



CCSM Issues Committee First Draft: BRAP Voucher Program. - 11/9/2022

Currently the BRAP (Bridging Rental Assistance Program) voucher amount paid to landlords is insufficient to meet the current Maine rental market prices. Vouchers often expire before they can be used due to lack of rental prices that fall within the voucher amount.

DHHS follows the federal limits when giving vouchers but are not held to the federal guidelines for this program. We would like to see the BRAP limits increased to come into line with the current market prices. This would allow recipients to access available rental housing. The housing first model stands firm on the belief that housing is the foundation to a person's recovery!

We have seen the January 2023 rates increases and we are encouraged that we are moving in the right direction.

Recommendations:

1. Build in a 25-35% increase above the federally projected market rate. This flexibility should be allowed in areas that do not match the current housing market values in various counties/cities/towns.
2. Increase the time limit to search for viable housing that meets BRAP criteria. Currently, a voucher is valid for up to 90 days (including extensions). We recommend that this is increased to 120 days to allow people the time needed.

Expected Outcome:

Everyone who is eligible for a BRAP voucher should be able to find adequate housing to meet their needs. The Housing First model stands firm on the belief that housing is the foundation to a person's recovery!



This issue statement topic was brought forward by the Farmington Local Council.

To submit feedback, ideas or a personal story relating to this issue statement, please send to the CCSM either by mail at: 219 Capitol St. Suite 7 Augusta, ME 04330 or email at vmccarty@maineccsm.org

DEADLINE TO RESPOND: December 12, 2022
