



## Helping Every Hoosier: What Low Barrier Shelter Really Means

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**This is NOT okay**



## Definition of Low Barrier Shelter

The National Alliance to End Homelessness describes the definition of a low-barrier emergency shelter as “immediate and easy access to shelter by lowering barriers to entry and staying open 24/7; eliminate sobriety and income requirements and other policies that make it difficult to enter shelter, stay in shelter, or access housing and income opportunities.”

# What are some common barriers to entry?

- Sobriety
- Income Requirements
- Chores
- Criminal background checks
- IDs
- Residency
- Mandatory Classes
- What are other barriers you've heard?

# Low Barrier / Housing Focused Philosophy

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## Safety and Order

- Consider the safety of guests if left unsheltered
- Excessive rule making can be traumatizing
- Violating rules not necessarily cause for discharge

## Substance Use

- Temptation for people in recovery is everywhere and shelter cannot protect people from using.
- It is not necessary for people to be clean/sober
- Sees people who use substances as being more vulnerable to harm if left unsheltered

## Exit to Permanent Housing

The primary purpose of shelter is to exit people back into permanent housing, as quickly as possible.

## Access

People who are more difficult to accommodate are least likely to find shelter elsewhere and more likely to sleep outside if not accommodated

All people should have access to emergency shelter

## Reasons why people don't sleep in shelters?

- Don't feel safe
- Don't feel welcome
- Want privacy
- Want their belongings
- Want to be with their partner
- Want their pets
- Want to come and go whenever they want
- What are other reasons?



What can YOU do  
to ensure every person has  
access to shelter?





**TOGETHER, WE CAN  
END HOMELESSNESS.**

**For more information, contact:**

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