



Emergency  
shelter

# Do's and don'ts for emergency shelter zoning



## DO's

- DO properly define “emergency shelter.”
- DO identify the unmet need for emergency shelter.
- DO ensure that your zoning code explicitly permits emergency shelters by-right in at least one zone.
- DO identify realistic and suitable sites.
- DO designate sites on a map clearly such that members of the public can determine what properties are designated “by-right.”
- DO use permissive language when drafting (“can” or “may”) in connection with amenities.



## DON'Ts

- DON'T apply standards to shelters that require more than what is required of residential or commercial development within the same zone, unless expressly permitted by SB 2.
- DON'T implement operational standards that attempt to control a shelter's interference with neighboring uses, and don't impose requirements that shelters be located a certain distance from parks, schools, etc.
- DON'T require amenities.
- DON'T limit the maximum number of beds or persons to be served nightly.

Transitional  
housing

Supportive  
housing

# Do's and don'ts for transitional and supportive housing

## DO's

- DO define “transitional housing” and “supportive housing” in zoning code in a manner consistent with SB 2.
- DO include an affirmative statement in the zoning code that transitional housing and supportive housing shall be considered a residential use of property.
- DO review the Code for definitions that might be confused with transitional and supportive housing, and remove or clarify such provisions.

## DON'Ts

- DON'T require discretionary approval for all multifamily housing development.
- DON'T require additional approvals, or put conditions on, transitional and supportive housing that do not apply to similar residential developments.
- DON'T prohibit transitional housing and supportive housing in areas zoned for single-family housing.
- DON'T prohibit or restrict transitional or supportive housing in “mixed-use” zones that allow residential dwellings.