

## **DEFINING EMERGENCY SHELTER**

In order to be considered an “Emergency Shelter” by CoC and ESG Standards, the emergency shelter program must adhere to the following guidelines.

The Emergency Shelter must be able to inform the participant within 24 hours of initial contact whether he/she will be accepted. If accepted, the shelter must make immediate accommodations for the participant(s). The length of stay at the shelter must not exceed 90 days, though there is no minimum stay required. If the shelter charges an occupancy fee to the participant, the occupancy fee shall not be more than 30% of the participant’s income. The fee must be accrued on a daily basis, not weekly, monthly, or otherwise. Participants cannot be turned away due to a lack of income. Emergency shelters must provide 24-hour paid staff supervision, 365 days per year.

Emergency shelter may include a hotel/motel stay.

Support services may or may not be included. However, emergency shelters must ensure that participants have access to at least two meals per day.

The shelter must be recognized as a 501c3 nonprofit organization or faith-based organization holding all proper licensing for operation, including but not limited to Certificate of Occupancy from the local governmental authority, License to Operate within the State of Louisiana, and Certificate of Annual Health Inspection.

\*Support Services are further defined as any services provided for the purpose of facilitating the independence of program participants including but not limited to case management, medical and mental health counseling, child care, transportation, access to meals, job training, etc.