



Supporting our Neighbors

Ensuring services are delivered to Douglas County residents

The City of Lawrence is committed to prioritizing Douglas County residents in the distribution of services to our neighbors experiencing housing insecurity. There is also a process for offering short-term support to homeless individuals who are not from our community to facilitate their return to their place of origin.

Our five-step process for assisting individuals experiencing homelessness from outside Lawrence/Douglas Count:

1 Initial Assessment and Temporary Assistance

Non-resident homeless individuals seeking assistance will undergo an initial assessment by the Homeless Response Team and, if eligible, can receive access to emergency shelter, meals and basic services for three business days.

2 Development of Return Plan

During the three business days, individuals will be required to collaborate with a designated helping agency to create a plan to return to their community of origin or another location where they have confirmed support and are welcome to return.

3 Coordination with Origin Town Resources

The Homeless Response Team will work to identify and connect the individual with resources and services in their community of origin or another community where they have confirmed support.

4 Transportation Assistance

Efforts will be made to secure the most cost-effective and safe transportation options. Assistance with cost may be provided based on individual circumstances and funds.

5 Documentation and Follow-Up

All actions taken, plans developed, and assistance provided will be documented by the Homeless Response Team. Follow-up checks will be conducted by the team to ensure the individual reaches their destination, and the team will verify that the individual has connected to their natural supports or services.

Clarification on Former Residents:

Individuals who previously lived in Lawrence or Douglas County, but who have since relocated to another community, are considered non-residents for purposes of homeless services eligibility,

To be considered a resident eligible for services, an individual must have been residing in Douglas County immediately prior to their experience of homelessness. Residency will be verified through accepted forms of documentation.



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Re-establishing Residency:

Individuals cannot re-establish residency through temporary shelter stays, encampments, or receipt of homeless services. Residency can be re-established only by independently securing and maintaining permanent housing (such as a rental or owned unit) within Douglas County.

The City of Lawrence does not provide homeless services for the purpose of re-establishing residency.

Verifying Residency:

- Utility bills: Provide utility bill in the individual's name, such as electricity, water, gas, or cable bills, showing the address in Lawrence/Douglas County.
- Lease or rental agreement: Provide a copy of a lease or rental agreement showing the individual's name and address in Lawrence/Douglas County

Residents of Lawrence/Douglas County experiencing homelessness and seeking services who are unable to provide traditional forms of documentation to verify residency in the city of Lawrence may request assistance through the Homeless Solutions Division. To access this resource, please call (785)760-1481.

Contact Information: For questions or further clarification, please contact the Homeless Solutions Division Director at (785)760-1481.

A PLACE FOR EVERYONE

More information on the community-wide efforts to end chronic homelessness in Lawrence and Douglas County is available on the A Place for Everyone website:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ac39d880b9824051b06d96fff970e399>

Find more information: Community members are also encouraged to tune in to the Collaborative Solutions Podcast to connect with the stories of people emerging from homelessness to homes.