

**Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset**

**Healing Homes Program**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Who may be eligible for Healing Homes? What are the criteria for program participation?**

Healing Homes (“Program”) is a transitional housing program. It allows an individual who is approved to participate in the Program to have a license to occupy a Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset (“RWJS”) owned residential home with his/her immediate family for the duration of their participation in the Program, not to exceed 24 months. To be approved, an individual must complete the attached application, and the application will be reviewed against RWJS’ requirements for Program participation.

Applicants must meet the all of the following criteria for program consideration:

- Demonstrates inability to afford housing and/or basic cost of living
- Has a chronic or acute disease, such as diabetes or cancer, that causes financial hardship
- Has limited access to health care
- Applicant must be employed or have a steady income and earns below the then current NJ HUD income guidelines
- Preferably resides in
- Preferably resides in the towns in New Jersey identified below with a median household income below the county average:
  - Bound Brook
  - Franklin
  - Manville
  - North Plainfield
  - Somerville
  - South Bound Brook

**Am I required to have a job?**

Yes. Applicants for the Healing Homes program must have a job or a steady income.

**What are the income guidelines for eligible applicants?**

The then current NJ HUD income guidelines, for example, the 2018 guidelines are:

- 1 Person – Earns less than \$54,000 per year
- 2 People – Combined income is less than \$61,700 per year
- 3 People – Combined income is less than \$69,400 per year

- 4 people – Combined income is less than \$77,100 per year
- 5 people – Combined income is less than \$83,300 per year
- 6 people – Combined income is less than \$89,450 per year

**How long may I remain in the home?**

Individuals or families may use and occupy the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset residential home for the duration of their participation in the Program, not to exceed 24 months.

**Am I a tenant?**

No. This is not a tenancy. Staying in the Somerset Home for the duration of your active participation in the Program is part of the Program. However, this is not a tenancy. You may be removed at any time you are no longer participating in the Program.

Will I have to save my money?

Yes. You are required to have a savings account to which you will be required to deposit funds monthly, based on your household income and your expenses and authorize us to confirm with the financial institution.

**Are pets allowed?**

No.

**What are some of the requirements on and approved Program participant?**

Program participants must:

- Apply for the Central Jersey Housing Resource Center Savings and/or Affinity Credit Union Match Program Accept case management or any other services deemed necessary to live independently at the end of the program
- Complete a financial management course and financial counseling within three months of enrollment in the program
- Sign a Program Participation agreement.

**What support services are offered to Healing Homes participants?**

A social worker will assess each individual participant and develop an action plan. The plan will inform and require participant to and connect to community resources that they need to become self-sufficient. Services include but are not limited to: employment, transportation, mental health services, permanent housing, and food supports.

### **How do I apply?**

Applications for Healing Homes are available on Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset's Web site at <https://www.rwjbh.org/somersethealinghomes> or you may call the hospital's Community Health Department at 908-685-2814 to request that an application is mailed to you.

### **What are some of the required documents to apply for the Program?**

Please look at the application. Here are some of the required documents:

- Social Security numbers for all members of the household
- Signed copies of the most current filed Federal (1040) Income Tax Returns for all household members
- Copies of the four (4) most recent pay stubs for all household members
- Documentation of other sources of income for all household members, including Social Security payments and child support
- Documentation of disability status or care provider status for nonworking adults
- Documentation of child care expenses for children under the age of 12
- Documentation for any household member who is exempt from filing Federal and State Income Tax Returns, including a W-2 Form and a letter from the IRS stating exemption
- Checking account statements for previous 2 months
- Personal statement describing why you are applying for participation, your understanding of what will be required of you and what strengths you have that will make you successful

### **Is my application confidential?**

Yes. It will only be shared with the hospital staff and those on the Healing Homes task force who review the applications for participation. All information you provide on the Healing Homes applications will be confidential.

### **What if I do not know the answer to a question/ request?**

Please be completely honest when filling out the application and providing any supporting documents. Applications with falsified information will be denied.

### **Am I guaranteed approval of my application?**

No. Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset maintains sole discretion to accept or deny your application, stop accepting applications, or discontinue this Program, at any time.

### **Who can I contact with questions about my application?**

Please contact Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset's Community Health Department at 908-685-2814.