



[Resources](#) // Emergency Housing Guide

## Emergency Housing Guide

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A little-known yet growing concern among social service workers and those operating homeless shelters across the United States is the increasing number of older Americans experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Several factors contribute to this growing epidemic:

- The economic strain put on many businesses and individuals by the pandemic
- The health issues and medical bills that may have accompanied the pandemic for many
- The aging baby boomer population
- The rapid and sharp increases in housing and rental costs, especially in larger cities, across the nation

According to a report titled “The Emerging Crisis of Aged Homelessness,” the number of homeless older Americans is expected to nearly triple by 2030. This information makes it important to seek solutions and interventions while spreading awareness about the resources available to those at risk of homelessness and the urgent need for more resources in the future.

Around the country, federal, state and locally funded programs exist for the purpose of helping Americans, and older Americans in particular, access resources such as emergency housing financial assistance and rapid rehousing support. In this guide, we'll help you learn about available resources for emergency housing and how to access them.



The role of emergency housing is crucial in preventing the spiraling of further economic and health hardship that can impact someone if they become homeless. Emergency housing may be temporary, but it gives someone the immediate ability to remain housed and safely sheltered. Once someone becomes homeless, their mental and physical health is likely to suffer. A younger homeless population, for example, faces the same or more health issues than older adults who have remained housed.

The reasons an older American might need emergency housing are also plentiful. Renters may face removal from their homes when owners place properties on the market to take advantage of rising housing prices. Some seniors may have chronic health issues that keep them from working and saving enough for the expenses of retirement and older age. They may not have the support of close family or friends, meaning they have no one to stay with if they're evicted from rental homes or their home is foreclosed on due to an inability to pay their mortgage.

In this guide, we've provided detailed information on emergency housing resources for older adults and seniors across the United States. We begin with programs available nationwide, including those for older adults and specifically for veterans. Then, we list emergency housing programs available in each state. We've included each program's contact information, a brief description of services available and eligibility requirements for many. In any instance, however, those facing homelessness should contact programs in their area for more information and access to any resources and support to help them remain safely housed.

## **Senior Programs for Emergency Housing**