**Changes to DHHS Shelter Plus Care Rental Assistance Program (effective 04/05/2023)**

Effective Wednesday, April 5, 2023, the DHHS Continuum of Care’s Shelter Plus Care Program was fully subscribed. As such, our LAAs (and CAA) are temporarily unable to award any additional SPC referrals or applications. Shalom House will coordinate with our partners at the CoC and the Coordinated Entry Committee to re-activate referrals once there is sufficient capacity.

This is a result of several factors, including the unprecedented number of SPC applications through the piloted coordinated entry process, concerted rehousing efforts in the Bangor area, and the exceptional work of our LAAs, case managers, shelter navigators, and others who provide supports to our mutual clients, to complete an extraordinary number of new housing move-ins. As the number of Shelter Plus Care vouchers more than doubled from March 2022 to April 2023, this reflects successful implementation of the program, but also demonstrates how critical housing resources are currently.

In the interim, we are encouraging providers across the state to utilize other housing resources including Rapid Re-Housing, Bridging Rental Assistance Program (BRAP), Stability through Engagement Program (STEP), Home to Stay Program, the Diversion Program, Emergency Housing Voucher Program, Community Action Agencies, Veterans Housing Services, Section 8/HCV, General Assistance, and other local resources designed for immediate assistance.

We will continue to monitor the utilization of SPC vouchers and will communicate when we anticipate that new vouchers will soon be available again.

Thank you,

Norman Maze

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