Way Home
Rapid Re-Housing
SELF, Inc.
WAY HOME
HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY!
Way Home is a new Rapid Re-Housing program operated by SELF, Inc. offering rental assistance to homeless individuals with specialized services for LGBTQ+ communities.
Way Home - Program Overview

• **Background**
  - Rapid Re-Housing
  - Eligibility
  - Program Specialization
  - Referral Process
Why is housing support needed for the LGBTQIA+ community?
Unsheltered percentage by gender

Data from 2019 Point-in-Time Count

- **Cisgender Adults**: 49% unsheltered
- **Transgender Adults**: 63% unsheltered
- **Gender Non-Conforming Adults**: 80% unsheltered
Increase in homelessness since 2017, by gender

**Transgender Individual Homelessness**
- 2017: 1,000 Sheltered, 1,500 Unsheltered
- 2018: 1,200 Sheltered, 1,800 Unsheltered
- 2019: 1,500 Sheltered, 2,500 Unsheltered
- Increase: 57% since 2017

**Gender Non-Conforming Individual Homelessness**
- 2017: 500 Sheltered, 1,000 Unsheltered
- 2018: 600 Sheltered, 1,200 Unsheltered
- 2019: 800 Sheltered, 1,600 Unsheltered
- Increase: 80% since 2017
Queer & Trans communities face **unique barriers** to accessing stable housing

- **Homophobia, transphobia, heterosexism:** in all aspects of society
- **Legal discrimination:** in access to employment, housing, benefits, etc.
- **Lack of support:** less likely to have family support or social acceptance
- **Kicked out as youth:** 40% of homeless youth are LGBTQ+
- **Health risks:** difficulty accessing LGBTQ+ competent medical providers
- **Violence:** more likely to be targets of hate crimes than any other group
- **Trauma:** Higher rates of substance use and mental health issues
- **Racism:** Black trans women experience the highest rates of violence
- **Criminalization:** Higher rates of arrest and incarceration

- **Lack of LGBTQ-affirming emergency housing options**
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Rapid Re-Housing focuses on assisting households to move more quickly into permanent home environments—with appropriate services and support—minimizing the time they spend in shelters or on the street.
Core components of Rapid Re-Housing

**FIND LANDLORDS & APARTMENTS**
Help people quickly find housing within one month or less.

**HELP PAY FOR HOUSING**
Help people pay for housing short term; longer-term help an option.

**CONNECT TO JOBS & SERVICES**
Help access services so people can stay in housing.

The **Core Components** of Rapid Re-Housing help people find housing fast, help pay for housing, and connect to jobs and services.
RENT AND MOVE-IN ASSISTANCE

Pay for security deposits, move-in expenses...

... and/or rent and utilities.

Length of assistance varies but often 4 to 6 months.
• Low-barrier, no preconditions

• Households **will not be screened out** for assistance based on criteria that assumes to predict successful outcomes, such as:
  • Income
  • Employment
  • Criminal history
  • Mental health history
  • Medical history
  • Evidence of “motivation”
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• 18+ years old (or legally emancipated)

• Low-income at or below 30% of Section 8 Area Medium Income (AMI)

• "Literally Homeless" (HUD-defined):
  • On the street
  • In a place not suitable for living (car, park, abandoned building, bus, train station, etc.)
  • In an emergency shelter
Way Home - Program Overview

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- Referral Process
Program Specialization

• LGBTQ+ affirming

• Transgender competent

• Anti - Racist

• Bilingual (Spanish / English)
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• Referral Process
All referrals come from the Office of Homeless Services (OHS) Clearinghouse, using the Coordinated Entry and Assessment Based Housing Referral System (CEA-BHRS).
Referrals to Way Home: 3 options

1. **Update OHS Housing Assessment**

   Answer new LGBTQ+ question in VI-SPDAT to be matched with Way Home

   On the Client Dashboard, click the blue action wheel

   Referrals through Coordinated Entry and Assessment-Based Housing Referral System (CEA-BHRS)
Referrals to Way Home: 3 options

1. **Update OHS Housing Assessment**
   Answer new LGBTQ+ question in VI-SPDAT to be matched with Way Home

2. Fill out short accessible online form:
   - bit.ly/WayHomeApply  (english)
   - bit.ly/CaminoAlHogar  (spanish)

3. Contact: WayHome@selfincorp.org
   215-852-0874

   Include:
   - Legal name & Preferred name
   - DOB
   - HMIS ID# (if you have it)
   - Contact info to reach applicant
Flyers & materials available!
Contact Wayhome@selfincorp.org
Know an LGBTQ-friendly landlord?

Let us know!
Contact for more information:

Cara Tratner
Housing Assistance Manager
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215-852-0874