



# Getting Started with Housing Assistance in Oakland County



## What is the Coordinated Entry System (CES)?:

The Coordinated Entry System is the county-wide process that helps individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness connect to the most appropriate housing resources. It is designed to ensure fair access, reduce duplication, and match people with the right supports as quickly as possible. CES is a partnership of shelters, housing agencies, and service providers working together through the Oakland County Continuum of Care (CoC).

## How to Access the System:

- Housing Assessment and Resource Agency (HARA): The main entry point for housing assistance and assessments.
- Shelters & Outreach Providers: You may be connected to CES by going directly to emergency shelters or through outreach teams.
- Oakland County Continuum of Care (CoC): Offers guidance and connects you to the right resources in the system.

## Helpful Tips When Navigating CES: -ADD?

- Be prepared to share your current housing situation, income, and other basic information—it helps staff connect you with the right support.
- Wait times for assistance can vary; please be patient and keep your contact information up to date.
- Ask about all available resources—sometimes help comes from rental assistance, prevention programs, or supportive services, not just housing placements.
- Keep copies of important documents (ID, Social Security card, income information) to speed up the process.

## New Tool – Shelter Oakland

Shelter Oakland is a new website that shows real-time availability of emergency shelter beds in Oakland County. It also provides a frequently updated resource page with information on housing, food, healthcare, and other supports. Visit [shelteroakland.com](http://shelteroakland.com) to check availability before calling or visiting shelters.



Looking for housing assistance or access to other resources? Please call or text “housing” to 248-269-1335 or call 2-1-1 for 24/7 service.