

DAKOTA COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES

SOCIAL SERVICES

Policy # 3020

Section: Adult Services

Title: Housing Policy

POLICY

PREVENTION POLICY

PURPOSE

To provide eligibility and criteria for payments to prevent an episode of homelessness.

DEFINITIONS

See Policy 3016 for definitions

See Policy 3018 for documentation requirements

PROCEDURE

Prevention resources

- Rent arrears
- First month's rent and damage deposit
- Short term rent assistance (1-12 months)

Prevention eligibility

- Household is connected to Dakota County
 - Live, work or attend school
 - Open case with a Dakota County Social Worker or contracted case manager.
- All family income is at or below 200% of federal poverty guidelines according to family size
- Rental property is verified non-homestead
- Proof of threat of eviction (see Policy 3018 for documentation requirements)
- Not eligible for or denied from Emergency Assistance (EA) or Emergency General Assistance (EGA)
- Reasonable proof that the current housing is affordable and can be sustained if the current crisis is remedied or that another housing resource will become available within the assistance period

Prevention assistance is also available for those open to Social Services that have been determined by supervisors to have no other appropriate financial assistance options and who are too vulnerable to meet the above eligibility criteria (except for non-homestead status of rental property).

Length of Assistance

A household's length of assistance will depend on the time needed to resolve the housing crisis and available prevention resources and their parameters.

Payments

- Grant funding, as available
- County funding through the housing budget (account 0833), as determined by the annual budget

AUTHORITY/REFERENCE

APPROVAL

As approved by:

Andrea Zuber, Director
Dakota County Social Services

REVISED (*Revision Date*)