

Emergency and Transitional Housing Program

Request for Applications



Fall 2026 (9/29/2026)

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Program Overview

The Emergency and Transitional Housing (ETH) program provides limited funding to increase access to short-term housing for individuals at risk of homelessness and who are under the supervision of the Division of Probation and Parole or have recently been released from state incarceration. The ETH program aims to stabilize the reentry process until longer-term housing can be found, improving their chances of having a successful reentry experience.

This program is funded by a portion of the savings allocated to the Department of Public Safety and Corrections (DPS&C) for reinvestment in programs and services that reduce prison admissions and recidivism.

1 Application Window and Eligibility

1.1 Application Cycles

The application window for prospective housing providers will occur twice yearly, in the Spring and the Fall. Approved housing providers shall be placed on a “Housing Provider Referral List” for one (1) year. Providers interested in continuing with the ETH program must reapply on an annual basis.

ETH Housing Providers who applied and were approved in Fall 2025 must reapply to remain on the ETH Approved Provider list.

ETH Housing Providers who applied and were approved in **Spring 2026** do not need to reapply at this time.

1.2 Applicant Eligibility

Eligible housing providers are limited to **non-profits who have obtained federal tax exempt status (501c3 or similar) and are in good standing.**

Applicants must:

- Be in good standing with the Louisiana Secretary of State office and have been so for the last two (2) years (if operational for less than two (2) years, must be in good standing since inception).
- Be a registered vendor on LaGov; and
- Submit the application and all required support documentation

1.3 ETH Program Contact Information

Questions or concerns regarding the ETH Application should be sent to: jriprograms@la.gov

2 Applying to the ETH Program

2.1 Submission and Deadline

Completed applications must be uploaded via [Smartsheets](#) for processing.

<https://bit.ly/ETHApplicationPortal>

Download the ETH Request for Applications and Application Documents here: <https://doc.louisiana.gov/about-the-dpsc/justice-reform/criminal-justice-reform-initiative-iri-community-investments/>

The application deadline for the **Fall 2026** housing provider referral list is **October 30, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. (CT)**.

Questions regarding the ETH Program, may be submitted to jriprograms@la.gov.

2.2 Application Review

Applications shall be reviewed on a rolling basis in the order they were received. The JRI Office will contact the person listed on the application for any clarifying information needed to make a determination.

If an application is considered incomplete, the JRI Office will make reasonable attempts to collect the outstanding information by email. If the requested information is not submitted promptly, or repeated follow-up is needed, the application will be denied.

The JRI Office and/or P&P staff shall conduct a housing facility site visit to ensure they are structurally sound and safe for living. Application processing and review may take up to three weeks after submission.

Applicants will be contacted in writing when a decision is made. If denied, a reason will be provided, and the applicant may reapply in the next application period. Approval or denial is at the sole discretion of DPS&C and Division of P&P staff; decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

2.3 ETH Approved Providers

Approved applicants will receive written notice of acceptance, including the authorized per diem amount and the effective date for accepting participants, along with a copy of the ETH Policy and Procedures document describing the referral and invoicing process.

Approved housing providers shall be placed on a "Housing Provider Referral List" for one (1) year. **Placement on the referral list does not guarantee any number of participant referrals to any housing provider.**

2.4 ETH Provider Requirements

Approved ETH Providers must acknowledge and certify official program statements before housing residents. The list below is a plain-language summary and does not replace the exact certification language in the application.

1. **Incident Reporting:** Notify DPS&C-JRI and the supervising P&P Officer of any inappropriate conduct (including criminal offenses) within 24 hours.

Drug Screen/Rule Violations: Notify the supervising P&P Officer and P&P Reentry Program Manager within 24 hours of a positive drug screen or house rule violation.

2. **P&P Access:** Allow P&P to check in with participants at any time without prior authorization.
3. **Resident Screening:** Screen all residents (offense type, sex offender status, registration requirements) and maintain records. Follow ETH Program Guidelines if a sex offender is identified.
4. **Right to Refuse:** May refuse referrals if the reason is communicated to P&P or the JRI Office.
5. **Liability:** Acknowledge responsibility for inadequate or negligent supervision.
6. **Professional Boundaries:** Maintain professionalism; personal or inappropriate relationships with residents are prohibited.

7. **Quarterly Reports:** Submit quarterly report documenting any disturbances involving a resident, whether in-house among residents or throughout the neighborhood. (Q1: Oct, Q2: Jan, Q3: Apr, Q4: Jul).
8. **Compliance Requests:** Failure to provide information/documentation may result in removal from the ETH provider list.
9. **Inspections:** Failure to comply with inspections may result in removal from the ETH provider list.
10. **Termination:** JRI Office may terminate participation in the ETH program at will, without cause.
11. **Indemnification:** Agree to protect, defend, and hold harmless the State of Louisiana and its agencies from claims, demands, or liabilities arising from the provider's actions, except when caused by the State's negligence.

3 ETH Program Description

3.1 Scope of Services

Emergency Housing

Definition: Overnight shelter (homeless shelter) provides emergency sleeping accommodations for not exceeding twelve (12) hours. Access to food services for at least one (1) meal per day is required.

Eligible Participants and Approved Length of Stay:

Participant Type	Approved Length of Stay
Participants under supervision with P&P	Not to exceed 14 days within a 6-month period
Participants who have just full-termed out of DOC incarceration or on Unsupervised Parole	Not to exceed 14 days within a 6-month period

Transitional Housing

Definition: Transitional housing is not an extended shelter stay but a temporary residence until a participant can find a long-term housing solution. The facility shall provide residents with access to food services for at least one (1) meal per day. Supportive and counseling services are optional but not fully covered under the ETH program.

Eligible Participants and Approved Length of Stay:

Participant Type	Approved Length of Stay
Participants under supervision with P&P	Not to exceed 6 months, or until the supervision end date, whichever is sooner
Participants who have just full-termed out of DOC incarceration or Unsupervised Parole ¹	Not to exceed 3 months

3.2 Deliverables

Housing providers must provide services as outlined in Section 3.1 (Emergency and/or Transitional Housing) and submit a monthly invoice detailing each participant's name, length of stay to date, and per diem amount per day.

¹ See Section 4.1 – “Eligible Participants” for more details

3.3 Housing Provider Referral List

Approved housing providers shall be placed on a “Housing Provider Referral List” for one (1) year and must reapply annually to continue participating. **Placement on the referral list does not guarantee any number of participant referrals to any housing provider.**

3.4 Housing and Meal Standards

At minimum, the ETH program requires the housing standards and food availability below, based on whether the provider offers emergency or transitional housing as defined in Section 3.1. DPS&C staff will inspect facilities before approval and conduct annual site visits.

Housing Standards (adapted from Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG) Minimum Standards)

Standard	Requirement
Structure & Materials	The facility must be structurally sound to protect residents from the elements and must not threaten residents' health and safety.
Access	Residents must have 24/7 access to the facility and an alternate means of evacuation in case of fire or other emergency.
Space & Security	Each participant must have an acceptable place to sleep and adequate space and security for themselves and their belongings. For a standard-size bedroom (10x12), we recommend no more than 2 people per bedroom.
Interior Air Quality	Each room or space must have natural or mechanical ventilation.
Water Supply	Water supply must be free of contamination.
Sanitary Facilities	Residents must have access to sanitary facilities that are in proper operating condition, private, and adequate for personal cleanliness and disposal of human waste.
Thermal Environment	The facility must have functioning heating/cooling in proper operating condition.
Illumination & Electricity	Adequate natural or artificial lighting to support normal indoor activities, health, and safety; sufficient electrical capacity for safe appliance use.
Food Preparation	Food preparation areas must have suitable space and equipment to store, prepare, and serve food safely and sanitarily.
Sanitary Conditions	The facility must be maintained in a sanitary condition.
Fire Safety	A sufficient number of functioning smoke detectors on each occupied level, located near sleeping areas where possible, and a second means of exit in case of fire or other emergency.

Food Availability

The facility shall provide access to food or at least one (1) meal per day. This may include, but is not limited to:

- Staff preparing meals in a kitchen that holds proper permits for food preparation, storage, and handling under state and local law; or
- Access to a place for participants to cook or prepare their own meals (stovetop/oven, microwave, kitchenware and utensils, etc.). In this case, the provider must also ensure the resident has one of the following: (1) access to a food bank, (2) SNAP (food stamp) benefits, or (3) a means to purchase their own food.

SNAP Policy

ETH Providers shall not require residents to surrender their SNAP/food stamps for household use or to be used by other residents. It is illegal to require or suggest that any resident (ETH or otherwise) surrender any amount of SNAP benefits as a condition of staying at your facility. The only exception applies to facilities that are Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) approved Group Homes or Drug and Alcohol Treatment Facilities. Visit <http://www.dcfslouisiana.gov/page/406> for more information on becoming a DCFS-approved Group Home or Drug and Alcohol Treatment Facility.

If some residents receive SNAP/food stamps while others do not, then the ETH Provider must maintain a provision for food access for those participants who do not.

3.5 Additional Housing Policies

As a part of the application process, all ETH providers must submit a copy of all house policies, rules and procedures. In addition, the following policies apply to all ETH participants.

Waiving of Fees Encouraged

The ETH program provides short-term housing for people at risk of homelessness who may not be able to afford other housing options. We strongly encourage all ETH providers to waive any deposits or fees for ETH participants, as these costs are otherwise the participant's responsibility.

Participant Acknowledgement of the ETH Program

Approved housing providers must have each ETH participant read and sign the "ETH Participant Acknowledgement" form upon placement. The JRI Office provides this form upon a provider's acceptance into the program; it is recommended for completion at intake, alongside your facility's in-house rules and policies. The form covers:

- An explanation of the ETH Program's compensation relative to the cost of room and board;
- Resident responsibility for housing and housing costs beyond the ETH period; and
- An explanation of what ETH funds do and do not cover.

The signed form must be submitted to the JRI Office at the time of invoicing.

Work as Payment Not Allowed

An ETH participant may not be required to work as payment for housing while the ETH Provider is receiving reimbursement from the JRI Office.

Applicable Law Update: Act 201 (2026 Regular Session)

Effective August 1, 2026, **Act 201 (SB 46)** creates the crime of unlawful operation of a group home (R.S. 14:93.6). It applies to unlicensed residences housing two or more unrelated residents who receive assistance with activities of daily living, where the operator exercises control over the residents or their assets (for example, holding power of attorney or acting as a representative payee for government benefits).

Standard ETH emergency and transitional housing, which does not provide assistance with activities of daily living, does not appear to fall within this definition. Providers should not, in any case, obtain power of attorney over a participant's affairs or act as a representative payee for a participant's benefits.

4 Participant Placement

4.1 Eligible Participants

Eligible participants must fall into one of the following categories:

- **Participants Under P&P supervision:** People who are at immediate risk of homelessness and currently under the supervision of Probation and Parole².
- **Participants who have just full-termed out of DOC incarceration:** People leaving DOC incarceration, and at immediate risk of homelessness, and who under the supervision of Probation and Parole upon release, and do not need to register as a sex offender with the Louisiana State Sex Offender and Child Predator Registry upon release.
- **Participants who are under P&P Unsupervised Parole³:** People leaving DOC incarceration, and at immediate risk of homelessness, and under Unsupervised Parole upon release, and do not need to register as a sex offender with the Louisiana State Sex Offender and Child Predator Registry upon release.

4.2 Participant Referrals

There are three (3) methods for participant referrals:

1. **Probation & Parole Direct Referral:** If an individual needs housing services, their P&P Officer refers them to a specific provider on the ETH Housing Provider Referral List, based on the individual's characteristics (sex, parish, sex offender status) and needs (proximity to employment, family, etc.).
2. **Indirect Referral:** If your organization identifies eligible participants through other sources (faith-based outreach, word of mouth, etc.), you may receive the per diem with prior approval from the local P&P Office. The participant's name must appear on the ETH Referral List submitted by P&P to be recognized on the invoice. P&P written confirmation is strongly recommended.
3. **JRI Office Referral:** If an individual is currently incarcerated and in-need of housing services upon release, a state or local facility staff member (i.e. Transition Specialist) shall contact the JRI Office to approve a referral to an ETH provider. These referrals shall be done on a case-by-case basis, and coordinated by the JRI Office.

Placement on the referral list does not guarantee any number of participant referrals to any housing provider.

Referrals to housing providers shall be based on the participants needs including but not limited to: proximity to employment, doctor appointments, transportation, and similar factors.

Participant Type	Approved Referral Sources	Time of Referral
Participants under supervision with P&P	P&P Direct Referral Indirect Referral <i>JRI Office Referral (if needed)</i>	Immediately prior to release, or At-Release, or Post-Release (while the participant is under supervision)
Participants who have just full-termed out of DOC incarceration	JRI Office Referral Only	Immediately prior to release, or At-Release
Participants who are under P&P Unsupervised Parole	P&P Direct Referral JRI Office Referral Only	Immediately prior to release, or At-Release, or Within 30 days of release

² All under adult felony supervision by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections

³ All under adult felony supervision by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections

4.3 Participant Referrals for Sex Offender Statuses

Housing providers shall be in compliance with local and state laws as it relates to the housing of sex offenders⁴ and with the following ETH requirements:

1. Ensure all sex offender residents comply with local and state registration and notification laws , including sex offenders not on P&P supervision.
2. Maintain compliance with all sex offender residence restrictions, and acknowledge that a change in law, or the opening of a new childcare facility, church, school, or other area where minors congregate within the restricted proximity, causes immediate disqualification.
3. Report all inappropriate conduct (including criminal offenses) by sex offender residents to the supervising P&P officer and the JRI Office immediately, and no later than 24 hours after the incident.
4. Maintain a policy allowing the supervising P&P officer to stay in contact with the sex offender, at minimum by telephone, during a natural disaster or emergency displacement. This includes assisting the resident with Emergency Plan compliance within 24 hours of an emergency or relocation:
 - a. reporting to and checking in with the nearest law enforcement office;
 - b. contacting the closest P&P office for reporting instructions; and,
 - c. if relocated to a shelter, immediately informing the shelter director of the resident's registration or supervision status.
5. Ensure no child under age 18 resides at the location.
6. Provide, at the time of application, additional documentation of compliance with laws pertaining to housing sex offenders with minor victims.

4.4 Case-By-Case Participant Extensions

Some participants may be approved for additional ETH reimbursement **on a case-by-case basis**. Those participants include:

- Individuals who have completed supervision while participating in the ETH program, but are nearing their next housing opportunity
- Individuals who have completed 6 months in the ETH Program, but are nearing their next housing opportunity

These extensions must be pre-approved by the JRI Office as soon as possible, and no less than one month prior to the participants' ETH end date.

At the housing provider's discretion, an ETH participant may take over per diem payments once the maximum ETH length of stay is reached.

5 Payment Information

5.1 Allowed Per Diem

Compensation is limited to the following per diem rates (per participant) by housing provider type:

⁴ Housing must meet the minimum qualifications stated in Louisiana R.S. 15:538(D) (e.g., at least 1,000 feet from a school, church, or park).

Housing Provider Type	Allowable Cost (Per Participant)
Emergency (Homeless) Shelter	Up to \$12.00 per day
Transitional Housing (Short-term Housing)	Up to \$20.84 per day ⁵ . <i>If Approved for Additional Per Diem Funding: up to \$26.10 per day</i>

"Per day" for the ETH program means per overnight stay, ending on the last night the participant stayed in housing. Upon approval, each provider is notified of its approved per diem amount. The approved per diem amount will not be higher than the applicant's published price.

5.2 Sex Offender Housing Incentive Pay

If the housing facility meets the minimum qualifications in LA R.S. 15:538 (at least 1,000 feet from a school, church, playground, or other listed location), the provider is eligible for an additional \$2.00 per person, per day, for housing convicted sex offenders. This often requires the individual to comply with sex offender registration laws, including registering the facility's address, and additional community notifications (postcards, newspaper notices, etc.).

5.3 Request for Additional Per Diem Funding

If your vendor's published price exceeds the maximum daily ETH per diem rate (\$20.84 per participant per day for transitional housing), you may request an additional per diem amount using the Request for Additional Per Diem Amount form in the ETH Application. Requests are reviewed and may be approved based on at least one of the following:

- The requested amount is reasonable and necessary to help participants find and secure long-term housing (e.g., employing additional staff to assist with rental applications or long-term housing programs); or
- Operating expenses for the facility (rent, utilities, essential staff) exceed the maximum per diem, such that accepting participants at the standard rate would harm the facility's operations.

Approval is not guaranteed. Requests must include supporting documentation of operational costs or need (e.g., operational budget, funding sources). Because a provider cannot invoice DPS&C for more than \$5,000.00 in a given month regardless of per diem rate or number of locations, requesting a higher per-participant rate may reduce the number of participants and bed-days you can accommodate for reimbursement each month.

5.4 Probation and Parole Compensation Fee

To compensate providers for the administrative effort of the ETH program, all approved providers receive a \$1.00 P&P compensation fee per participant per day, added to the approved per diem amount and auto-calculated on the ETH invoice. The total invoice amount, including this fee, must not be lower than \$5,000 per month in order to be processed for payment.

5.5 Maximum Compensation

Maximum compensation allowed per housing provider is \$5,000 per month. A provider cannot invoice DPS&C for more than \$5,000.00 in any month, regardless of the per diem amount, P&P Compensation fee, Sex Offender Incentive Pay, or the number of locations or facilities.

Example: Provider A houses 7 ETH participants in transitional housing for all of March.

⁵ Unless the JRI Office approves a Request for Additional Per Diem Funding.

Per-day amount: \$20.84 (per diem) + \$1.00 (P&P fee) = **\$21.84** per participant per day.

Total: 7 people × 31 days = 217 bed-days × \$21.84 = **\$4,739.28** for March.

Stay mindful of how many participants you enroll and how long they expect to stay. It is recommended to “fill out” the invoice as you are enrolling or continuing participants, since the template will calculate the total automatically.

5.6 Invoice Processing

Upon receipt of each invoice, DPS&C shall check the invoice and attachments for the correctness and return them if required. Upon acceptance and approval of a signed itemized invoice for services performed, DPS&C shall make every reasonable effort to make payments within thirty (30) business days of the approval of the invoice. If the invoice is returned to the ETH Provider for corrections, the thirty days processing window will start over upon resubmission. The invoice shall not be approved for payment until all corrections have been resolved. To ensure faster payment, all ETH Providers are encouraged to sign up for direct deposit via the Electronic Funds Transfer Enrollment form by the Office of Statewide Reporting and Accounting Policy (OSARP).

5.7 ETH Funding Requirements

DPS&C reinvestment funding may not be used to house a participant who is otherwise fully funded under another source (federal, state, local, philanthropic, etc.). For example, a provider cannot invoice a participant under ETH and list the same participant for full payment under a federal grant. By submitting a signed itemized invoice, the provider certifies it is not being fully compensated by another source for that participant's stay. A provider found not to have been truthful, by omission or otherwise, will be suspended pending investigation.

An ETH participant may not be charged for room and board costs paid through this program. If ETH reimbursement does not fully cover room and board as defined by the published price on the ETH application, the provider may request a weekly fee from the participant to make up the difference; this fee must be noted on the ETH Application. Because ETH participants are at risk of homelessness, we strongly encourage all providers to waive any fees or deposits.

6 Suspension, Termination, or Voluntary Removal from ETH Program

DPS&C reserves the right to suspend or terminate an approved ETH housing provider at any time and for any reason, including any infraction deemed by DPS&C to threaten the safety and health of facility residents or the public.

6.1 Suspension from ETH Program

DPS&C may suspend a provider as needed for investigative purposes or guideline violations. The provider will be notified immediately by a Letter of Suspension sent to the email of record, along with notice that its status on the approved provider list has changed from Approved to Suspended. During suspension, the provider may not accept new residents, and payments for current residents are suspended.

Full cooperation with any investigation is required. If reinstated at the conclusion of an investigation, the provider is returned to the approved list and may resume accepting new residents.

6.2 Termination from ETH Program

A Provider may be terminated for reasons including, but not limited to:

1. Violation of any ETH Policy and Procedures;
2. Violation of zoning codes, use and occupancy permits, licensing laws;

3. Noncompliance with any sex offender housing requirements or stipulations;
4. Permitting, aiding, abetting, or concealing the commission of any illegal act;
5. Failure to cooperate with DPS&C staff or P&P officers on site visits;
6. Fraudulent attempts to obtain funds through invoice requests for residents who are not currently active in the grantee's ETH program or for any other reason;
7. Sexual harassment, activity, and/or relationships between residents and staff;
8. The grantee, housing manager, or staff entering into a transaction with an ETH resident exchanging information, goods, or services for money, or any other valuable consideration;
9. Conduct or practice deemed by DPS&C to be detrimental to the welfare of residents or the public;
10. Submission of false information to DPS&C; or
11. At-will termination, with no cause necessary, as determined appropriate by DPS&C

Terminated providers are notified by a Letter of Termination sent to the email of record, along with notice that their status has changed to Terminated. DPS&C is not required to provide a reason for termination or reveal results of any investigation.

6.3 Voluntary Removal

If an ETH Provider chooses to be voluntarily removed from the ETH program, the provider must submit a letter to the JRI Coordinator notifying of withdrawal from the ETH Program along with an effective date at least 30 days after such notice. Upon the lapse of the required 30 days, the ETH Provider shall be removed from the approved provider list and shall cooperate with DPS&C in the relocation of current residents whose housing is reimbursed by DPS&C to other approved ETH Providers. In the event that residents elect to remain housed at the removed facility, their stays shall not be reimbursed by DPS&C.

6.4 Opportunity to Reapply

A provider removed from the program (terminated or voluntarily removed), may reapply after one full calendar year, unless otherwise stated in the termination letter.