

Appendix A Bridges Program Guide Addendum for Bridges RTC

The Bridges RTC Pilot Program will adhere to the policies and procedures set forth in the Bridges Program Guide with the following exceptions and clarifications.

Definitions

- **Adult Mental Health Initiative (AMHI):** Local Mental Health Authorities that provide alternatives to or enhance coordination of the delivery of mental health services required under the Minnesota Comprehensive Adult Mental Health Act.
- **Anoka-Metro Regional Treatment Center (AMRTC):** Is a 175-bed psychiatric hospital that serves people who have a mental illness. Many of whom are under commitment and have complex co-occurring needs.
- **Competency Restoration Program at St. Peter:** Provides comprehensive treatment and evaluation of individuals who have been committed for competency restoration pursuant to Minnesota Rule of Criminal Procedure Rule 20.01 Subd. 7.
- **Cooperative Agreement:** Utilize the Bridges Cooperative Agreement template and include roles and responsibilities of the Housing Agency, Local Mental Health Initiative and/or Tribal Mental Health Agency, and Mental Health Service Agency.
- **Crisis planning:** Mental health crisis assessment, prevention, intervention, and stabilization services.
- **Eligible Participant:** A person with SMI that is eligible for Bridges and:
 - hospitalized at AMRTC or SPRTC and does not meet hospital level of care;
 - have significant or complex barriers to accessing and retaining housing;
 - homeless or at significant risk of homelessness upon AMRTC or SPRTC admission or discharge, or;
 - Bridges RTC is a diversion from AMRTC or SPRTC hospitalization.
- **Greater Minnesota:** Consists of counties in Minnesota exclusive of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington counties.
- **Homeless (MN Housing):** A household lacking a fixed, adequate night time residence (includes doubled up)
- **Household At Risk of Becoming Homeless:** A household that is faced with a situation or set of circumstances that is likely to cause the household to become homeless in the future, including living in substandard housing, living in housing that is inadequate for the size of the household, living in housing with a person who engages in domestic violence, paying more than 50 percent of household gross income for rent, or having insufficient household resources to pay for current housing and meet other basic needs.
- **Housing Agency:** May also be a non-profit organization under contract to provide housing subsidy services.
- **Local Mental Health Authority:** Defined by the Minnesota Comprehensive Adult Mental Health Act are established by agreement of single or multiple county boards ([Minn. Stat. § 245.466.](#)).
- **Mental Health Service Agency:** A Mental Health Provider agency eligible to provide Minnesota Health Care Programs services.
- **Metro:** Consists of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington counties.
- **Permanent Supportive Housing:** defined as:
 - **Permanent:** Tenants may live in their homes as long as they meet the basic

- obligations of tenancy, such as paying rent;
 - **Supportive:** Tenants have access to the support services that they need and want to retain housing; and
 - **Housing:** Tenants have a private and secure place to make their home, just like other members of the community, with the same rights and responsibilities.
- **Program Outcome and Status Report (POSR):** The POSR is a data collection tool for measuring individual community outcomes. Information about the POSR is available at <http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/MHTA>.
- **St. Peter Regional Treatment Center:** A state psychiatric hospital. Referrals to Bridges RTC will typically come from the Competency Restoration Program (CRP) or Transition Services.
- **Security deposits:** Security deposits may be paid up to an amount equal to 2 months of contract rent if necessary to ensure landlord cooperation and if no other resources are available within a reasonable amount of time.
- **Tenant Advocacy Service:** A supportive service focused on helping the individual to obtain and retain affordable permanent housing of the tenant's choice. Activities include:
 - Landlord recruitment
 - Tenant-Landlord liaison
 - Extensive housing advocacy services; which may include but is not limited to assistance with the following:
 - Assessment of tenant housing preferences
 - Move-in and establishment of household
 - Tenancy education – rights and responsibilities of tenancy
 - Life skills education – basic skills to maintain tenancy
 - Landlord-Tenant issue resolution
 - Coordination with mental health and other services
 - Referral to income supports and other benefits
 - Crisis planning for each tenant, to include emergency contact information and detailed notification of all relevant parties. Landlord should have emergency and non-emergency contact information to address concerns if they arise.
 - The Tenant Advocacy Service may start prior to someone leaving the AMRTC or SPRTC, and/or during transition through IRTS/CD treatment, as part of the apartment search, application, and securing apartment process.
- **Transition Services at St. Peter:** Serves people committed as mentally ill and dangerous who have progressed through treatment at the Minnesota Security Hospital and have been approved for a reduction in custody from the Special Review Board, the Commissioner of Human Services or the Supreme Court Appeal Panel
- **Tribal Mental Health Agency:** The reservation agency primarily responsible for tribal mental health services.

Additional Information

Referrals may come directly from the AMRTC, SPRTC, from the AMHI, or from other agencies. Identified participants may transition to IRTS or other treatment prior to community housing and retain their eligibility for Bridges RTC.

Verification of participant eligibility must document:

- SMI verification
- AMRTC or SPRTC status
- Homeless status
- Income and assets

Expectations of Housing Agency

- Compliance with Bridges Program requirements
- Disburse rental payments to landlords
- Submit payment requests to MN Housing
- Assist with transition to permanent subsidy or other affordable housing opportunity, through assistance with application for other, permanent subsidies or appropriate affordable housing opportunities
- Conduct interim and annual re-certifications; housing inspections

Expectations of Mental Health Service Agency

- Regular contact with participant
 - Assist to establish and retain housing
 - Goal planning
 - Crisis planning
- Regular contact with tenant advocacy services
- Provision of client-selected mental health services