

CAMBRIDGE HOUSING AUTHORITY

SINGLE ROOM OCCUPANCY

The Cambridge Housing Authority's Single Room Occupancy (SRO) program provides rental assistance to qualified applicants to live in shared housing with other SRO participants. Residents are provided a single room with a lock and key, and have access to shared kitchens and bathrooms. The properties that are used for the SRO program are rehabilitated facilities throughout the City of Cambridge.

The SRO program is designed to help transition homeless individuals within the Cambridge community into secure transitional housing. Often times, SRO units are useful for individuals needing to build a housing history in order to qualify for CHA's public housing and voucher programs. Through the SRO program, CHA is able to help offer high-quality affordable housing to members of the Cambridge community in urgent need of safe, reliable housing.

Overview

The Single Room Occupancy program is authorized by Section 441 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, a federal law passed in 1987 that provides funding for homeless assistance. CHA provides rental assistance payments to landlords on behalf of the individuals participating in the program. These payments cover the difference between a portion of tenant's income, which is typically 30%, and the rent for the unit. Rental assistance through the SRO program is provided to an individual for up to 10 years. SRO provides an avenue for CHA to reach out to homeless individuals in Cambridge, and provide them with a much-needed long-term and stable source of housing.

Eligibility

In order for an individual or a residential property to participate in the SRO program, they must meet the eligibility criteria. SRO tenants must be unaccompanied homeless individuals, and provide adequate evidence of their current housing situation. For a property to qualify for SRO participation, the structure can be of any type but after renovation must include multiple room dwelling units. Also, at least 25% of the property's units must be vacant at the time of application so that housing is immediately to homeless individuals.

Locations

Group Homes

- 7 Temple St.
- 30 Pearl St.
- 240 Allston St.
- 820 Massachusetts Ave.
- 10 Russell St.
- 265 Rindge Ave.

- 10-12 Hunting St.
- 93 Norfolk St.
- 205 Green St.

Individual Homes

- 149 Windsor St.
- 2 Meacham St. (Somerville)

Key Facts

- CHA manages over 100 units through the SRO program
- There are 10 properties in Cambridge and 1 in Somerville participating in CHA's SRO program
- Only unaccompanied homeless individuals can receive assistance through SRO
- SRO assistance can last for 10 years

Visit www.cambridge-housing.org to learn more and contact CHA staff with inquiries