

Criteria for Admission to St. Luke's Guesthouse

St. Luke's Guesthouse is a 12-bed short-term temporary shelter that offers a structured program to support single men, women, and families in achieving self-sufficiency, securing long-term sustainable housing, and breaking the cycle of homelessness. Please note: St. Luke's is not an emergency shelter. We do not have 24/7 onsite staffing and Guests must be mentally and physically stable enough to live independently, drug and alcohol free.

Eligibility Criteria: Applicants must meet the following criteria to apply:

- **Residency:** Applicants must be residents of one of the following South Central Worcester County towns: Southbridge, Dudley, Webster, Oxford, Charlton, East Brookfield, Brookfield, North Brookfield, West Brookfield, Warren, Wales, Holland, Brimfield, Sturbridge.
- **Homelessness:** Applicants must meet the definition of homelessness: Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.
- **Substance Use:** Applicants must abstain from alcohol and drugs use while residing at the Guesthouse. Participation in a treatment program may be required, and drug/alcohol testing if necessary.
- **Independent Living:** Applicants must be able to live independently, including managing daily personal care needs, navigating stairs, cooking and cleaning.
- **Mental Health:** Applicants must have manageable mental health needs and, if applicable, demonstrate engagement in medication or counseling services.
- **Criminal History:** Applicants must not have a history of severe criminal acts or violent offenses and must not be a Level 3 registered sex offender.
- **Safety and Behavior:** Guests must maintain a safe environment by refraining from violent, aggressive, threatening, or discriminatory behavior. Weapons or items that could inflict harm are prohibited.
- **Pets:** Pets and emotional support animals are not allowed. Documented service animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act are permitted.

Expectations: Applicants must agree to:

- Completing a phone screening and attending an in-person interview to finalize their application, including completing a CORI authorization form and other necessary paperwork.
- Read, sign and follow the Guesthouse *Welcome Guidelines and Rules*.
- Abstain from alcohol and drug use throughout their stay.
- Meet weekly with our Case Manager.
- Save 75% of their income to work toward housing stability.
- Remain committed to tasks and goals that promote self-sufficiency.
- Guests must be out of the house from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Guests can stay all day on Saturday, Sunday and Holidays. There are some weather related and occasional illness exceptions. We accommodate on as "as needed" basis those who are working and have long hours and/or night shifts.

Intake timeline

- Staff will conduct a phone screen.
- Applicants appear in person to complete the application for shelter, and sign a CORI Authorization Form.
- Applicants must have one form of identification. Picture ID is required.
- CORI checks are performed
- Determination is made for acceptance.