



## Transitional and Emergency Shelter Locations

### What is an emergency shelter?

- An emergency shelter is a location where families can expect short-term lodging. Most emergency shelters house families from 30 days to three months.
- Some emergency shelters are seasonal (available only during winter months.)
- After sheltering at an emergency location, families may move on to a transitional shelter location, or they may move between emergency shelters.
- Some emergency shelters are also domestic violence shelters (see the 'domestic violence' module).
- Tutoring generally takes place in a common area. Because of the high turnover, most of the tutoring available is in a group situation (see the 'group tutoring' module).

### What is a transitional shelter?

- Transitional shelters are locations where families live for longer periods of time, usually anywhere from six months to two years. This shelter is a 'transition' between homelessness and permanent housing.
- Depending on the location, families may be receiving support in the form of counseling and/or substance abuse rehabilitation. There are also often health, education and employment programs to help parents build skills prior to a return to permanent housing..
- Tutoring generally takes place in a common area, such as a family room or dining area. Some locations have computers and internet access, while others don't.
- Most transitional shelters have one-on-one tutoring during after school hours until around 7:30 p.m. Some transitional shelters also offer group tutoring.

### General Guidelines and Protocols:

- Every location will have its own regulations. Remember that tutors are guests and should obey rules set by staff.
- Always tutor in view of staff or another tutor in a public location. Tutoring should not take place in the family's private room(s).

### Tutoring Tips:

- Expect high turnover at emergency shelter locations; often students will vary on a week-to-week basis.
- At transitional shelters, it is beneficial for tutors to help students establish a consistent routine, since they might be coming directly from the more chaotic emergency shelter environment. It is especially important to be on time and prepared every week.
- It is important to set both short and long-term goals for students in transitional shelters. Work with emergency shelter students on short-term goals.
- See the School on Wheels Volunteer Resources page for general tips.