

Improving Public Safety by Positively Changing Lives

Reentry Housing Assistance Program

Briefing Update
October 2025



Number of individuals Served by year

2022 – 1,955

2023 – 2,762

2024 – 3,321

Total Vouchers Issued for 7/1/24-6/30/25

ERD: 7,181

Reentry: 1,968

GRE: 2,468

CPA: 129

Release Plans Requiring Voucher Assistance for 7/1/24-6/30/25

53.3% (1,593) of
Investigative ORPs used ERD
Housing Assistance
27.2% (540) of Notification
ORPs used Reentry Housing
Assistance

Housing Vendors by County

26 of 39 counties have at least
one housing vendor

Number of Residences Accepting Housing Vouchers

Approximately 903 residences
statewide accept DOC Housing
Vouchers

Housing Voucher Funding for 7/1/24-6/30/25

ERD: \$5,602,628

Reentry: \$655,000

GRE: \$2,821,350/CPA: \$34,740

Summary

In 2009, the Washington State Legislature enacted Senate Bill 5525, which introduced housing vouchers for incarcerated individuals at risk of remaining in prison beyond their earned release date (ERD). This cost-saving measure was designed to reduce the prison population during the Great Recession.

In 2022, Substitute House Bill 1818 further impacted the Reentry Housing Assistance Program (RHAP), building upon previous efforts. The bill extended the duration of housing vouchers from three months to six months. This extension allows individuals to save money, participate in additional reentry programs, and engage in pro-social activities.

In addition, House Bill 1818 expanded eligibility for financial housing assistance. Whereas the RHAP previously assisted only those who had to have an approved address to release before their maximum incarceration date, the introduction of the Reentry Housing Voucher now allows anyone released from a WA Department of Corrections (DOC) facility to access this assistance, including individuals released without supervision.

Reflecting these changes, during the previous fiscal year, RHAP funding was overutilized, resulting in a greater number of individuals accessing Housing Assistance.

Program Overview

RHAP offers housing assistance to individuals who are transitioning to partial confinement or who are being released to the community. The level of service provided by the program is tailored to everyone's situation and specific needs. Services may range from basic housing referrals to financial support through the Department's housing vouchers. Currently, the program provides four types of housing vouchers:

- *ERD Housing Assistance*
- *Reentry Housing Assistance*
- *Graduated Reentry (GRE) Housing Assistance*
- *Community Parenting Alternative (CPA) Housing Assistance*

Individuals who are being released into the community may qualify for the ERD or Reentry Housing Assistance. To apply for housing assistance, the assigned case manager submits the Reentry Housing Assistance Program Application to be screened. Housing assistance will be provided if the individual meets the program's criteria, maintains compliance before and after release, and continues to demonstrate a genuine need for services while in the community. This program can provide a maximum benefit of \$700 per month for a duration of up to six months.

Individuals transitioning to partial confinement through either the GRE Program or the CPA Program may qualify for housing assistance. To request this assistance, the

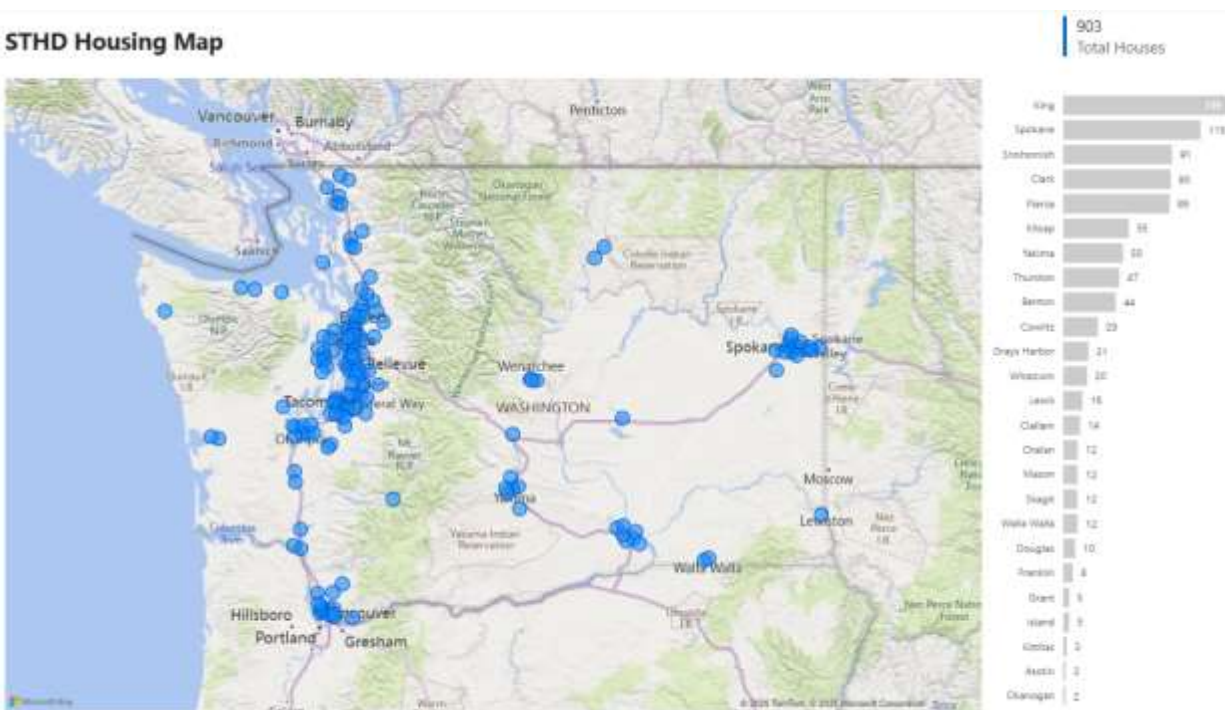
designated program specialist will inform the RHAP of the need. Housing assistance can provide a maximum benefit of \$700 per month. GRE participants may receive housing assistance for up to six months, while CPA participants may receive assistance for the duration of their program.

Statewide Transitional Housing Directory and Housing Vendors

Regional Housing Specialists conduct orientations with potential housing vendors. To qualify for vouchers, these vendors must agree to maintain a clean and safe living environment and comply with local city codes and regulations. It's important to note that housing vendors are not contracted with the Department of Corrections (DOC) and will only receive payment when a voucher participant is residing in their property.

The Regional Housing Specialist facilitates introductions and discussions between the vendors and local DOC field offices. Additionally, local law enforcement may be informed of the new vendor and address after the orientation and approval process; the information is then added to the Statewide Transitional Housing Directory (STHD).

The STHD is regularly updated and serves as a valuable resource for DOC staff in locating housing for both voucher and non-voucher individuals. As part of the Reentry Expansion, RHAP has received approval for a Management Analyst to convert the STHD from a PDF document into a SharePoint list. This update aims to enhance the user-friendliness of the STHD by introducing sorting and filtering functionalities, and it will be updated in real-time to support quicker transition planning.



Outlook

Transitional housing plays a crucial role in the reentry process. Stable housing is recognized as a vital foundation for success. Without this essential need, individuals struggle to achieve their other goals. Rising housing costs often make it difficult for those released from prison to find permanent housing. Consequently, many individuals remain in transitional housing for extended periods, leading to availability issues for others. We are actively collaborating with local housing authorities and governments to identify, support, and assist in the development of affordable and accessible housing.

For more information:

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