



Homeless Parent Empowerment Template

Purpose

MV Parents often feel stuck and unsure where to turn as the welcome mat wears out. Some families are hesitant to ask for assistance, others are afraid to let you know a change happened. Some families have utilized local resources multiple times, and others, due to various reasons, do not want to bring attention to their situation. In each of these scenarios, families are not always sure where to go. This document is for MVLs working with homeless children, youth, and families to support them in times of transition.

Immediate Reflection and Action

We will start by assessing the urgency of the situation.

Immediate Needs

How long do you have before you must leave your current location?

1. I must leave today
2. I must leave in 24-48 hours
3. I must leave within two weeks
4. I just leave soon, but there is no timeline
5. I'd like to leave, but I don't have to

Where are you and your family staying tonight?

- Safety:
 - Do you need to leave because your home is not safe?
 - Are you concerned about the safety of where you may have to go?
 - Do you need immediate shelter, food, or clothing?



Support Network

Now, we will look at the family's resource capital. This capital includes community resources, financial resources, and relational resources that the family can draw from during this time of transition.

Do you have any family, friends, or community connections you can temporarily stay with?

1. Inventory family nearby or out of state who could help.
2. Make a list of possible friends who could help.
3. Who are my community connections who could help?
4. Do you have a faith-based community you can contact for support?
5. What nonprofits or shelters are you connected with for resource support who may be able to help with emergency assistance?*

**Provide or link a list of local shelters and community organizations that offer assistance.*

Financial Situation

1. Can you access any funds (savings, tax refunds, etc.) to secure temporary housing or other essentials?
 - a. Savings
 - b. Tax refunds
 - c. Monthly Stipend
 - d. Can you access a rental?
 - e. Can you afford a hotel?
2. Are you eligible for financial assistance through any programs?
 - a. Disability
 - b. Veterans Benefits
 - c. Child Support
 - d. Do you have a HUD voucher or other housing support voucher?
 - e. Food Stamps, WIC, etc...



Planning for Stability - Guiding Questions for Parents

Short-Term Plan

- What is your plan for the next 24–48 hours?
- Have you called your community friends or family friends for a short-term place to stay?
- Have you contacted an emergency shelter or warming center?

Long-Term Housing

- Do you need assistance finding affordable housing or transitional housing programs?
- Have you explored applying for Section 8 housing or other rental assistance programs?

Transportation and Employment

- How will you get to work, or what support do you need to secure employment?
- Do you need help accessing public transportation or fuel assistance?

Emotional and Mental Well-Being

- What emotional support do you and your children need during this time?
- Have you connected with counselors or local support groups?

Local Housing Resource Guide

(Update with your local resources based on your region)

Emergency Shelters

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Transitional Housing Programs

- 1.

Affordable Housing Resources

1. Housing Authority

Services: Section 8 Housing Vouchers and public housing applications.

2. Local Housing Nonprofits

Services: Low-cost housing options and rental assistance programs.

Utility and Rental Assistance

1. Services: Utility bill assistance, emergency rental funds.
2. Services: One-time rental assistance and eviction prevention services.

Legal Aid and Advocacy

1. Legal Aid

Services Provided: Tenant rights advocacy, eviction prevention.

2. Advocacy Group

Services Provided: Advocacy for homeless families, legal consultations.

Transportation Support

1. Local Transportation Routes

Services: Bus passes, rideshare programs, or fuel assistance for school or work.



Food and Clothing Resources

1. Food Pantry

Services: Weekly food delivery, food bags, or meal programs.

2. Clothing Closet/Local Resources

Services: Free winter clothing and school uniforms.