3 Day Emergency Action Plan

Day 1

1. Submit the SNAP application tonight.

Use Florida's official MyACCESS SNAP portal.

Report the circumstances accurately:

Current housing:
Housing end Date:
Permanent residence after current housing:
Monthly income (disability, other):
Disability benefits (SSI/SSDI, whatever applies):

DCF specifically notes that disabled applicants can have different SNAP eligibility considerations.

Keep the confirmation/application number and screenshots.

2. Build one "Emergency Housing Folder."

Put these in a physical folder and photograph/scan everything into her phone: photo ID, Social Security card, disability award/benefit verification letter, recent bank statement, proof of monthly income, Medicare/Medicaid card if applicable, Airbnb reservation showing the checkout date, SNAP application confirmation, any medical/disability documentation, and contact information for anyone willing to help her.

3. Pack for emergency mobility.

She should have one easily carried bag containing ID/documents, medications if any, phone/charger, 2–3 changes of clothes, toiletries, water bottle, disability equipment, and essential personal items.

DAY 2

8:00–8:30 AM — Call Broward Homeless Helpline

954-563-4357 (954-563-HELP)

This is the most important call.

Broward says people experiencing homelessness can call this number for **shelter placement and other housing solutions**. Some shelters require county/outreach referral and **will not accept walk-ins**.

Explain your situation.

Then specifically ask:

"Can you begin a Coordinated Assessment **before I become unsheltered**?"

Also ask about:

- **Emergency shelter placement**
- **Housing First**
- **Rapid rehousing/rental assistance**
- **Permanent supportive housing**
- **Shared housing**
- **Disability-priority housing**
- **Hotel/motel assistance**
- **Housing-navigation services**

Get the person's **name**, referral/case number and exact instructions.

Important: don't simply travel to a shelter

Broward warns that referral-only shelters may **not admit walk-ups or drop-offs**.

Use the Homeless Helpline/outreach system first.

9:00 AM — Family Success

Call Broward County Family Success:

954-357-6367

Their main location is:

900 NW 31st Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311

Family Success provides emergency assistance, case management, transportation/nutrition help and referrals.

Explain your situation.

Then ask specifically about the **Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP).**

This deserves special attention: Broward says Family Success may have EFSP funds during parts of the year that can provide **rent/mortgage assistance and hotel/motel placement**.

Ask:

"Are EFSP hotel/motel funds currently available?"

Don't assume the answer is no.

9:30 AM — Call 211 Broward

Dial 211.

211 Broward operates a free, confidential **24-hour helpline** connecting people with housing, food, financial assistance and other community services.

Explain your situation.

Have them identify **food available Wednesday and Thursday**, not merely give you a generic pantry list.

10:00 AM–NOON — Food stabilization

The immediate goal is:

Spend virtually none of your monthly income on food.

Use SNAP + pantries + prepared meals.

This preserves cash for housing, transportation, phone and personal necessities.

NOON — Solve transportation

If a disability makes regular buses difficult, investigate Broward's **TOPS! paratransit** program.

Broward says TOPS serves people whose disabilities functionally prevent them from using fixed-route buses. The standard paratransit fare is currently **$3.50 each way**.

Call: **954-357-8400**

But there is another option potentially more useful immediately.

Broward's **Transportation Disadvantaged Bus Pass Program** can provide a **free 31-day fixed-route bus pass** to qualifying low-income individuals.

Explain your situation.

Ask: "Can you qualify for the Transportation Disadvantaged free bus-pass program?"

Transportation cannot become the reason she misses housing appointments.

AFTERNOON — Housing Case Development

Now start building the **permanent solution**, while emergency housing is being addressed.

Contact Broward housing authorities and ask specifically about:

Project-based voucher properties

rather than concentrating exclusively on ordinary Section 8/Housing Choice Vouchers.

We are looking for:

- **Studio/efficiency**
- **One-bedroom**
- **Disability-accessible units if required**
- **Income-based rent**
- **Project-based Section 8**
- **Permanent supportive housing**
- **Disabled-adult housing**

The ideal outcome isn't a $1,000 apartment.

If she pays $1,000 rent from $950 income, the arrangement fails mathematically.

Even if somebody gives her $3,000 for first/last/security, she becomes homeless again.

Target permanent rent

At <$1k/month income, target approximately:

$285–$350/month tenant contribution

with the remainder subsidized.

That is the type of arrangement capable of becoming permanent.

Ask specifically about Housing First

This needs qualification.

Broward's Housing First program can provide **temporary subsidized rental assistance for 3–12 months plus intensive case management**. Referrals must come through Broward's Coordinated Assessment process at **954-563-4357**.

However, the program also requires an ability eventually to pay rent/living expenses after the subsidy ends.

At <$1k/month, that could be difficult.

Still ask.

The case worker may identify another program better suited to her permanent disability/income situation.

DAY 2 EVENING

We should know by then:

A. Shelter placement is available

or

B. Hotel/motel assistance is available

or

C. Outreach is arranging placement

or

D. Nothing has been secured.

If **D**, escalate.

Call the Homeless Helpline again and say:

"We called this morning. I am homeless as of tomorrow and still have no safe place to sleep. I am X years-old. [If true, I am a woman/man with a permanent disability.] What is the specific plan for tomorrow's shelter placement?"

Don't simply ask for "resources."

Ask for an **actionable placement plan**.

DAY 3 — CHECKOUT DAY

Before leaving

Do not wait until leave time.

At approximately 8:00 AM, call **954-563-4357** again if placement hasn't been confirmed.

Say:

"My current lodging ends today. As of leaving, I have no residence. I contacted you yesterday and need to complete today's shelter/housing placement."

If the system tells you "you are not homeless yet"

This distinction is important.

Don't argue about terminology.

Say:

"Understood. My temporary lodging terminates today at ___ AM. I have no lease, no residence and nowhere I can stay tonight. What do I need to do immediately upon checkout to activate the appropriate homeless-services assessment?"

Then follow their procedure.

If afternoon arrives and there is STILL no shelter

Call:

954-563-4357

and

211

again.

Explain explicitly:

"I am now homeless. [If true, I am a woman/man with a permanent disability.] I have nowhere safe to sleep tonight."

That is materially different from calling and saying: "We're looking for affordable housing."

We need them to understand that this is **same-day shelter need**.

What NOT to do

Do not burn through the little money you have by repeatedly extending an Airbnb or temporary paid shelter **without simultaneously entering the homeless-services system**.

However, if someone—church, family member, friend, donor—can pay for **another 2–7 Airbnb/motel nights**, seriously consider doing it **after confirming that doing so will not interfere with eligibility or assessment for the particular housing program being pursued**.

A few hundred dollars could provide valuable breathing room.

But you don't want a well-intentioned hotel payment inadvertently changing how a program classifies her housing situation.

Ask the Coordinated Entry worker before extending it.

Your three objectives for the next 3 days:

Objective #1 — Do not sleep outside.

Homeless Helpline: **954-563-4357**

Objective #2 — She stops using your <$1k income check for food.

SNAP + 211 + pantries + church food assistance.

Objective #3 — Every dollar of housing assistance moves her toward sustainable housing.

Not: **<$1k income → $1,000 rent.**

But eventually something closer to:

<$1k income
– $285–$350 subsidized rent
– minimal food expense

− subsidized transportation
− basic expenses
= **sustainable living situation.**

That's the endgame.