Housing Management Administration</b>          (202) 535-1044; 1133 N. Capitol St., NE, Ste 150          Hours: 8:15a.m.-4:45p.m.          Obtain maintenance help for public housing projects.</p>	<p><b>D.C. Housing Authority</b>          (202) 535-1000;1133 N. Capitol St., NE, 1st Floor          Hours: Tues. or Thurs, 8:30-3:30 (must have appointment); Calls accepted Monday – Friday, 8:15a.m. –4:45p.m.  <a href="http://www.dchousing.org">www.dchousing.org</a>          Obtain general help and information related to public and subsidized housing.</p>
<p><b>D.C. Office of Human Rights—Fair Housing Division</b>          (202) 727-4559; 441 4th Street, NW, Suite 570  <a href="http://www.ohr.dc.gov">www.ohr.dc.gov</a>          Hours: 8:30a.m.-5:00p.m.          File a complaint against a landlord for housing discrimination or complain about discrimination on the basis of race, religion, nationality, age, sex, marital status, source of income, presence of children, etc. The booklet entitled "Human Rights Act of 1977" is available in this office.</p>	



## Appendix D: Letter to Service Providers & Advocates

This guide, a product of the Community Justice Project at Georgetown University Law Center, is an effort to help reentering D.C. women find housing that meets their needs and thus make successful reentry more likely. There are currently close to one million women under the supervision of the criminal justice system nationwide,<sup>3</sup> and women are the fastest growing segment of the prison population.<sup>4</sup> After release from jail or prison, reentry is a daunting task, and women typically face a number of significant barriers to successful reintegration into the community, including finding employment, housing, and other resources to meet their needs. The cycle of people getting out of prison, not being able to make it on the outside, and going back in is sometimes described as a “perpetual incarceration machine.” The system fails people leaving prison by not preparing them. Those who have left prison are often unable to stay out of legal trouble and find themselves back inside, sometimes on simple parole violations.

This guide is an attempt to prepare women to meet the challenges of finding housing when they reenter the community, to connect them with various housing programs and helpful resources, and to help break the potential cycle of incarceration that devastates not only the lives of individuals, but also the stability and vitality of communities. We focus specifically on housing because finding safe and affordable housing is both the most immediate need for women and the need that is hardest to meet, especially in Washington, D.C. where affordable housing is so scarce. Simply put, one of the most essential parts of successful reentry is finding a place to stay that meets women’s needs and avoids potential pitfalls. Ultimately, our hope is that this guide will empower reentering women with resources that help them transition back into the community and gain independence without having to turn back to the environment and relationships that led to their incarceration.

While men undoubtedly face many barriers upon reentry as well, this guide focuses especially on women for two reasons. First, women have reentry needs that often overlap with those of men, but they also have particular and distinct needs. For example, data shows that a large majority of women who are incarcerated have experienced domestic violence or abuse,<sup>5</sup> and generally speaking, women are more likely to be the primary caretakers of their children.<sup>6</sup> Family strengthening and avoiding and recovering from abusive relationships are therefore two key needs women have when they are reentering. Second, although there are some dedicated organizations that cater specifically to women in D.C., women’s reentry needs are often overlooked in the larger discussion about reentry. Thus, this guide is an attempt to address women’s needs through providing information and connecting women with resources that will make reentry more manageable.

---

<sup>3</sup> This figure includes an estimated 956,200 women on probation and 93,000 on parole in 2005. See Lauren E. Glaze and Thomas P. Bonczar, *Probation and Parole in the United States, 2005*, Bureau of Justice Statistics, November 2006, at 6-8.

<sup>4</sup> The Sentencing Project, *Women in the Criminal Justice System* (2007), available at [http://www.sentencingproject.org/doc/publications/womenincj\\_total.pdf](http://www.sentencingproject.org/doc/publications/womenincj_total.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> Lawrence A. Greenfeld & Tracy L. Snell, U.S. Dep’t of Justice, NCJ 175688, Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report *Women Offenders 8* (1999), available at <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/wo.pdf> (at least 57% of women in state penitentiaries have a history of physical or sexual abuse); Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, *Rep. of the Mission to the United States of America on the Issue of Violence Against Women in State and Federal Prisons*, Comm’n on Human Rights, ¶ 16, U.N. Doc. E/CN.4/1999/68/Add.2 (Jan. 4, 1999) (prepared by Radhika Coomaraswamy) (estimating that as many as 85%-90% of incarcerated women have a history of domestic violence or sexual abuse).

<sup>6</sup> Christopher J. Mumola, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Dep’t Of Justice, Special Report: *Incarcerated Parents and Their Children 2* (2000) (60-65% of women incarcerated in federal and state prisons in 1999 were mothers), available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/iptc.pdf>; see also Nicole S. Mauskopf, *Reaching Beyond The Bars: An Analysis of Prison Nurseries*, 5 CARDOZO WOMEN’S L.J. 101 (1998) (10-30% of fathers are their children’s primary caregivers, compared to 70-90% of mothers).