

**SANILAC COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY**  
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

**NUMBER: BA042**

**NAME: SUPPORTED INDEPENDENT LIVING**

INITIAL APPROVAL DATE:	06/12/2002	BY: Administrative Committee
STAKEHOLDER REVIEW:	09/07/2022	BY: Consumer Advisory Board
(LAST) REVISION DATE:	08/16/2011	BY: Clinical Policy Committee
(LAST) REVIEW DATE:	07/27/2023	BY: Policy Committee
DISCONTINUED DATE:	N/A	REPLACED BY: N/A

**I. PURPOSE**

To establish standards for housing assistance.

**II. APPLICATION**

Populations: **ALL**  
Programs: Direct - **ALL**  
Contracted – **ALL**

**III. POLICY**

It shall be the policy of Sanilac CMH to recognize housing as a basic need and affirm the right of all individuals to pursue housing options of their choice.

Just as individuals living in licensed dependent settings may require many different types of services and/or supports, persons living in their own homes, or sharing their household with another, may have similar service needs. As such, Sanilac CMH funded programs shall include the provision of desired and necessary services and/or supports independent of where the individual resides. Housing needs should be clinically assessed to determine individual's appropriate level of care and current level of independence.

Sanilac CMH staff are responsible for assisting individuals and/or guardians in locating habitable, safe, and affordable housing. The process of locating suitable housing shall be directed by the individual's interests, health and safety needs, involvement, and informed choice. Voluntary natural support system contribution, community housing resources, and other entitlement programs should always be utilized, when available, on a first priority basis.

In all cases, authorization of Sanilac CMH housing services and/or supports to an individual shall always ensure that Sanilac CMH be payer of last resort and be in compliance with funding standards and availability. The individual's ability to pay for Sanilac CMH services, 3<sup>rd</sup> party payers, voluntary natural support contributions, entitlement programs, and other available community resources shall always be assessed prior to Sanilac CMH public mental health funds being authorized for services and/or supports. Interim Sanilac CMH services may be provided while these external resources are accessed for any emergency or imminent health/safety individual need. Sanilac CMH funding of housing and supports

services shall be governed by the service eligibility and level-of-care guidelines set forth by CMS, MDHHS, PIHP, Medicaid and/or this Board.

Sanilac CMH views its primary responsibility as providing supports to individuals, regardless of where an individual chooses to live within the county. In all cases for independent housing arrangements, the lease or deed must be secured in the individual's name, prior to any Sanilac CMH supports.

#### IV. **STANDARDS**

- a. Sanilac CMH shall provide assistance to individuals in coordinating available resources to meet their basic housing needs. This assistance may include individual/family education; linkage to available resources; housing planning and other related supports. Assistance may also include consultation to any primary case holder who is working with an individual, guardian or family member in applying for community and governmental housing resources.
- b. The Sanilac CMH Care Manager shall explore and exhaust all voluntary natural supports, entitlement programs, and community resources prior to requests for Sanilac CMH funded support. Refusal by the individual/family to access available external resources does not necessarily obligate Sanilac CMH to provide supports in their place.
- c. When Sanilac CMH services and supports are accessed, and local community service demand exceeds available community, state and federal resources, Sanilac CMH funded housing supports will be prioritized in the descending order as follows:
  - Emergency & crisis stabilization housing support needs;
  - Health & Safety needs;
  - Daily living needs
- d. Sanilac CMH reserves the right to determine how much funding, if any, will be earmarked for housing.
- e. Initial access to Sanilac CMH services, including housing services and/or supports must be initiated through the Sanilac CMH Access System.
- f. Supported Housing, whether for independent or dependent living, shall be determined through the person-centered planning process. As a result of limited/available housing options and resources, limited MDHHS funding (and/or health and safety concerns, and/or court-ordered treatment), limitations may exist for individual choice through the person-centered process.
- g. Sanilac CMH shall encourage providers to pursue federal and state funds to develop new housing opportunities and initiatives in Sanilac County.
- h. Sanilac CMH shall assure that housing arranged or subsidized by Sanilac CMH is accessible to the individual and in compliance with applicable state and local standards for occupancy, health and safety.

- i. All housing arranged or subsidized by Sanilac CMH must be sensitive to the individual's cultural and ethnic preferences.
- j. Sanilac CMH programs shall encourage and support individual self-sufficiency.

V. **ATTACHMENTS**

VI. **REFERENCES**