
Subject: Re: Housing
From: Eric Jones <eric@recovery-compass.org>
To: Nuha Sayegh <nuha@recovery-compass.org>
Date Sent: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 1:25:13 PM GMT-07:00
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Subject: Quick distinction — A vs B vs C, and why A gets you to housing fastest

Nuha,

You're right that all three aim at the same thing: make landlords say "yes" without dragging you through headaches. The difference is how much we do now versus later.

Simple breakdown

- A = CSS now + CalFresh online now. Maximum paper trail today (CSS case + benefits pending) that many landlords accept as proof of income. Minimal intrusion; phone/online only.
- B = CSS now; CalFresh later if needed. Paper trail starts today (CSS), but one less document for landlords. If a landlord asks for more proof, we add CalFresh then.
- C = No filings today; housing only. Fastest emotionally, but weakest documentation. Some landlords still say "yes" using paystubs + DCFS note; others will stall until they see a CSS case number.

Why A is the fastest path to approvals

- Two official signals in one day ("CSS case initiated" + "CalFresh pending") plus the father's paystubs create enough proof for many landlords to approve immediately. No lines, no monitoring, no tests—just documentation.

What I'm doing now (since you chose A)

- Filing CSS intake with paystubs attached; sending you the 10-minute checklist (names/DOBs/SSN/current address/father's contact).
- Preparing a one-paragraph note for Tyler to add to DCFS: "Housing stability need; paystubs on file; CSS initiated today."
- Submitting CalFresh online and requesting a phone interview window (no office visit unless you choose).
- Using "CSS + CalFresh pending + paystubs" in the Housing Advocate Packet and pushing vetted rentals today.

What I need from you (fast)

- Reply with the checklist items if any are missing.
- If you call Tyler: "Please add a case note that we initiated CSS today to stabilize housing and confirm receipt of the father's paystubs."

Next milestones today

- Send first housing options aligned to your priorities; begin applications.
- Share your CSS case number and CalFresh confirmation once issued; I'll include them in landlord packets.

Bottom line

- A gives us the strongest documentation today without lines or surveillance. That's the practical difference: approvals now versus "maybe later." I'll keep this light and focused so you and Mia stay out of the churn.

—Eric