

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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Issue 18-02

Date: 01/11/18

BRINGING FAMILIES HOME PROGRAM (BFH)

Assembly Bill (AB) 1603 (Chapter 25, Statutes of 2016) established the Bringing Families Home (BFH) program. The primary focus of BFH is to address homelessness for families served by the child welfare system. As a result, the Department of Children and Family Services has implemented the state funded Bringing Families Home (BFH) program to provide rapid re-housing and case management services to homeless families in the child welfare system who are being served in a family maintenance program. The BFH program is a Housing First model, which means the family will receive housing assistance even if they have not completed their case plan goals. In order to participate in BFH, the family must meet the following eligibility criteria.

- (1) The child(ren) must currently be home of parent (HOP) and receiving Court or Voluntary Family Maintenance Services.
- (2) The family must be literally homeless.
- (3) The family is a candidate for rapid re-housing.

The outline below delineates the process for referring clients to the BFH Program, who meet the eligibility criteria listed above.

Referral Process

- Case-carrying CSW identifies and refers eligible clients to DCFS BFH program staff via the homeless services email: B6HomelessServices@dcfs.lacounty.gov.
- DCFS BFH program staff will forward a 211 consent form for the parent to sign. Once the Case-Carrying CSW emails the client name, case number, number of children, and the 211 consent form to B6HomelessServices@dcfs.lacounty.gov, a telephone consult takes place with DCFS BFH program staff and the Case-Carrying CSW or SCSW.
- DCFS BFH program staff submits a referral to the 211 staff.

211 Staff

- Contacts the client to conduct a preliminary assessment.
- Refers the client to the contracted housing agency in the clients last known zip code or zip code preference.
- Enters all client information and updates into the 211 LA Carelink database.



If you have any questions regarding this release please e-mail your question to:

Policy@dcfs.lacounty.gov

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Contracted Housing Agency

- Assigns a case manager upon client's entry and conducts a comprehensive assessment to determine all needs, including housing.
- Provides case management services and works closely with the client in locating and obtaining housing.
- Subsidizes the rent for a specified period of time with incremental decreases.

DCFS BFH Program Staff

- Act as liaisons for the Housing Agency staff, dependency court and Case-Carrying CSWs to provide consultation, technical assistance, trouble shooting, and guidance with the BFH referral process and services.
- Tracks all data and provides monthly updates on the status of each family.
- Tracks deliverables and program outcomes.

For all referrals and inquiries, please email: B6HomelessServices@dcfs.lacounty.gov

If you have any questions, please contact the BFH program staff:

Cynthia Wright-Westbrooks at carpec@dcfs.lacounty.gov, or
Jamie Ortega-Reyes at ortegja@dcfs.lacounty.gov



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