



2000 Embarcadero Cove, STE 400  
Oakland, CA 94606  
(510) 777-2112  
everyonehome@acbhcs.org



## Housing/Living Situation Contract Expectations

All Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services (BHCS) providers are expected to submit an online Annual Assessment regarding Housing/Living Situation and Co-Occurring Conditions, which is due by July 10th of the following Fiscal Year. The BHCS Quality Improvement focus on housing/living situation reflects a commitment to helping BHCS consumers with finding and keeping a home that supports their wellness and recovery. The federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Recovery Support Strategic Initiative has also identified a “Home” as one of four major dimensions that support a life in recovery<sup>1</sup>. The Housing/Living Situation survey portion of this report prompts contractors to describe, which, if any, of the following activities they undertook over the past fiscal year within their agency’s BHCS-funded programs. In FY 12/13, providers will be required to operationalize at least one of the following.

- Attend BHCS-sponsored housing issues workshops or trainings
- Ensure that program staff are accurately reporting the housing/living situation of the clients they serve in the BHCS INSYST data system
- Help clients apply for MHSa housing units or other affordable housing units as opportunities arose
- Use and/or helped improve BHCS-supported housing-related information and referral resources, i.e.:
  - ✓ “2-1-1” phone line
  - ✓ Housing Choices website: [www.achousingchoices.org](http://www.achousingchoices.org)
  - ✓ Housing Services Office website: <http://www.acbhcs.org/housing>
- Help clients in a housing crisis access BHCS-sponsored resources, i.e.:
  - ✓ BHCS EveryOne Home Fund
  - ✓ Dedicated emergency/crisis shelter beds
- Update assessment approaches to ensure staff members ask about a client’s housing/living situation on a regular basis.
- Provide updates to the BHCS Housing Services Office about community living facility issues. A community living facility is a *“shared/group housing situation often utilized by low-income people, e.g., licensed board and cares, alcohol/drug free housing or sober living, room and board, transitional housing, single room occupancy hotels, and others”*.

Please direct any comments or questions about these housing activities to the Housing Services Office using the contact information at the top of this information sheet.

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<sup>1</sup> SAMHSA’s four major dimensions that support recovery are: 1) Health; 2) Home; 3) Purpose; and 4) Community. Source: <http://www.samhsa.gov/recovery/>