



## **Prioritization Standards for CoC Program-funded Rapid Re-Housing Projects**

- Purpose** This document outlines the prioritization standards and process for CoC Program-funded Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) projects in the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC).
- History** Since the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has not yet released prioritization standards for CoC Program-funded RRH projects, as they have with Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) projects, Continua of Care (CoCs) are responsible for developing their own.
- The TX BoS CoC staff researched prioritization, in general, and prioritization standards for Rapid Re-Housing, specifically. Prioritization is a powerful tool that ensures that limited resources are going to the households with the highest needs.
- A [SNAPS In Focus](#) article states, “Rapid re-housing should prioritize people with more challenges, including those with no income, poor employment prospects, troubled rental histories, and criminal records.”
- Another [SNAPS In Focus](#) article states, “The most important thing that communities can do to maximize resources is to ensure that all homelessness assistance is prioritized for homeless households with the highest needs.”
- The [Coordinated Entry Policy Brief](#) states, “HUD has determined that an effective coordinated entry process ensures that people with the greatest needs receive priority for any type of housing and homeless assistance available in the CoC, including PSH, Rapid Rehousing (RRH), and other interventions” (1).
- Proposal** The TX BoS CoC agrees with HUD that people with the greatest needs must receive priority for any type of housing and homeless assistance available in the CoC. Therefore, the TX BoS CoC proposes prioritizing households experiencing homelessness with the following characteristics for CoC Program-funded RRH:
- Households with the highest service needs
  - Households sleeping in an unsheltered sleeping location
  - Households with the longest history of homelessness
  - Households with the earliest enrollment date in HMIS or an HMIS comparable database



**Procedure** Rapid Re-Housing is matched to households that receive a total score between 4 and 7 on the VI-SPDAT or 4 and 8 on the F-VI-SPDAT. The following outlines the procedure for determining which household a CoC Program-funded RRH project must contact to fill an availability:

1. Either by using the Housing Priority List or the project referral functionality in HMIS, identify the households with the highest total score. The higher the total VI-SPDAT or F-VI-SPDAT score, the higher the service need. The total score is obtained upon completion of administering the VI-SPDAT or F-VI-SPDAT.
2. Of the households with the highest total score, identify those households sleeping in an unsheltered location. The unsheltered sleeping location is determined by the response to question 1 of the VI-SPDAT version 2 or question 5 of the F-VI-SPDAT version 2.
3. Of the households with the highest total score and those sleeping in an unsheltered location, identify the households that have experienced homelessness the longest. Length of time homeless is based on question 2 of the VI-SPDAT version 2 or question 6 of the F-VI-SPDAT. Additional homelessness history documented within HMIS will also be utilized to document this length of time.
4. Of the households with the highest total score, sleeping in an unsheltered location, and having experienced homelessness the longest, identify the household(s) with the date of first enrollment, or when the household first presented for assistance anywhere in the TX BoS CoC, giving priority to the oldest enrollment.

**Example** A project has an opening for a single adult in their project. The project accesses their referral list in HMIS. They have 40 referrals. 20 households referred scored a 7 on the VI-SDPAT. 6 households referred sleep in an unsheltered location. 2 households referred have experienced 15 years of homelessness. 1 household was first enrolled into a program in HMIS in 2001; the other in 2006. The project will contact the household that score a 7, is sleeping in an unsheltered location, has experienced homelessness for 15 years, and first accessed services in the TX BoS CoC in 2001.

**Exceptions** There may be instances in which a household with a score within the PSH range is referred to a Rapid Re-Housing project; the household may be experiencing chronic homelessness. Per the Coordinated Entry Written Standards, a household that scores for PSH may be referred to a RRH project. The project will follow the RRH prioritization standards, which means, in all likelihood, the household that scored for PSH will be prioritized above households that scored for RRH.



**Example**

A project has an opening for a single adult in their project. The project accesses their referral list in HMIS. They have 40 referrals. 1 household referred scored a 12. Therefore, this household is prioritized for assistance, i.e., offered the availability.

**Deadline**

CoC Program-funded Rapid Re-Housing projects must start utilizing these standards as of 08/01/2017.