



Welcome Home



Housing Simulation

Leader's Guide



Welcome Home Housing Simulation Overview

The Purpose of this simulation is to get youth to think about issues people with low incomes experience when seeking housing. The youth learn by doing, playing the role of homeless people. As with all role-playing exercises, it is important that participants stick to the rules of the simulation and remember that they are getting a very small picture of an experience. One cannot accurately simulate homelessness in an hour.

Each participant in the simulation plays a different person experiencing homelessness. Each has a different economic situation: Some are recently homeless, some have been homeless for years, some have family responsibilities, and some have drug or alcohol problems. Each participant’s goal is to find housing and to interact with other participants. Participants seek housing from various simulation administrators who represent different agencies, from rescue missions to expensive real estate agencies. The simulation is set up in a way that makes it very difficult for most participants to find housing, as it would be in real-life situations.

The simulation lasts a preset number of “days.” Each day lasts 10-12 minutes (the leader sets the length of the simulation by choosing the number of days it will last). It is recommended that the simulation last at least four days and no more than seven.

After the simulation, participants examine their experiences in a guided discussion with a simulation administrator. This is an opportunity for participants to see how their experiences were similar to those of other participants and in what ways they were unique.

Simulation Information

Age-appropriate for: 14- to 18-years-olds

Group size: 20 to 50 participants

Length:

- Set-up – 30 minutes
- Introduction – 10-15 minutes
- Simulation – 30-45 minutes
- Discussion – 10-15 minutes

People needed: 7 adults to be supervisors

Supplies:

- 7 tables and chairs
- Copies of Participant Sheet, Administrator Sheet and Discussion questions (originals provided)
- Writing implements, paper for waiting lists

Room Set-up:

- Arrange tables, evenly spaced, around outside of the room, with chairs behind table facing toward the middle of the room

Role Overviews

Participant

- Role-play homeless character.
- Seek housing from agencies.
- Have Participant Sheet filled out by agency when housing or rental assistance is obtained.
- Talk with other participants to learn about their experiences.

Administrators

- Role-play agency representative.
- Use Administrator Sheet as a guide to evaluate applicants.
- Fill out Participant Sheet for participants given housing.

1. Print out the appropriate number of Participant Sheets, Administrator Sheets, Applications, Discussion Questions and Habitat for Humanity Overview sheets. You will need one Participant Sheet for each participant, enough applications from each agency for each participant, one copy of the Discussion Questions and Habitat for Humanity Overview for each Administrator, and one copy of each of the Administrator Sheets.
2. Set up the room. See room set-up instructions on page 1.
3. Prior to the start of the simulation, explain the simulation to the Administrators (you will need 7 Administrators – preferably in addition to the leader).
 - a. Explain how the simulation works.
 - b. Assign each administrator to an agency, give each administrator their agency's sheet and briefly explain each role.
 - c. Remind them to be mindful of the participant's educational experience. Ask them to be polite and answer questions while properly representing their agency.
4. To start the simulation, address the participants. Tell them the following:
 - a. They will each be playing a homeless person.
 - b. They will each receive a Participant Sheet detailing their characters' situations.
 - c. Their goal is to find a place to live.
 - d. They cannot alter the information on their Participant Sheets.
 - e. The Administrators sitting at the tables represent different agencies that provide housing in the area.
 - f. They should do two things:
 - i. visit the various Administrators to try to find housing;
 - ii. talk to other Participants to compare stories both about their characters' situations and their experiences within the simulation.
 - g. How long the simulation will last in numbers of "days"; also tell them how long each "day" will last.
 - h. You will let them know when a new day is starting by making an announcement to the whole group.
 - i. Even if participants find housing on the first day, they should keep looking to see what their other options would be. Generally, people don't want to live in shelters for their whole lives.
 - j. They should not get bogged down in "what ifs." Concentrate on how to proceed with the situations they face.
 - k. You will be available for questions during the simulation.
5. Pass out Participant Sheets.
6. Explain the features of the Participant Sheet – tell them that they are not to fill out the bottom section.
7. Ask Participants to take a few minutes to review the Participant Sheets.
8. Remind them to be truthful to their character and to **keep the Participant Sheet with them.**
9. Begin the simulation by announcing the beginning of Day One.
10. Announce the end and beginning of the subsequent days.
11. After the final day, group the Participants into 7 groups and have each group go through the discussion questions with an Administrator.



Welcome Home Housing Simulation Participant Sheet

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Suggestions and hints:

- Visit the different agencies, shelters and apartment complexes to seek housing.
- Be sure to keep this sheet with you.
- Talk to other participants to compare your stories, successes and failures.
- Some agencies, shelters and apartment buildings may have different openings from one day to the next – be sure to double-check.

General Information	Financial Information
Sex: male Age: 35 Education: undergraduate degree Marital Status: single	Family size: 1 (you) Income: \$0 Credit History: very bad Employment: temporary labor jobs

Story Line

Though you are a successful businessman, you become very lonely and resort to alcohol. You become an alcoholic and lose your job. No one will hire you until you fix your problems; you lose your house and become homeless when you can't make the payments.

Participant: Do not fill out the forms below.

Day	Location	Initial
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General Information	Financial Information
Sex: female Age: 25 Education: high school diploma Marital status: married	Family size: 3 (you, a 3-year-old daughter and a 6-year-old daughter) Income: \$0 Credit History: non-existent Employment: homemaker

Story Line

Your husband becomes physically abusive to you and your two children and threatens to kill you. You move out, taking the children, but you don't have any family in the area and don't know where to go.

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General Information	Financial Information
Sex: male Age: 18 Material Status: recently married Education: GED	Family Size: 3 (you, your wife and a baby on the way) Income: \$8,500. Credit History: moderate Employment: part-time mechanic

Story Line

You were living with your family and working at your uncle's mechanic shop. However, when your girlfriend became pregnant, the families demanded that you get married. Just after you got married, your uncle sold the mechanic shop and moved to Florida, and you lost your job. You are supporting your wife by working odd jobs around town, but there is no guarantee that you will have work each day.

Your landlady recently informed you that she would not be renewing your lease. You need to find a place to stay for your wife and your soon-to-be-born child.

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General Information	Financial Information
Sex: male Age: 27 Education: college graduate Marital status: divorced	Family size: 1 (you) Income: \$6,400 Credit History: moderate-good Employment: none

Story Line

You married your college sweetheart and had three kids. Right after your third child was born, you began an affair with a close friend of the family. Your wife discovers your unfaithfulness and demands a divorce. The judge gives a harsh ruling, granting your wife the kids and the house. You have to pay heavy child support and alimony payments, not to mention lawyer fees. You had a job as a manager at the paper mill, but the stress from the divorce has reflected in your work, and your position is dissolved to cut costs. Your family won't speak to you after the affair, so you are crashing with a college buddy, but his job is transferring him to another city. So where can you live while you look for a job?

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General Information	Financial Information
Sex: female Age: 24 Education: certificate in travel and tourism Marital Status: divorced	Family size: 3 (you, a five year old son and a three year-old daughter) Income: \$20,000 Credit History: good Employment: travel agent

Story Line

You forget to turn your curling iron off before heading to work one morning, and the apartment catches on fire. The fire department doesn't get there in time, and everything you own is gone. You don't have rental insurance. You don't trust your ex-husband with your kids. You have to find a place to live soon because you don't want to be on the street with your kids.

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General Information	Financial Information
Sex: male Age: 42 Education: undergraduate degree- business Marital status: married	Family: 3 (you, your 16 year-old son and a 10-year-old son) Income: \$60,000 Credit History: great Employment: business executive

Story Line

Your oldest daughter commits suicide, your son drops out of school and is arrested for marijuana possession, and your wife has a nervous breakdown. The two of you get divorced, and your wife is awarded the house and half of your earning and assets while you get custody of the kids. Where to next?

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General Information	Financial Information
Sex: female Age: 78 Education: completed eighth grade Marital status: widowed	Family size: 1 (you) Income: \$10,000 Credit History: good Employment: homemaker, community volunteer

Story Line

Ever since your husband died 15 years ago, you have not been able to do any “minor” household repairs. These repairs have turned into major needs. A drip in the roof has turned into major holes, so that it is impossible to keep dry when it rains. Also, the heating and air-conditioning system broke, and it gets very cold in the winter and very hot in the summer. You’ve lived in this house all your life, but it is just not safe anymore. Finally, the city has your house condemned and razed. Where will you go now?

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General Information	Financial Information
Sex: female Age: 35 Education: GED Marital status: single	Family size: 3 (you, your 8-year-old daughter and your 6-year-old son) Income: \$15,000 Credit History: moderate Employment: fast-food cook

Story Line

You rent an apartment that is in pretty poor condition. You would like it to be nicer, but the rent is about all you can afford. A friend who is a construction contractor decides to help you out by fixing your place up. Now the apartment is nicer. Unfortunately, the landlord notices these dramatic improvements and decides to raise the rent to a level you cannot afford. You are now out on the street with your children. Where will you go?

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General Information	Financial Information
Sex: female Age: 30 Education: high school diploma Marital status: single	Family size: 3 (you, a 13-year-old son and a 15-year-old daughter) Income: \$13,000 Credit History: moderate-bad Employment: grocery store clerk

Story Line

You and your two kids have always lived with your mom in her trailer. It's always been a bit crowded, but since you can't afford an apartment on the traditional market, you make do. Things are going fine until your mom gets a new live-in boyfriend...who uses drugs. This is not a good environment for your 13-year old son or 15-year old daughter. Moreover, your mother's new boyfriend kicks you and the kids out. Can you find a new place to live?

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General Information	Financial Information
Sex: male Age: 30 Education: high school diploma, some tech school Marital status: single	Family Size: 3 (you, your 12-year-old daughter and 8-year-old daughter). Income: \$10,000 Credit History: good Employment: unemployed construction worker

Story Line

You are a successful construction worker caring for your two daughters. One day at work, you seriously injure your knee. You can no longer work on the construction site, and you begin to draw disability. While the disability check is helpful, it does not compare to the wages you made prior to your accident. You lose your savings. You cannot afford a place of your own, so you move in with a friend. However, this is not a good environment for your kids, so you send them to live with their 70-year-old maternal grandmother, whose home you are not welcome in. You want to live with your kids again. Where can you go?

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General Information	Financial Information
Sex: female Age: 35 Education: completed 11 th grade Marital status: divorced	Family size: 3 (you, your 8-year-old son and a 6-year-old daughter) Income: \$8,000 Credit history: moderate-good Employment: former factory worker

Story Line

The corporation you work for decides that its profits would be better if it relocated to Mexico, where labor and operating costs are significantly lower. So you, along with 5,000 of your co-workers, lose your job. You live in a city of 40,000, and there aren't enough unskilled jobs for all of you. It's too expensive to move to another city; besides, you've lived here all your life, and your support network is here. Your mom lives in town and does all your baby-sitting for free. You couldn't afford childcare if you lived anywhere else. You are eligible for Unemployment Compensation, but that will not cover rent in your current apartment. What do you do next?

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General Information	Financial Information
Sex: male Age: 40 Education: high school diploma Marital status: widowed	Family size: 2 (you and a 10-year-old son) Income: \$20,000 Credit history: awful Employment: bus driver

Story Line

Your son gets Leukemia, and you don't have health insurance. You cannot afford his medical bills, but nothing is more important to you than his life. You pawn your car title and get a second mortgage on your house to pay for the bone marrow transplant, but the hospital stay lasts longer than expected, and the medical bills keep increasing. Meanwhile, you still can't afford to pay your refinanced monthly mortgage and lose your house. The pawnshop is threatening to take your car. What can you do?

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General Information	Financial Information
Sex: female Age: 53 Education: completed 11 th grade Marital status: divorced	Family Size: 1 (you) Income: \$6,400 Credit history: moderate-bad Employment: none

Story Line

You have always been a little slow learning new information. On top of that, you have developed a pretty bad nervous condition. Your boss at your office job fires you because the nervous condition is really beginning to interfere with your job and how you interact with customers and co-workers. You are having a hard time getting a job without a good recommendation from your current boss, and you're not quite sure that you could learn a whole new set of skills. It took you long enough to figure out your old job! After getting rejection letters from several different employers, you give up. You can't afford rent without a job, you can't get a job, and your children have all grown up and left you. What will you do?

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General Information	Financial Information
Sex: male Age: 63 Education: some high school Marital status: single	Family size: 1 (you) Income: \$2,500 Credit history: none Employment: street beggar

Story Line

As a schizophrenic from a very poor household, you spent most of your life in the state mental institution. However, during the 1960s, someone told you that you were “free” to leave, and you ended up on the streets, begging for food and money. You have nowhere to live, no friends and no connections.

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General Information	Financial Information
Sex: female Age: 28 Education: some high school Marital Status: single	Family size: 1 (you) Income: \$2,500 Credit history: none Employment: street beggar

Story Line

You have no family, and you have a severe mental illness, which keeps you from interacting with mainstream society. You have never held a job. You live on the streets, get food from trash cans and beg for money.

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General Information	Financial Information
Sex: male Age: 55 Education: college degree Marital Status: single	Family size: 1 (you) Income: \$2,500 Credit history: non-existent Employment: street beggar

Story Line

Immediately after you graduated from college, you were drafted to fight in the Vietnam War. While on duty, you were in the middle of quite a bit of action. You lost a leg, and upon your return you couldn't mentally or emotionally function in American society. You quickly lost touch with your friends and relatives – they didn't understand you anyway – and you joined a group of guys on the streets who understood your experiences. To get by day to day, you beg for money and food. Sometimes you drown your mental and physical pain in alcohol. This month, the weather is unusually cold, and even the bridge you sleep under will not protect you from the sleet and the snow. Is there a place you could live?

Participant: Do not fill out the forms below.

Day	Location	Initial
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		

Section 8 Rental Assistance	
Accepted	
Denied	
Day	
Initial	
Section 8 is a rental assistance program where the government gives qualifying low-income applicants vouchers to help pay for rent. Not all landlords accept Section 8 vouchers	



Welcome Home Housing Simulation Participant Sheet

You are homeless...

This sheet will help explain how your character became homeless. Your task is to try to find a place to stay for each day of the simulation. Each day will last for approximately 10 minutes. The objective of this simulation is to learn about the causes of and frustrations associated with homelessness. In order to learn as much as you can, be sure to talk to other participants during the simulation about their experiences.

Suggestions and hints:

- Visit the different agencies, shelters and apartment complexes to seek housing.
- Be sure to keep this sheet with you.
- Talk to other participants to compare your stories, successes and failures.
- Some agencies, shelters and apartment buildings may have different openings from one day to the next – be sure to double-check.

General Information	Financial Information
Sex: female Age: 35 Education: high school diploma Marital status: single	Family size: 1 (you) Income: \$5,000 Credit history: non-existent Employment: temporary office work

Story Line

Your family was proud of you because you're the first family member to go to college. However, you were not accustomed to the stresses of a college workload, and you dealt with the new stresses and freedom by going out and partying all the time. Not only did you get drunk on a regular basis, but you also began smoking pot and doing cocaine. You became an addict, dropped out of college and lost everything. You were homeless, living and sleeping on the streets, and you were too embarrassed to ask your family for help. At age 30 something traumatic happened that woke you up. You entered a rehab clinic, and after several relapses you have been drug- and-alcohol-free for one year. You are living with your college roommate, and sometimes she brings home friends who smoke joints in the house. This is not a positive environment for you, and you want to move.

Participant: Do not fill out the forms below.

Day	Location	Initial
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		

Section 8 Rental Assistance	
Accepted	
Denied	
Day	
Initial	
Section 8 is a rental assistance program where the government gives qualifying low-income applicants vouchers to help pay for rent. Not all landlords accept Section 8 vouchers	



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General Information	Financial Information
Sex: female Age: 16 Education: completed 10 th grade Marital status: single	Family size: 2 (you and your six-month-old baby) Income: \$8,400 Credit History: non-existent Employment: part-time baby-sitting

Story Line

You dropped out of high school in the 10th grade when you got pregnant with your son. Your mom kicked you out of the house when she found out, your boyfriend left you and you ended up on the streets. You were too young and didn't have enough money to rent an apartment. You move in with a family friend. You can't work because you can't afford daycare. You receive food stamps to pay for some of your groceries. You receive some income from TANF (welfare) to take care of your baby. The rest you pay for by baby-sitting. The person you live with, tired of the baby crying and of you not working a regular job, has kicked you out. Where will you go with your baby?

Participant: Do not fill out the forms below.

Day	Location	Initial
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		

Section 8 Rental Assistance	
Accepted	
Denied	
Day	
Initial	
Section 8 is a rental assistance program where the government gives qualifying low-income applicants vouchers to help pay for rent. Not all landlords accept Section 8 vouchers	



Welcome Home Housing Simulation

Administrator Sheet

Section 8

Job Description

You are the screener for the Housing and Urban Development Section 8 rental assistance program. Section 8 provides low-income households with vouchers that will help people pay rent. A Section 8 voucher covers 70% of a person's rent, provided the landlord accepts Section 8 vouchers. Section 8 vouchers are difficult to receive. Often applicants spend years on waiting list for such vouchers. Your job is to accept applicants to receive Section 8 vouchers.

Procedure

- Briefly explain the Section 8 rental assistance program to applicants.
- Have applicants fill out an application form.
- Review the form against the requirements.
- Ask applicants questions about their situations and paperwork.
- You may ask an applicant to see their Participant Sheet if you wish to confirm the information they have supplied on their application.
- If applicant meets requirements, tell them that there is currently no room and place them on the waiting list (be sure to note the day on the list).
- Ask those applicants placed on the waiting list to return the following day.
- Remind applicants that they should continue to look for housing even though they are on the waiting list.
- When applicants return to check on their position on the list, offer them a voucher. You will offer a voucher to everyone who meets the requirements and returns to check on their position.
- When you give a person a voucher, fill out the Section 8 portion of their Participant Sheet.

Applicant Requirements

To qualify, applicants must:

- Have in income of \$15,000 or lower
- Be at least 18 years old



Welcome Home Housing Simulation

Administrator Sheet

Biltmore Forest Apartments

Job Description

You are the lease agent for Biltmore Forest Apartments, a 60-unit apartment complex. Your job is to select tenants from applicants.

Procedure

- Have applicants fill out an application form.
- Review the form against the requirements.
- You may ask an applicant to see their Participant Sheet if you wish to confirm the information they have supplied on their application.
- Ask applicants questions about their situation and paperwork.
- If applicant meets requirements, place their name on a waiting list and ask them to return the following day.
- If they do not meet the requirements, politely turn them away.
- Remind applicants that they should continue to look for housing even though they are on the waiting list.
- You only have room to accept 8 applicants. Space out the applicants that you accept from the second to last days of the simulation. Pick applicants who will best fit Biltmore Forest Apartments' atmosphere: quiet, well educated, no drug or alcohol problems.
- When you give a person housing, write "Biltmore Forest" on their Participant Sheet in the proper Day column – be sure to initial it.

Applicant Requirements

YOU ONLY HAVE 8 OPENINGS **YOU DO ACCEPT SECTION 8 RENTAL VOUCHERS**

The 8 open apartments and their requirements are as follows:

Apartment #1, 2, & 3: 1-bedroom

Income: at least \$12,000
or Section 8 voucher + \$2,000
No more than 2 residents

Apartment #7: 3-bedroom

Income: at least \$16,000
or Section 8 voucher + \$2,000
No more than 5 residents

Apartment #4, 5 & 6: 2-bedroom

Income: at least \$14,000
or Section 8 voucher + \$2,000
No more than 4 residents

Apartment #8: 3-bedroom

Income: at least \$25,000
or Section 8 voucher + \$2,000
No more than 6 residents

Preferences:

Biltmore Forest Apartments prefers tenants who are quiet, well educated, do not have drug or alcohol problems and will, in general, maintain a peaceful atmosphere. Please ask applicants questions that will help you understand if they fit within these preferences.



Welcome Home Housing Simulation

Administrator Sheet

Public Housing

Job Description

You are the screener for Public Housing, a government-operated housing project. Your job is to select applicants to move into Public Housing.

Procedure

- Have applicants fill out an application form.
- Review the form against the requirements (keep their applications).
- Ask applicants questions about their situation and paperwork.
- You may ask an applicant to see their Participant Sheet if you wish to confirm the information they have supplied on their application.
- If applicant meets requirements, either (a) accept them into public housing, or (b) tell them that there is no space available, place them on a waiting list and tell them to check again tomorrow.
- Accept a handful of the first applicants each day, and place the rest of the applicants on the waiting list to return on subsequent days to check their position (use piles of applications to serve as the waiting list).
- Remind applicants that they should continue to look for housing even though they are on the waiting list.
- When you give a person housing, write "Public Housing" on their Participant Sheet in the proper Day column – be sure to initial it.

Applicant Requirements

To qualify, applicants must:

- Have an income at or below \$5,000
- Be at least 18 years old

Welcome Home Housing Simulation

Administrator Sheet

Prestigious Realty



Job Description

You are a real estate agent for a Prestigious Realty, the area's premier home builder. Prestigious Realty has only two new homes available, and they are very expensive. Almost all of the participants in this simulation cannot afford housing at Prestigious Realty.

Procedure

- Before allowing applicants to fill out an application, welcome them to the offices of Prestigious Realty and let them know that your housing is very, very expensive.
- Have applicants fill out an application form.
- Review their forms against the requirements.
- You may ask to see the applicant's Participant Sheet if you wish to confirm the information they have supplied on their application.
- Ask applicants questions about their situations and paperwork.
- If applicant meets requirements (very few will), ask them to come back the following day to further discuss options with Prestigious Realty – treat them very well.
- The overwhelming majority applicants will not have a high enough income. Politely turn them away.
- When you give a person housing, write "Prestigious Realty" on their Participant Sheet in to proper Day column – be sure to initial it.

Applicant Requirements

**YOU DO NOT ACCEPT SECTION 8 RENTAL VOUCHERS
(you sell, not rent, homes)**

Applicants must have an income of \$50,000 or above and have excellent credit.

Preferences:

Prestigious Realty prefers applicants who are quiet, well educated, do not have drug or alcohol problems and will, in general, maintain a peaceful atmosphere. Please ask applicants questions that will help you understand if they fit within these preferences.



Welcome Home Housing Simulation

Administrator Sheet

Windsor Park Apartments

Job Description

You are the lease agent for Windsor Park Apartments, a 60-unit apartment complex. Your job is to select lessees from applicants.

Procedure

- Have applicants fill out an application form.
- Review the form against the requirements (keep their applications).
- You may ask an applicant to see their Participant Sheet if you wish to confirm the information they have supplied on their application.
- Ask applicants questions about their situations and paperwork.
- If applicant meets requirements, place their name on a waiting list and ask them to return the following day.
- If they do not meet the requirements, politely turn them away.
- Remind applicants that they should continue to look for housing even though they are on the waiting list.
- You only have room to accept 4 applicants. Wait until the next to last day to make your decision on whom to take. Pick applicants who will best fit Windsor Park Apartments atmosphere: quiet, well educated, no drug or alcohol problems.
- When you give a person housing, write Windsor Park on their Participant Sheet in the proper Day column – be sure to initial it.

Applicant Requirements

YOU ONLY HAVE 4 OPENINGS
YOU DO NOT ACCEPT SECTION 8 RENTAL VOUCHERS

The 4 open apartments and their requirements are as follows:

Apartment #1: 1-bedroom

Income: at least \$16,000
No more than two residents

Apartment #3: 2-bedroom

Income: at least \$18,000
No more than 4 residents

Apartment #2: 2-bedroom

Income: at least \$18,000/year
No more than 4 residents

Apartment #4: 3-bedroom

Income: at least \$20,000
No more than 6 residents

Preferences:

Windsor Park Apartments prefers tenants who are quiet, well educated, do not have drug or alcohol problems and will, in general, maintain a peaceful atmosphere. Please ask applicants questions that will help you understand if they fit within these preferences.



Welcome Home Housing Simulation

Administrator Sheet

The Rescue Mission

Job Description

You are the screener for the Rescue Mission, a shelter for homeless men. Your job is to select men for the limited capacity of the shelter.

Procedure

- Have applicants fill out an application form.
- Review the form against the requirements (keep their applications).
- If applicant meets requirements, tell them that there is currently no room and place them on the waiting list (be sure to note the day on the list).
- Ask those applicants on the waiting list to return the following day.
- Remind applicants that they should continue to look for housing even though they are on the waiting list.
- When applicants return to check on their position on the list, offer housing to the first half of the applicants on the previous day's list. If you cannot offer them housing, tell them to come back tomorrow and mark their name. If they return and have a marked name, offer them housing.
- When you give a person housing, write "Rescue Mission" on their Participant Sheet in the proper Day column – be sure to initial it.

Applicant Requirements

To qualify, applicants must be:

- homeless
- drug-free (for at least 6 months)
- able to contribute
- at least 18 years old
- single male or male head of house
- voluntarily agree to participate with rules and regulations
 - rules and regulations:
 - no drug or alcohol use
 - quiet after 10 p.m.
 - must be out of building from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.



Welcome Home Housing Simulation

Administrator Sheet

The Women's Shelter

Job Description

You are the screener for the Women's Shelter, a shelter for homeless women. Your job is to select women for the limited capacity of the shelter.

Procedure

- Have applicants fill out an application form.
- Review the form against the requirements (keep their application).
- If applicant meets requirements, tell them that there is currently no room and place them on the waiting list (be sure to note the day on the list).
- Ask those applicants on the waiting list to return the following day.
- Remind applicants that they should continue to look for housing even though they are on the waiting list.
- When applicants return to check on their position in line, offer housing to the first half of the applicants on the previous day's list. If you cannot offer them housing, tell them to come back tomorrow and mark their name. If they return and have a marked name, offer them housing.
- When you give a person housing, write "Women's Shelter" on their Participant Sheet in the proper Day column – be sure to initial it.

Applicant Requirements

To qualify, applicants must be:

- homeless
- drug-free (for at least 6 months)
- match with size of housing available
- able to contribute
- at least 18 years old
- single female or female head of house
- voluntarily agree to participate with rule and regulations
- all male children must be under the age of 12



Welcome Home Housing Simulation

Application: Windsor Park

Applicant Information

Name:

Address:

Age:

Occupation:

Gender:

Income:

Housing Information

Past residency:

Reason for leaving:

Will children be living with you? If so how many?

Do you have any pets?

Have you been convicted of any crimes?

Do you smoke?

Applicant Signature

Date:



Welcome Home Housing Simulation

Application: *Biltmore Forest*

Applicant Information

Name:

Address:

Age:

Occupation:

Gender:

Income:

Do you have a Section 8 housing voucher?

Housing Information

Past residency:

Reason for leaving:

Will children be living with you? If so how many?

Do you have any pets?

Have you been convicted of any crimes?

Do you smoke?

Applicant Signature

Date:



Welcome Home Housing Simulation

Application: Section 8

Applicant Information

Name:

Address:

Age:

Occupation:

Gender:

Income:

Have you been convicted of any crimes?

How many dependants do you have?
(Dependants are people who depend on your
income: children, spouses who don't work, etc.)

Housing Information

Past residency:

Reason for leaving:

Applicant Signature

Date:



Welcome Home Housing Simulation

Application: *Women's Shelter*

Applicant Information

Name:

Address:

Age:

Occupation:

Gender:

Income:

Have you been convicted of any crimes?

What are the ages and genders of your children?

Have you been drug-free for the past 6 months?

Housing Information

Past residency:

Reason for leaving:

Applicant Signature

Date:



Welcome Home Housing Simulation

Application: Rescue Mission

Applicant Information

Name:

Address:

Age:

Occupation:

Gender:

Income:

Have you been convicted of any crimes?

What are the ages and genders of your children?

Have you been drug-free for the past 6 months?

Housing Information

Past residency:

Reason for leaving:

Applicant Signature

Date:



Welcome Home Housing Simulation

Application: Public Housing

Applicant Information

Name:

Address:

Age:

Occupation:

Gender:

Income:

What are the ages and genders of your children?

Housing Information

Past residency:

Reason for leaving:

Applicant Signature

Date:



Welcome Home Housing Simulation

Application: Prestigious Reality

Applicant Information

Name:

Address:

Age:

Occupation:

Gender:

Income:

What is your level of education?

What are the ages and genders of your children?

Applicant Signature

Date:



Welcome Home Housing Simulation Discussion Questions

Directions: Ask these questions to your discussion group. Be sure to encourage all members of the group to contribute to the discussion.

1. Briefly describe how your character became homeless.
2. What was your most positive experience during the simulation?
3. What was your most negative experience during the simulation?
4. What organization or agency was the most helpful?
5. Which organization or agency was the least helpful?
6. What would have helped you find housing that was not available?
7. How many group members sought help with Section 8?
8. What is Section 8, and how does it work? *[Discussion leader – tell participants that it usually takes several years to get a Section 8 voucher and that landlords do not have to accept Section 8 vouchers.]*
9. What, if any, responsibility do governments have to help people find and afford safe housing?
10. How could private individuals help those in need find and afford housing?

The leader now goes over the Habitat for Humanity Overview. The leader can read it aloud or have the group take turns reading it.

Discussion question: Now that you have heard about Habitat for Humanity, what does Habitat for Humanity provide that was missing from the simulation?



Welcome Home Housing Simulation

Habitat for Humanity Overview

Habitat for Humanity seeks to eliminate poverty housing by providing simple, decent, affordable homes to families in need all around the world. Using volunteer labor and tax-deductible donations of money and materials, Habitat builds and rehabilitates homes with the help of future homeowners, known as Habitat's partner families. Houses are sold to partner families for no profit and are financed through affordable, no-interest mortgages. Monthly mortgage payments are used to support the construction of more houses through the revolving Fund for Humanity.

Costs of houses differ with location and the costs of skilled labor, land and materials. The average cost to build a Habitat house in the United States is about \$50,000. The average monthly mortgage payment in the United States for a three-bedroom Habitat house is \$266. The cost of Habitat houses overseas varies, but most are usually less than ten percent of the cost of a Habitat house built in the United States.

Simple, Decent Houses

Habitat seeks to build houses with as many families as possible with the money and resources it receives. The more elaborate — and, therefore, expensive — a particular house is, the less money the organization has available to help more families in need.

Habitat houses must not become a heavier burden than the partner family can bear. The ongoing, non-fixed costs of utilities, taxes, insurance and maintenance are considered along with the fixed mortgage payments. This ensures that low-income Habitat homeowners are not forced out of their houses by economic factors that are often beyond their control.

Selling with No Profit and No Interest

Habitat is a homeownership program. The principles of homeownership, a no-profit selling price and a no-interest mortgage are essential to Habitat's vision. Habitat does not believe that every mortgage lender should refuse to charge interest; however, Habitat has made a conscious decision to serve people in need by refusing to charge interest.

Government Partnerships

Habitat for Humanity welcomes partnerships with governments. This includes accepting funds and other resources to help "set the stage" for the construction of houses, as long as the partnerships do not limit Habitat's freedom to operate independently and do not create a dependency on those funds or other resources.

Habitat for Humanity does not accept government funds or other resources directly for the construction of houses. "Setting the stage" is interpreted to include land, houses for rehabilitation, infrastructure for streets, utilities, capacity building, training and administrative expenses.