


**Eligibility and Program Capacity**

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**Program eligibility**

- The shelter and transitional housing program will have limits within the program for the people it can serve.
- Often the mission and function of the program guides who is eligible.
- Sometimes a funding source will also place requirements on who can be served with the funding sources being used to provide the services.

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**GETTING CLEAR**

It is important to get clear about the program's priorities and limitations

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**What determines program capacity?**

- Program's purpose
- Ability to serve those in their program
  - Number of staff working with program participants
  - Staff skill and expertise
  - The size of the housing available
  - The program's ability to house the participants appropriately and safely

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**Guiding questions**

- What is the shelter or transitional housing's purpose?
- Who is the program intended to serve?
- What are the program limitations for serving the population that it is intended?

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**Length of stay**

- OVW – minimum of 6 months up to a maximum of 24 months

*What is a realistic length of stay to have a meaningful impact on people's lives, creating safety and stabilizing their situations for the long-term?*

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**Decision on length of stay**

- While some programs may think the decision on length of stay has to do with making sure participants do not become dependent on the program, it is actually not for that reason.
- The program will want to decide how it will manage its resources in order to be available to serve those in need of transitional housing.

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**ELIGIBILITY POLICIES**

Developing your Eligibility Policies will guide your program to ensure you are serving those you intend to serve with your limited resources.

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**Guiding philosophy**

- *How does what you are doing carry your vision and values?*
  - *Affirm the sacredness of women?*
  - *Recognize and support victim/survivor sovereignty?*
  - *Adhere to absolute confidentiality?*
  - *Centralize survivor safety?*
  - *Guided by voices of victims/survivors?*

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**Guiding policy questions**

- Who is eligible for services?
- What is your screening process?
- How will requests for assistance be made?
- What documentation will you request to determine eligibility?
- What additional areas need to be addressed related to eligibility?

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**Contact Information**

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