



Bringing Families Home FACT SHEET

Bringing Families Home



About the Program

BFH Program is a state funded, locally administered program. The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Bringing Families Home (BFH) Program serves families involved with the child welfare system who are experiencing, or at risk of, experiencing homelessness to increase family reunification and to prevent foster care placement.

Funding for BFH is available for expenditure through June 30, 2025.

Children and Family Services Criteria

Individuals and families, including but not limited to biological parents, guardians, or kinship guardians who, at the time that eligibility is determined, are:

1. Receiving child welfare services;
2. Homeless, at risk of homelessness*, or in a living situation that cannot accommodate the child or multiple children in the home, including individuals who have not received an eviction notice;
3. Voluntarily agree to participate; and either:
 - a. Have been determined appropriate for reunification of a child to a parent or guardian *or*
 - b. A child or children in the family is/are at risk of foster care placement and safe and stable housing for the family will prevent the need for removal.



This effort is aligned with the County 2026 Vision and County Home Together Plan, strategic initiatives centered in racial equity that lays out specific activities, tenets and resources needed to dramatically reduce homelessness in Alameda County.



This project operates in accordance with Housing First.

A Housing First approach to serving people experiencing homelessness recognizes a person must first be able to access basic necessities, such as a decent, stable, safe place to live, before being able to achieve quality of life or pursue personal goals. A Housing First approach quickly connects individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment, or service participation requirements.

BFH Services

The following service components are available through Bringing Families Home:

- 1. Housing-Related Case Management** – May include coordinating a family’s housing service plan, assisting in the identification of available supports related to housing stability, and providing in-depth problem-solving related to housing stability. This is intended to be person-centered, trauma-informed. It is meant to complement and coordinate with, but not replace child welfare services case plans.
- 2. Housing Navigation** – Assists participating individuals and families in finding, applying for, securing, and moving into interim and permanent housing, as needed.
- 3. Housing Stabilization** – Includes ongoing case management and public systems assistance. Housing stabilization services support, once housed, a family’s housing is safe, sustainable, and supports the safety and well-being of the children.
- 4. Housing-Related Direct Financial Assistance** – Includes rental assistance, security deposit assistance, and interim housing assistance.

BFH Referral Process

Service components 1 – 3 are provided through our contracted community partner, ABODE.

The Child Welfare Worker may make referrals for eligible individuals and families to receive Housing-Related Case Management, Housing Navigation, or Housing Stabilization services.

Service component 4, the housing-related direct financial assistance, is provided through the Department’s Discretionary Funds process.

If the family is determined to be eligible, the Child Welfare Worker may complete and submit a Discretionary Funds Request Form.

Eligible individuals and families, talk to the Child Welfare Worker about a referral.

* “Homeless” is defined in Welfare & Institutions Code Section 16523(d).

A family is considered “at risk of homelessness” if they meet all three of the following requirements:


1. are experiencing housing instability, defined as, housing instability that places them at risk of becoming homeless including those who have not yet received an eviction notice;
2. have no subsequent permanent residence secured; and
3. lack resources or support networks needed to stabilize their unique housing situation and secure subsequent permanent housing.

** Housing First – Fact Sheet: <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-funding/active-funding/docs/housing-first-fact-sheet.pdf>

Website:

<https://www.alamedacountysocialservices.org>

Contact:

 510-268-2153

Email:



BFH@acgov.org