

About Family PASS

Family Preservation and Strengthening Services (Family PASS) became a program of Shelter House in January of 2023. Since 2006, Family PASS has provided critical support services to low-income working families at risk of homelessness in Fairfax County. As a program of Shelter House, Family PASS will continue to provide families with a path to economic self-sufficiency through intensive case management and comprehensive support services.

Family PASS's Self-Sufficiency Program provides case management and financial assistance. We work with families to stabilize a housing crisis and support them in their efforts to achieve self-sufficiency. Our goal is to assist families with increasing their skills that would lead to higher earnings and provide greater stability for families. Our program is voluntary and goals are client-driven. Clients may participate in our program for up to three years.

We Provide:

- Short-term assistance with rent to prevent eviction
- Short-term assistance with utilities to avoid disconnection
- Financial assistance with costs associated with education and job skills, including but not limited to: tuition, course materials, books, technology, and exam fees
- Financial assistance with transportation and childcare as it relates to helping clients maintain employment
- Food pantry/grocery assistance
- Referrals for other services and resources in the community
- Other financial assistance may be provided on a case-by-case basis

Program Criteria:

- Must be a Fairfax County resident
- Must have at least one minor child in the household
- Household must have at least one working adult, or able to work and actively seeking employment
- Household income must be below 50% Adjusted Median Income for Fairfax County
- Head of household or other adult must have educational and/or job skills goals, including but not limited to: college-level courses, certification or licensure programs, GED, or ESOL classes

Client Expectations:

- Must sign a release of information and share certain personal identifying information with your Case Manager
- Be willing to maintain open and regular communication with your Case Manager, a minimum of twice per month
- Be willing to work with your Case Manager to develop educational and/or job skills goals, and take steps to achieve them
- Be willing to work with your Case Manager on financial matters including budgeting and debt reduction



The History of Shelter House

Shelter House came into being in 1981 as a grassroots responder to the homelessness crisis in Fairfax County. Community volunteers from several ecumenical groups joined together to help address the needs of their homeless neighbors. They started by providing direct, emergency assistance - items such as food, blankets, and warm clothing were distributed from the trunks of their cars.

The tragic hypothermia death of a homeless man on Christmas Day in 1983 in the Bailey's Crossroads area galvanized the community to do even more. Churches opened winter shelters, and Shelter House volunteers and others advocated to Fairfax County Government to devote more public resources to the homeless.

As a result of this advocacy, Shelter House secured a County contract in 1985 to open one of the first homeless shelters in Fairfax County. Over the last 40+ years, Shelter House has continued to expand to meet the needs of the Northern Virginia community.

In April of 2020, Shelter House opened Fairfax County's first Quarantine, Protection, Isolation, and Decompression (QPID) shelter in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Comprised of over 210 beds, this shelter served individuals experiencing homelessness or unstable housing who tested positive for the COVID-19 virus, were exposed to the virus, or who were at high-risk for negative outcomes due to age or medical condition. This shelter, which played a critical role in the community's response to COVID-19, closed in March of 2022 after serving nearly 900 individuals.

In February of 2022, Shelter House also expanded into Loudoun County in order to meet the needs of Loudoun's most vulnerable residents. Through this expansion, Shelter House has established itself as a premier regional provider of homeless services and evidence-based housing solutions.

Mission and Vision

Shelter House's **mission** is to prevent and end homelessness and domestic violence by engaging the community, building effective relationships and providing crisis intervention, safe housing and supportive services. We **envision** a community free of homelessness and domestic violence where everyone has an equal opportunity to thrive.

Our team stays up-to-date on the latest methodologies to help stop the cycle of homelessness and domestic violence. One such example is the implementation of rapid re-housing. Rapid Re-housing is the provision of housing location support, rental assistance, and intensive case management services to help those experiencing homelessness return to housing as quickly as possible. When we initiated this approach in our community, it helped us reduce the length of stay in our shelters by 55%, and allowed us to serve more families per year.

About Us

Shelter House, Inc. is a community-based, non-profit organization that provides crisis intervention, safe housing and supportive services to our neighbors experiencing homelessness and victims of domestic violence in our community. All of our shelters use a rapid re-housing approach, which is the provision of housing location support, rental assistance, and intensive case management services to help those experiencing homelessness return to housing as quickly as possible. Our dedicated staff is committed to providing life-changing and sustainable housing solutions by empowering those we serve to become self-sufficient and safe. To learn more or to join our team, visit our website: www.shelterhouse.org.

