



To: All Regions and GHVP Providers
From: Office of Supportive Housing, DBHDD
Re: Temporary Measures to Address Tenant Loss of Income during COVID-19
Date: 3/27/2020

In response to the impact of the COVID-19 public health crisis the resultant disruption of local economies throughout the state and country, it is understood that GHVP recipients with employment may experience disruption in their income.

It is our shared mission to ensure the preservation of housing stability for these individuals. As a result we are making emergency accommodations in programmatic policy given the extenuating circumstances of the situation. These changes will remain in effect until further notice.

Individuals who lose their income and thus their ability to pay the tenant portion of the rent will not face termination from the GHVP program. Although county courts are not currently processing evictions, we wish to avoid the accumulation of destabilizing debt when the individual is unlikely to be able to resolve it without impacting other vital needs including utilities and food.

In order to fully address the loss of income, **ALL individuals that identify a loss of income should be assisted by Providers with application for unemployment supports.**

DBHDD will pay the total rent amount for individuals who lose their income as a result of COVID-19.

In order to receive this emergency support, Providers must inform the Regional Field Office of the situation and help to verify the loss of income. The Region will submit a basic online form to the Central Office in order to request a temporary adjustment to the payment amount.

Given the situation, we are not requesting the same level of documentation normally required for individuals with no income. We are requiring attestation from the Region that the loss of income has been reasonably verified by the Provider OR by Regional staff. A phone call or email from the employer to confirm is sufficient.

The change in payment amount will remain in effect until after the resolution of the crisis, at which point formal documentation will be required if the individual is to remain without income.

For any questions regarding this form or policy change, please reach out to the Office of Supportive Housing.