![Saranam logo]

Saranam
A REFUGE FROM HOMELESSNESS, A JOURNEY HOME

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2018 FAQ's about the Application Process

Where can I find info about Saranam?
www.saranamabq.org
299-6154 x 101

Timeline:

Applications available (online, mail, fax)	June 1	*Applications due*	*July 27*
Interviews	August 6-9	Notification	August 10
Move in Date	August 15	Classes start	August 20

Who is a good referral?
Saranam is looking for families with people who:

- Are Homeless
- Are Sober and Drug Free
- Can take direction from others
- Desire to set and accomplish goals
- Are willing to cooperate with others

- Are committed to ending their homelessness
- Have custody of at least one minor child
- Desire to be a full-time student
- Are willing to *not* be employed while in school
- Are committed to change for their family

Who is *not* a good referral?
Saranam is *not* looking for people who:

- Are not homeless
- Are sober less than 90 days
- One parent is "in" (committed) and the other is "out"
- Are not interested in being a full-time student

- Do not expect their children to live with them
- Cannot participate in English based education

What if there are safety issues?
Please let us know (either in the Referral Information questions or on the phone). It is important that we understand the nature of the concerns (i.e. stalking, drug connections, gang involvement, restraining orders, etc.) in order to address them and keep everyone as safe as possible.

How do I make a referral?
Get the application (online, mail or fax) and complete the Referral Information Questions. Be a good screener of your clients – we work with homeless families whose adults want to be in school full time (without working).

How does a family apply?
A family must find someone to refer them. Case workers for TANF/CYFD or other programs, case managers, therapists, doctors, pastors/clergy, teachers, or someone outside of the family who has worked with and knows family well are good referral sources. The referral source must complete the Referral Information Questions (included in application) and the family must complete and return the application.

This is a two year program. What does Saranam provide for a family?

- A fully furnished apartment
- Adults earn a weekly stipend
- Supportive children's program
- Supportive community

- Saranam pays rent, utilities, phone, and living supplies
- Gas allowance or bus pass
- On site education (academic and life skills)
- Case Management

Does a family have to pay anything to be in the program?
No. A family will never pay rent to Saranam.

What is expected of the families in Saranam?
A lot! Adults must be willing to work hard in their education and work on making changes in themselves and their families. This includes academic work and life skills classes. Children must be in school and/or daycare full time. Adults must be willing to set personal and family goals that will help end their homelessness, and be willing to work in a group environment. Adults are not allowed to work because their job is to be a full-time student. Adults must be willing to remain sober and drug free.

If I can't work, how do I support my family?
Saranam pays the bulk of your living expenses, including rent, utilities, land line phone, and monthly hygiene and cleaning supplies. You are expected to apply for Medicaid, SNAP (food stamps), subsidized child care (CYFD child care waiver), and WIC. *You are **not** allowed to receive TANF (cash assistance benefits) while at Saranam.* You will earn a weekly cash stipend and receive transportation assistance from Saranam.

What kind of education are you talking about?
Academic and life skills classes are offered on site during the first part of our program. These include, but are not limited to English and Math classes, GED preparation (if necessary), financial literacy, parenting, vocational/job skills, and computer literacy. Adults gradually transition their academic work to a local college or university. Most of our students choose to attend CNM.

I am already in college. Do I have to quit to be in Saranam?
No, but you may have to alter your schedule so that you will be able to attend our Life Skills classes, which are mandatory.

What does the children's program involve?
Our children's program is designed to help our children build connections in their community through life skills activities, homework help/tutoring, family fun nights, tutoring, Mommy & Me group, family yoga, Teen Café, and many other structured activities.

Where are the apartments? Can I see one? What size are they?
The apartments are in the vicinity of Eubank and Lomas NE. Pictures of the apartments are available on our website: www.saranamabq.org. There are 2 and 3 bedroom apartments available and assigned based on the size of the family. All apartments are fully furnished.

My family is different…is that a problem?
No. Saranam does not discriminate against anyone. The minimum family requirement is one adult who is legally connected (and living with) one minor child. If the children don't live with the adult, we will want to understand this circumstance and determine the likelihood of the children returning to the parent's custody during their time in our program. Saranam families come from all walks of life and all are welcome here.

What is the community and structure all about?
Saranam families live in the same apartment complex and initially are in classes together four days per week. There are ample opportunities to learn how to live in community. Sometimes this is about celebrating holidays and events together and providing neighborly support. Sometimes it is about learning conflict resolution strategies. Saranam staff can help facilitate both.

Saranam is a very structured program. We have a handbook of rules and follow a schedule based on semesters. There are specific daily participation expectations of all family members in the program. In addition to the basic structure, families' transition plans provide an individualized program to complement the basic structure.