

Back@Home Continuation Policy

Background

When working with Back@Home households, Re-housing Agencies use a progressive engagement approach that focuses on quickly stabilizing residents in their housing by providing individualized support based on their needs. This approach delivers the least assistance necessary to stabilize families in housing and connects residents to external community resources, mainstream services, and public benefits after Back@Home assistance ends. Back@Home provides households rental assistance for an average of 6 months. Due to the progressive engagement approach, some households will leave before the 6th month. However, some households have higher needs (e.g. disability) and need either a Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) voucher, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or another resource to stay in housing. Others may have experienced a recent life change (e.g. new employment) and need a few additional months of assistance before they can pay their full rent. Back@Home may provide a bridge to support these households but is only a medium-term rapid rehousing program with a commitment to providing an average of 6-months of rental assistance across the program.

Process

Rehousing agencies must receive approval to provide households rental assistance for longer than 6 months. Rehousing agencies must submit continuation requests via [this form](#). Continuation requests must be submitted by the 15th day of the 5th month of assistance. Continuation requests will be approved or denied by the last day of the 5th month of assistance. For example:

A household was enrolled in Back@Home in February 2019. July will be their 6th month of assistance. The rehousing agency must submit the continuation request by June 15th, and the request will be approved or denied by June 30.

Continuation request timeline:

First month of assistance	6 th month of assistance	Month when continued assistance requires continuation approval	Due date for continuation request	Due date for continuation request approval/denial
October, November, December	March, April, May	June	May 22, 2019*	May 31, 2019
January	June	July	May 22, 2019*	May 31, 2019
February	July	August	June 15, 2019	June 30, 2019
March	August	September	July 15, 2019	July 31, 2019
April	September	October	August 15, 2019	August 31, 2019
May	October	November	September 15, 2019	September 30, 2019
June	November	December	October 15, 2019	October 31, 2019
July	December	January	November 15, 2019	November 30, 2019
August	January	February	December 15, 2019	December 31, 2019

September	February		January 15, 2019	January 31, 2019
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*Due to the timing of this policy's release the May continuation request deadline is May 22nd. All future deadlines for continuation request submission will be the 15th. Rehousing agencies were not required to submit continuation requests to pay beyond 6 months of assistance in April and May 2019. This policy was instituted in May 2019. Rehousing agencies must submit written continuation requests for all households who will be provided more than 6 months of assistance in June (including those who were continued without written requests in April and May). If any continuation request is denied among the requests made for June, Back@Home will provide 30-day notice that assistance is ending, so rehousing agencies may pay June rent but no rent beyond that.

All initial continuation requests will be approved for 90 days. The rehousing agency should continue to help the client exit Back@Home as soon as possible, before 90 days if possible. Rehousing agencies must submit another continuation request after the initial 90 days for every client that will need additional assistance, even if the client has been identified as needing permanent supportive housing.

Notice of ending assistance

If any household is denied a continuation request, the rehousing agency must provide that household 30-day notice that their assistance is ending.