



HOMELESS PREVENTION AND SHELTER ELIGIBILITY FACT SHEET

Dakota County and its partners work with eligible Dakota County residents and their families to provide emergency shelter placements, eviction prevention assistance, and information about community housing resources and referrals. Individuals and families can be screened for eligibility for placement at an area homeless shelter by calling the Housing Crisis Line at 651-554-5751 during regular business hours.

- Families with minor children: Press 1 for assistance.
- Single adults and youth: Press 2 for assistance.
- Victims of domestic abuse or sexual assault: Press 3 for assistance.

Homeless Prevention/Eviction Assistance: Prevention assistance is available to resolve a housing crisis. This is usually a one-time payment to help resolve back-due rent or to pay a damage deposit.

- Must have received Emergency Assistance (EA) or Emergency General Assistance (EGA) denial
- Must provide proof of threat of eviction/homelessness (see below)

Emergency Homeless Shelter: Dakota Woodlands is available for: 1) Dakota County families with minor children, and 2) single adult women. Basic eligibility:

- Must be a Dakota County resident with eligible immigration status
- Must be an eligible one- or two-parent family with minor children, or a single female age 18+
- Must provide proof of threat of eviction/homelessness (see below)

Cochran Shelter is available for single men. The Bridge for Youth is available for youth under the age of 18. Hotel spaces are available on a limited basis, as specified in county sheltering policy.

Evidence/Documentation needed, in order of preference:

It is the responsibility of the household requesting shelter placement or eviction prevention assistance to provide documentation. All documents must be received prior to any shelter placement or payment(s) being issued. **Self-certification or a note from a friend/family member is not sufficient documentation to prove homelessness.**

A. Households who are homeless:

1. Proof of shelter stay in another county within the past 60 days, when Dakota Co. is shown as the CFR; or
2. Proof of self-pay at an area motel; or
3. An observation and subsequent written documentation provided by a reliable source (law enforcement, social services provider, religious leader, school counselor/ administrator, etc. that has physically witnessed the individual/family living in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g. in a car, under a bridge, in a tent, etc.), or similar indication; **and**
4. A narrative that is supported/not contradicted by other documentation in a government information system (e.g. county worker notes of homelessness, all mail is scheduled for pick up at county or a General Delivery mailbox in a Dakota County city, EBT/SNAP withdrawals/purchases made primarily at Dakota Co. locations, etc.)

B. Households at imminent risk of homelessness:

1. A written eviction notice from the Court (in the case of rentals) or documentation of Sheriff's Sale showing the extended redemption period ends within 14 days (in the case of foreclosure); or
2. A letter from the landlord indicating intention to file an eviction. Verification must include amount of past-due rent, when payment is/was due and intended action and planned date of such action, if payment is not made.
3. If an eviction was filed and the tenant entered into a payment arrangement, proof of such arrangement was not adhered to, and the date the landlord intends to have a Writ served. The household may be eligible for SHU services only after the Writ date.

C. "Couch-hopping" with homeowners

1. A written eviction from the Court; or
2. A statement from the homeowner that the "guest" household may not stay in the home (verification must include the name and address of the homeowner, the dates that the client stayed at the residence, the reason why the client has to leave the residence) **and**
3. A 3rd party verification by someone with direct knowledge of when the homeowner made the client leave the residence, and the approximate amount of time the client was known to have stayed at such residence. (This verification must come from a provider or professional such as a social worker, mental health worker, employer, doctor, school, etc.) No statements from families or friends are accepted.

D. "Couch-hopping" with renters

1. Written verification from the landlord that the household may not stay in the rental unit. The verification must include the client's name & address, reason for eviction, eviction date, and landlord's contact information; or
2. Proof of rental assistance from the leaseholder, coupled with a detailed letter from the leaseholder that indicates the homeless individual/family must vacate by a specific date, in order for them to preserve their own housing.

Questions can be routed through the Housing Crisis Line at 651-554-5751.