

## Questions and Comments Submitted on Notecards 2019 Navigator Training, November 14, 2019

1. **“How do you determine if your shelter is housing or public accommodation?”**

The definition of Public Accommodation can be found under the Definitions section (#8) in the Maine Human Rights Act – Title 5, Chapter 337

<https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/5/title5sec4553.html>

2. **“What is the definition of “Low Barrier” vs. other types of shelters?”**

“Low Barrier Shelter” means an Emergency Shelter that does not require any of the following for a client to stay at the shelter: (i) criminal background checks, (ii) credit checks or income verification, (iii) program participation, (iv) sobriety, or (v) identification. Low Barrier Shelters may, however, enforce safety requirements for self, staff, place, and others. **(Maine Homeless Solutions Rule)**

3. **“If HSPs and services aren’t required to meet ESHAP benchmarks anymore, why do we still have to enter them into HMIS?”**

The Stabilization Share of ESHAP Funding requires all shelters assess clients 14 days after their entry into shelter and this must be entered into HMIS so MaineHousing knows how many clients have been assessed. Also, the Stabilization Share of ESHAP funding requires that you enter services, this includes initial HSPs and updates, into HMIS to measure how many clients are getting services. It is not required to upload copies of the HSPs to HMIS as long as you have a copy in the file for monitoring purposes.

4. **“So when they go from STEP to HCV, we can end services if it’s been 2 years on STEP?” (HCV?)**

When clients go from STEP to an HCV, they are brought onto the HCV program with a regular voucher. The navigator services can be stopped once the client has been moved over to the HCV.

5. **“Why not have a RENTSMART information video made for voucher holders?”**

Thank you for this recommendation. It is a future goal to have a RentSmart video(s) for the ESHAP client audience.

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- 6. Can shelters receive payment for services provided to STEP clients beyond the first year?**

Yes, the HMIS entry in ESHAP should remain open while the client is receiving services (up to the 2 year period), and those clients receiving services will be included in the stabilization share calculation.

- 7. Follow up on Emergency Transfer Plan and DV shelter requirements to provide this.**

Please disregard this question/attachment requirement in the ESHAP Program Guide and Application. While many DV providers may be required to have an Emergency Transfer Plan under other funding streams, MaineHousing does not need one submitted for the ESHAP program.