

Board and Lodge Housing

A **Board and Lodge** can be a helpful first step toward stable housing after staying in a shelter, completing residential treatment, or being released from incarceration. These settings are considered **low-barrier housing**, meaning:

- No deposit is required.
- Background or credit checks are usually not done.
- Vacancies are often available right away.

Before moving in, it's important to understand how Board and Lodge settings work.

What Is a Board and Lodge?

A Board and Lodge is a **shared living environment** (also called congregate housing). These facilities are licensed by the city or the Minnesota Department of Health. They vary in size — from small homes to large campuses.

Here's what you can typically expect:

- **Meals:** Three meals a day are provided, either from a commercial kitchen or through catering.
- **Shared spaces:** Bedrooms and bathrooms are often shared.
- **Laundry:** On-site laundry is available, and supplies are provided.
- **House rules:** There may be curfews or sobriety requirements. Breaking the rules can lead to being discharged — sometimes immediately.
- **Pets:** Some places allow pets; most do not or consider on a case-by-case basis.
- **No upfront costs:** You usually don't need to pay a deposit or first month's rent.
- **Housing Support:** Most Board and Lodges accept Housing Support to cover room and board. You must apply and qualify for this benefit.
- **Personal cost:** If you have income, you'll need to contribute toward the cost. Be sure you understand what you'll owe before moving in.
- **No 30-day notice:** Residents usually aren't required to give 30 days' notice before leaving.
- **Next steps:** Some providers also offer affordable rental housing when you're ready to move on.

Support Services

Support services vary widely:

- Some Board and Lodges offer **no additional services**—you just follow the house rules and stay as long as it works for you.
 - If you have a service provider you would like to work with while you live in a Board and Lodge, make sure to discuss that with the provider. That is generally, but not always, allowed.
- Some Board and Lodges serve **specific groups**, such as:
 - People in or recently out of treatment (may require UAs or AA meetings).
 - People with criminal justice involvement (may have rules to support reentry).
- Some Board and Lodges offer their own case management services to all residents and will meet with you regularly on goals and objectives.

Tip: Make sure the house rules and services match your needs before moving in.

What Does It Cost?

The **Housing Support rate** is set by the State of Minnesota and updated each year. For 2025, the rate is **\$1,192 per month**.

If you have income, you'll pay part of that cost:

- **Wage earners:** Your contribution will vary depending on whether you are working full or part time. A cost calculator can be found at the link below.
- **SSI/RSDI recipients:** Keep \$128 for personal needs and pay the rest to the provider.
- **Food support:** Not available, since meals are included.

The State of Minnesota offers more information for wage earners in Board and Lodge settings. You can find that information along with a cost calculator here: [DB101 Minnesota - Housing: Housing Support \(formerly Group Residential Housing\)](#)

Within the HB101 platform is a chat feature where you may be able to share specific details about your income and get a better sense of your costs. Ultimately you must apply and have your income and assets verified by Hennepin County.

Your first step is to find a Board and Lodge with a vacancy that works for you. Once you have a provider identified, then apply for the Housing Support benefit. After your application is processed, Hennepin County will send you a letter with your specific cost of care. You're responsible for paying your share directly to the provider. If you don't pay your cost of care, you may be discharged — just like not paying rent.

You can find more information about applying for Housing Support here: [Hennepin County Economic Supports](#)

Questions to Ask a Provider

Before choosing a Board and Lodge, ask:

- What are the house rules? Can I see them in advance?
- Is there a curfew?
- Are bedrooms and bathrooms shared? If so, how many people?
- What services are offered? Am I required to participate?
- Are there sobriety requirements?
- What will it cost me?
- Can I bring a pet? What about food preferences or medication help?
- Is public transportation nearby?

How to Find a Vacancy

Vacancies change often, so you'll need to check regularly.

Some tips:

- Ask if providers have a **waitlist**.
- Some providers have **online applications** and can hold yours for future openings.

Check these resources:

- **HB101 Places:** A Minnesota website listing Board and Lodge vacancies.
[HB101 Minnesota - HB101 Places](#)
- **Hennepin County Board and Lodge Provider List:**
[Hennepin County board lodge provider list](#)

Each provider name links to their website so you can contact them directly.