



THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES ARE AT-RISK OF EVICTION AND HOMELESSNESS EVERY YEAR.

1 IDENTIFY THOSE IN YOUR CIRCLE WHO MIGHT BE AT RISK OF BEING EVICTED.

- ✓ Ask questions like: "It's been hard for a lot of people to keep up with their rent and mortgage payments. How have you been doing with that?"

2 TRY TO DO EVERYTHING YOU CAN TO KEEP THEM HOUSED.

- ✓ See if you can help them get caught up on rent by connecting them to [financial assistance](#) and/or [employment support](#). You can also ask if they have family who can help them get caught up.
- ✓ Encourage them to advocate *for themselves*.
- ✓ Advocate *for them* by making a call to their Landlord. Let the Landlord know you are working with the tenant to help them get caught up.

3 JUST IN CASE...HELP THEM COME UP WITH A CONTINGENCY PLAN.

- ✓ They should start reaching out to friends or family who might take them in if they are evicted.
- ✓ Taking an extra family in can be challenging. Help them make it as successful as possible by thinking through expectations and room modifications (e.g. door locks, room dividers, curtains in doorways for privacy, temporary storage, etc.).
- ✓ Help them come up with a plan to pack and move their belongings.
- ✓ Emergency shelter and housing is limited in DFW. [Check resources](#) listed here or call the Homeless Crisis Helpline: 1-888-411-6802

ABOUT DIVERSION

The above tips are adapted from a national best practice for shelters called "diversion." Diversion helps ensure that emergency shelter space for families is used by those with no other options. It is a way to match the needs of a family with the appropriate intervention. Diversion helps someone who is in a state of crisis and trauma to stop and think through what alternatives might be available.

EXAMPLE OF DIVERSION



A family reaches out saying, "I slept in my car last night with my kids and need shelter." With Diversion, we stop and take a breath with the family and ask things like:

- ✓ Where were you before your car?
- ✓ Was it a safe place?
- ✓ What happened to cause you to leave?
- ✓ Under what circumstances do you think you could return?



From their answers, we might uncover that they just had a fight with the person they were staying with (usually a parent or grandparent). Depending on their response, we might contact that family member or friend and ask what support they need in order to bring the family in from the car.