



What is the new policy to serve pregnant individuals in their first and second trimester?

The Virginia Williams Family Resource Center (VWFRC) launched an updated policy to serve pregnant individuals in first and second trimester who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. These services include a guaranteed 24/7 placement at low barrier shelter, without having to exit during the day and getting them connected to Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) or family shelter, when needed.

How are individuals referred to receive the services?

Referrals can be made by case managers in low barrier individual shelters. The following information should be emailed to Kia Williams, VWFRC Program Manager, at Kia.Williams@dc.gov:

- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) #
- Household's Name
- Contact Number (if applicable) and Email Address
- Case Manager's Name, Email Address, and Contact #
- Proof of Pregnancy (A document verified by medical staff stating that the pregnant individual received a positive pregnancy test and highlights their estimated due date or the date the individual can expect to deliver their child)

What steps will VWFRC take when the referral is received?

- The Virginia Williams Family Resource Center (VWFRC) eligibility worker will complete an assessment for homeless services and will enter the household into HMIS.
- ADA request will be completed- if applicable
- Once the assessment is completed the household will be assigned to one of the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) sites: Community of Hope (COH), Everyone Home DC, MBI, or Wheeler Creek
- The appointment with HPP site will be scheduled within 24 to 48 hours of the referral. The appointment should include the HPP Case Manager, and the household.

How is the pregnancy determined as high-risk?

The pregnant individual who is deemed eligible for homeless services and has a documented high-risk pregnancy will have access to short-term family housing (STFH). They will need proof of pregnancy and their documented medical risk factors for high-risk pregnancy by a medical professional. Some of those conditions include:

- Autoimmune Diseases (Lupus or Multiple Sclerosis (MS)), Diabetes, High Blood Pressure, HIV/AIDS, Kidney Disease, Mental Health Disorders, Documented Disability within the last 30 to 60 days, Blood Clotting Disorder, Thyroid Disease, Other: On Bed Rest

VWFRC will assist the pregnant individual with a medical risk factor for high-risk pregnancy in completing the mandatory Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) request.

What services will be provided to pregnant individuals in their first and second trimester?

In general, our service providers will provide the following services to the pregnant individuals experiencing homelessness: case management, rental assistance, utility assistance, transportation

assistance, food assistance, credit repair and budgeting workshops or referral, housing search assistance, referral and connection to services in the District of Columbia.