

FIRST at Blue Ridge, Inc.

DAC Transitional Housing Program Guide

A structured transitional housing program supporting stability, accountability, employment readiness, life skills, and successful community re-entry.

Program at a Glance

<p>Program Focus</p> <p>Structured transitional housing and practical re-entry support</p>	<p>Typical Length</p> <p>90 days, with extensions considered when appropriate</p>
<p>Core Supports</p> <p>Identification documents, benefits connections, employment readiness, transportation support, banking, clothing, and housing resources</p>	<p>Primary Goal</p> <p>Help participants reduce barriers, build stability, and move toward successful community living</p>
<p>Program Approach</p> <p>Structure, accountability, case management, and connection to community resources</p>	<p>Next Step</p> <p>Participants work toward employment, stable housing, and continued independence</p>

Overview

The DAC Transitional Housing Program at FIRST at Blue Ridge provides structured housing and practical re-entry support for individuals working toward stability, employment, and successful community living. Through its work with the North Carolina Department of Adult Corrections, FIRST at Blue Ridge helps participants address the everyday barriers that can make re-entry difficult.

The program is designed around structure, accountability, case management, and connection to community resources. Participants receive support with essential documents, employment readiness, transportation to approved appointments, benefits connections, work clothing, banking, and housing resources. These supports help participants build a stronger foundation for independence and reduce the risk of returning to the correctional system.

The DAC Transitional Housing Program is most successful for participants who are willing to follow program expectations, participate actively, accept structure, and work toward positive change.

Who the Program Supports

The DAC Transitional Housing Program supports participants who need structured transitional housing, practical guidance, and connection to resources while working toward stable community living.

- Individuals transitioning from incarceration or community supervision
- Participants who need housing stability and accountability
- Individuals working to obtain employment and build a work history
- Participants who need help obtaining documents, benefits, transportation, or community resources
- Individuals who are willing to follow structure, participate in case management, and work toward positive change

How the DAC Transitional Housing Program Works

The program helps participants move from immediate stabilization toward employment, resource connection, and long-term housing planning. Each participant may have different needs, but the program generally focuses on the following areas:

1. Arrival, Orientation, and Program Expectations

Participants enter a structured housing environment with clear expectations, rules, and case management support. Staff work with participants to identify immediate needs, clarify goals, and begin building a practical plan for stability.

2. Essential Documents and Identification

Many participants need help obtaining or replacing basic documents. FIRST supports participants with steps related to birth certificates, state identification, Social Security cards, and other documents needed for employment, banking, benefits, housing, and community services.

3. Benefits and Healthcare Connections

Participants may receive assistance connecting to eligible benefits and healthcare resources, including Medicare, Medicaid, food assistance, or other local services when appropriate. These connections can be essential for maintaining health, stability, and independence.

4. Email, Resume, and Job-Search Readiness

Participants receive help setting up an email account, often with support from community partners, and learn how to use that email for employment communication. Staff and partners also support resume development, job-search preparation, and basic employment-readiness skills.

5. Clothing, Transportation, and Practical Support

FIRST works to help participants access appropriate clothing for employment, appointments, and daily life. Transportation support may be provided for approved needs such as employment, parole or supervision appointments, and other program-related requirements.

6. Banking, Housing Resources, and Transition Planning

Participants receive support with practical next steps such as opening a bank account in their own name, connecting to housing resources, and preparing for stable housing after the program. When appropriate, extensions may be considered, especially when employment or housing stability requires additional time.

Employment Readiness and Recidivism Reduction

Steady employment and practical stability are important parts of successful re-entry. The DAC Transitional Housing Program helps participants prepare for work by addressing both employment skills and everyday barriers that can prevent people from moving forward.

Support may include resume preparation, job search guidance, interview preparation, email setup, work clothing, transportation planning, and connection to employers or community partners. By helping participants build a work history and daily routine, the program supports personal responsibility and reduces barriers associated with recidivism.

A Practical Re-Entry Model

The DAC Transitional Housing Program is not simply a place to stay. It is a structured environment designed to help participants rebuild the basic tools needed for employment, stability, and responsible community living.

Life Skills, Accountability, and Case Management

Participants receive support that helps them practice daily responsibility and build the skills needed for independent living. Depending on individual needs, this may include communication skills, conflict resolution, financial basics, decision-making, appointment follow-through, and connection to community support systems.

Case management helps participants identify goals, address barriers, and stay focused on the next practical steps. The program works best when participants are willing to follow structure, accept accountability, and actively participate in their own progress.

Extensions and Possible Next Steps

The program is typically designed as a 90-day transitional housing model. When appropriate, extensions may be considered, especially when participants are actively working toward employment, documentation, benefits, or housing stability but need additional time to complete those steps.

In some situations, a participant may transition into another FIRST at Blue Ridge program, such as the Long Term Program, when clinically and programmatically appropriate. These decisions are made based on individual needs, program suitability, and available options.

What Participants May Receive Support With

- Birth certificates, state identification, Social Security cards, and other essential documents
- Benefits and healthcare resource connections, when eligible
- Email account setup and basic employment communication
- Resume creation, job search preparation, and interview readiness
- Work clothing and other practical clothing needs
- Transportation to approved employment, parole or supervision, and program-related appointments
- Bank account setup in the participant's own name
- Connection to housing resources and community supports

Admission, Referral, and Program Suitability

Participation in the DAC Transitional Housing Program is coordinated through appropriate referral and program processes. Admission and continued participation are based on program suitability, safety, current requirements, available space, and the participant's willingness to follow program structure.

FIRST at Blue Ridge works to support participants who are ready to take practical steps toward stability. The program cannot remove every barrier, but it can provide structure, accountability, resource connection, and a strong foundation for participants who are willing to do the work.

Moving Toward Stability

The goal of the DAC Transitional Housing Program is to help participants leave with more than temporary housing. The goal is to help them move forward with documentation, employment readiness, benefits connections, transportation planning, banking, housing resources, and a clearer path toward successful community living.