

JohnHoward

THE JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY OF BRANDON INC.

153 8th Street, Unit A, Brandon, MB R7A 3W9

Ph: (204) 727-1696 Fax: (204) 728-4344

“Seeking Restorative Solutions to Crime”.

Transitional Housing and Healing Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Who is this program for? (Eligibility)

Our transitional housing is for adults who:

- Must be male or identify as male
- Are **18 years of age or older**
- Are currently **experiencing homelessness or at immediate risk of homelessness** (e.g., shelter, couch-surfing, unsafe/unstable housing, or leaving an institution without housing)
- Have a connection to the Brandon area (e.g., lived here, family here, services here)
- Are willing to work on **housing, healing, and personal goals** with staff supports

The program prioritizes people with **high needs and high risk**, such as men leaving incarceration, shelters, or chronic homelessness.

2. Do I apply directly to the Transitional Housing and Healing Program? (Referral process)

No. The program uses **Brandon’s Coordinated Access system**, so there is no direct walk-in or first-come, first-served application.

- You start by connecting with a local **housing or support agency** (for example: a shelter, outreach worker, Brandon Friendship Centre, BNRC, **Corrections Services Canada**, **provincial corrections**, or another community service).
- A staff person there will complete a **standard housing needs assessment** with you and add your name to the community’s **By-Name List**.
- A community team regularly reviews people’s needs alongside available spaces and then **matches and refers** individuals to the Transitional Housing and Healing Program when a unit becomes available.

This coordinated process makes sure that units go to people with the **greatest need and highest risk**, instead of being based on who hears about the program first or who can self-advocate the loudest.

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3. How long can I stay?

Stays are **time-limited but flexible**:

- Some units are for **shorter-term stabilization** (a few months).
- Others are for **longer-term transition** (up to about a year), depending on your needs and progress.

You and your case manager will review your plan regularly and work toward **moving into longer-term housing** in the community.

4. What rules will I need to follow?

We aim for a **safe, respectful, and healing environment**. Key expectations include:

- Respecting **other residents, staff, and property**
- No violence, threats, or harassment
- Following **guest policies, curfews**, and quiet hours
- Following **substance-use and safety guidelines** for the building; we are a sober living facility
- Participating in **regular check-ins** with staff and working on your housing and healing goals

If problems come up, staff will work with you on **problem-solving and support first**, but serious or repeated violations can lead to discharge.

5. Do I have to be sober to live there?

The program is **recovery-oriented**, not “perfect-behaviour” based.

- You must be willing to **work on safety and stability** and follow building rules about substance use and conduct.
- Staff can help you connect with **detox, treatment, or harm-reduction supports** if you choose.

6. What support will I get while I’m there?

Each resident is connected with a **Case Manager** who:

- Helps you create a **plan** for housing, income, health, healing, and other goals
- Assists with **ID, benefits, appointments, and housing applications**
- Connects you to **mental health, addictions, health care, legal supports, cultural services, and community programs**

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- Checks in regularly and supports you through crises and transitions
- Staff are on site **24/7** for safety and support.

7. Is the program culturally responsive, especially for Indigenous residents?

Yes. We work with **Indigenous partners and Elders** to offer:

- Access to **culture and ceremony** (e.g., Elders, sharing circles, teachings)
- Support to reconnect with **identity, language, community, and land**
- Services that recognize the impacts of **colonization, residential schools, and systemic racism**

Our goal is to create a **culturally safe, trauma-informed space** for all residents.

8. Does staying here affect my place on housing lists or other services?

No. Staying in transitional housing **does not remove you from community housing systems.**

- Your status on the **By-Name List and other housing lists** continues.
- Staff will work with you and community partners to **move you into longer-term housing** when you are ready.