

HomeBASE Script

Prevention Screener

Instructions: This script is to be used when initially screening an applicant family at the prevention screening stage.

I want to tell you about some major changes in how the State is now responding to families with a housing crisis. Beginning **August 1st, 2011**, families that come to a DTA/DHS Office to apply for emergency assistance (shelter), will be helped in new way.

If your housing problem cannot be helped through prevention assistance, you will be seen by a homeless coordinator who will complete an **Emergency Assistance Screening** to determine if you are eligible for emergency assistance. You will need to meet some basic income requirements and have the necessary paperwork to support the reasons that your housing situation appears to be unsustainable.

If the homeless coordinator determines that you are **eligible** for emergency assistance benefits, there will be some new ways to assist you and your family:

√If you are 18 through 21 years of age:

You will be provided with a congregate shelter slot, if one is available. Otherwise, you may have to wait in a motel until a congregate shelter slot is available.

√If you are a victim of domestic violence or are homeless due to a fire or a natural disaster:

You will be offered emergency shelter placement, or

You may be a candidate for receiving **HomeBASE** assistance that can help you relocate, provide start-up funds to lease a new unit, or provide short-term rental supports.

√If you are determined EA eligible and you are in an overcrowded situation or being evicted for non- payment of rent, or have housing instability for any other reason, and you are 21 or over, and not a victim of domestic violence, fire, or natural disaster:

You will receive **HomeBASE** assistance which may include: relocation funds, short-term rental supports, funds that may help you to stay in your current living situation (if feasible), or alternative supported housing to address long-term needs of your household.

If you are 21 or over, and not a victim of domestic violence, fire, or natural disaster and it is unsafe for you to stay where you are tonight and you have completed your EA application

and been found eligible, temporary accommodation will be provided through the HomeBASE Program. You will not be placed in an emergency shelter.

The type of **HomeBASE** assistance you will receive will be determined by a **HomeBASE Coordinator**.

I am now going to ask you some questions about your housing problem (Complete Prevention Assessment Tool).