

## COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

### DIVISION OF CODES AND STANDARDS

Notice of Readoption

Emergency Shelters for the Homeless

Readoption: N.J.A.C. 5:15

Authority: N.J.S.A. 55:13C-5

Authorized By: Jacquelyn A. Suárez, Commissioner, Department of Community Affairs

Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

New Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2031.

**Take notice** that, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1, the rules governing emergency shelters for the homeless, N.J.A.C. 5:15, were scheduled to expire on November 15, 2024. The Department has reviewed these rules and finds that they continue to be necessary for the purpose for which they were adopted and is, therefore, proposing that they be readopted.

The rules are made up of four subchapters. Subchapter 1 sets forth that the public officer appointed by a municipality is responsible for the administration and enforcement of this chapter and that, if no public officer has been appointed, the Bureau of Rooming and Boarding House Standards has that responsibility in the municipality. The public officer is responsible for the licensure, regulation, and inspection of emergency shelters for the homeless.

Subchapter 2 provides definitions and subchapter 3 sets forth the requirements for services to be provided to residents, as well as admission and discharge criteria. It requires facilities with children to provide sleeping areas, access to three meals a day, and referral

services for medical and mental health care, as well as employment counseling. The subchapter also includes recordkeeping and staffing requirements.

Subchapter 4 provides the requirements for building maintenance, furnishing, equipment, and fire safety. Also included are requirements for housekeeping and maintenance of the facilities and for the providing of clean bedding and linens. The rules also provide for minimum square footage requirements for dining, leisure, and sleeping areas, as well as minimum bathroom facilities, and for "hospitality rooms" in which families may socialize and meet visitors.

The Department of Community Affairs has reviewed the rules and has determined that they should be readopted without amendment. The rules are necessary, reasonable, and proper for the purpose for which they were originally promulgated. Therefore, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1.c, these rules are readopted and shall continue in effect for a seven-year period.