

PREVENTION ASSISTANCE

What are prevention services?

The overall goal of Prevention is to protect clients from losing their housing and becoming homeless. Assistance could be available in the form of rent assistance, rent arrears, housing search and placement, housing stabilization services, mediation, and credit repairs. Mortgage assistance is not available. Case management is required on a monthly basis and can extend beyond the issuance of financial assistance.

Who is eligible for services?

In order to qualify for assistance, one must:

- Be in imminent risk of homelessness, AND
- Have a court issued unlawful detainer, AND
- Have a household income below 30% of Area Median Income, AND
- Have no other resources

Documentation of eligibility is required from a third party. Financial assistance is limited to 24 months within any three-year period. Eligibility to receive financial assistance must be recertified every three months, or as long as the client requests it, up to 24 months. Clients are required to have a valid lease in his/her name. Any rental arrears will be paid with a one-time payment that cannot exceed six months in arrears and can include reasonable late fees.

Where can I find it in my community?

In the Western Virginia Continuum of Care (CoC), Mercy House and the Shenandoah

Alliance for Shelter can provide prevention assistance. It is very important to note that agencies might not always have funds available, so it is important to pursue multiple resources.

Please contact Centralized Housing Intake for further information (540) 271-1701, not the agencies directly.

How is it funded?

Prevention funds come from the Virginia Homeless Solutions Program grant of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. The Western Virginia CoC applies for these funds and the amounts awarded may differ from grant year to grant year.



All assistance is needs-based and will vary on a service provider's assessment of the minimum resources required to sustain housing stability in the short term. Clients may be required to share in the costs of rent or other housing costs with their own funds.