Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care
Coordinated Entry Prioritization Standards
Version 3.0

Prioritization Standards

CoC Program-funded Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) projects must adhere to the prioritization standards adopted by the TX BoSCoC Board. The prioritization standards for each project type are described below:

CoC Program-Funded Rapid Re-Housing

The TX BoS CoC agrees with HUD that people with more severe service needs and levels of vulnerability should be prioritized for housing and homeless assistance available in the CoC, before those with less severe service needs and lower levels of vulnerability. This will assist households most likely to pass away on the streets, while not screening people out of receiving assistance. Therefore, the CoC Program-funded RRH projects in the TX BoS CoC must prioritize households experiencing homelessness with the following characteristics:

- 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

RRH is matched to households that receive a total score between 4 and 7 on the VI-SPDAT version 2 or between 4 and 8 on the F-VI-SPDAT version 2. The following outlines the procedure for determining which household a CoC Program-funded RRH project must contact to fill an availability.

1. Using either the Housing Priority List or the provider 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. Additional homelessness statuses documented within HMIS through enrollments may also be utilized to determine the households sleeping location.

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 through enrollments may 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 in any services in HMIS, or when the household first presented for assistance anywhere in the TX BoS CoC, giving priority to the oldest enrollment. This can be found through the household's client profile within HMIS by reviewing the household's services history.

The project with the opening contacts the household with the highest total score, sleeping in an unsheltered location, having experienced homelessness the longest, and with the oldest enrollment to offer their housing and services to that household.

There may be instances in which a household with a score within the PSH range is referred to an RRH project. For instance, the household may be experiencing chronic homelessness. According to the TX BoS CoC Written Standards for Service Delivery, a household that scores for PSH may be referred to a RRH project. The project will follow the RRH prioritization standards, which means the household that scored for PSH will be prioritized above households that scored for RRH.

CoC Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness Funded Rapid Re-Housing

In 2022, HUD released a package of resources to address unsheltered homelessness and homeless encampments, including funds set aside specifically to address homelessness in rural communities. Coordinated Entry prioritization for Rapid Re-Housing projects awarded with this funding will prioritize unsheltered households first, using the following prioritization characteristics:

- Households sleeping in an unsheltered sleeping location
- Households with the highest service needs
- Households with the longest history of homelessness
- Households with the earliest enrollment date in HMIS or an HMIS-comparable database

Rapid Re-Housing projects funded by the CoC Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness will apply these specified prioritization standards using the following process. RRH is matched to households that receive a total score between 4 and 7 on the VI-SPDAT version 2 or between 4 and 8 on the F-VI-SPDAT version 2. The following outlines the procedure for determining which household a CoC Program-funded RRH project must contact to fill an availability.

1. Using the Housing Priority List, identify the 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. Additional homelessness statuses documented within HMIS through enrollments may also be utilized to determine the households sleeping location.

2. Of the households sleeping in an unsheltered location, identify those 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.

3. Of the households sleeping in an unsheltered location and with the highest total score, 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 through enrollments may also be utilized to document this length of time.

4. Of the households sleeping in an unsheltered location and with the highest total score, and having experienced homelessness the longest, identify the household(s) with the date of first enrollment in any services in HMIS, or when the household first presented for assistance anywhere in the TX BoS CoC, giving priority to the oldest enrollment. This can be found through the household's client profile within HMIS by reviewing the household's services history.

The project with the opening contacts the household sleeping in an unsheltered location, with the highest total score, having experienced homelessness the longest, and with the oldest enrollment to offer their housing and services to that household.

There may be instances in which a household with a score within the PSH range is referred to an RRH project. For instance, the household may be experiencing chronic homelessness but there is no PSH project available in the region. According to the TX BoS CoC Written Standards for Service Delivery, a household that scores for PSH may be referred to a RRH project. The project will follow the RRH prioritization standards, which means the household that scored for PSH will be prioritized above households that scored for RRH.

CoC Program-Funded Permanent Supportive Housing

In the TX BoS CoC, all PSH projects funded by the CoC Program are dedicated to chronically homeless households, and the order of priority is listed below.[1]

Priority	Description
First Priority	Chronically Homeless[2] Individuals and Families[3] with the Longest History of Homelessness[4] and with the Most Severe Service Needs[5]
Second Priority	Chronically Homeless Individuals and Families with the Longest History of Homelessness
Third Priority	Chronically Homeless Individuals and Families with the Most Severe Service Needs
Fourth Priority	All Other Chronically Homeless Individuals and Families

According to the TX BoS CoC Written Standards for Service Delivery, PSH projects must exercise due diligence when conducting outreach and assessment to ensure that households are served in the order of priority indicated above. However, if a household experiencing chronic homelessness cannot be found within a PSH project's coverage area after the project conducts due diligence in locating an available and eligible household, the project must notify the TX BoS CoC Lead Agency and obtain approval to provide a unit to a household not experiencing chronic homelessness prior to enrolling in that household.If approved, the project must comply with the following order of priority for households that do not meet HUD's definition of chronically homeless:

Priority	Description
First Priority	Homeless Individuals and Families with the Longest History of Episodic Homelessness, a Disabling Condition, and with the Most Severe Service Needs
Second Priority	HomelessIndividuals and Families with a Disabling Condition and Severe Service Needs
Third Priority	Homeless Individuals and Families with a Disabling Condition Coming from Places Not Meant for Human Habitation, Safe Havens, or Emergency Shelters Without Severe ServiceNeeds
Fourth Priority	Homeless Individuals and Families with a Disabling Condition Coming from Transitional Housing

Permanent Supportive Housing Prioritization Tiebreaker

When multiple households in a region, identically prioritized for the next available housing placement, are also eligible for the same PSH unit, a tiebreaker must occur to determine which household is prioritized first. The housing provider must prioritize the household with the longest history of homelessness. This means comparing the number of days since the household first presented for assistance anywhere in the TX BoS CoC, giving priority to the household with the greatest number of days.

Prioritization and Projects Not Funded by the CoC Program

The TX BoS CoC highly recommend regions adopt the prioritization standards listed above for RRH or PSH projects that are not funded by the CoC Program, such as projects funded by ESG or other various housing projects. The prioritization standards for projects funded by the CoC Program have been proven to effectively end homelessness for the most vulnerable households in communities across the United States and are the only prioritization standards endorsed by the HUD.[26] Adopting the same prioritization standards regardless of funding source streamlines and standardizes the system, which ultimately creates less work for staff and the local CE process. Regions choose the prioritization standards for their local CE process and outline these in their regional CE policies and procedures.

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[1] United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2016). *Notice CPD-16-11: Notice on Prioritizing Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness and Other Vulnerable Homeless Persons in Permanent Supportive Housing*. https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/notice-cpd-16-11-prioritizing-persons- experiencing-chronic homelessness-and-other-vulnerable-homeless-persons-in-psh.pdf

[2] United StatesDepartment ofHousing andUrbanDevelopment.(2016). *Flowchart of HUD's Definition of Chronic Homelessness*. https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Flowchart-of-HUDs-Definition-of- Chronic Homelessness.pdf

[3] Equal Access To Housing in HUD Programs Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity. 77 Fed. Reg. 5662 (February 3, 2012) (to be codified at 24 C.F.R. pt. 5, 200, 203, 236, 400, 570, 574, 882, 891, and 982) https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/EqualAccess_FinalRule_2.3.12.pdf

[4] This is determined by Questions 2 and 3 on the VI-SPDAT version 2 and questions 6 and 7 on the F-VI-SPDAT version 2.

[5] This Is determined by the total VI-SPDAT or F-VI-SPDAT score; the higher the score, the more vulnerable, hence, more in need of services.