



## Written Standard

### Orders of Priority for Dedicated and Prioritized Permanent Supportive Housing Beds (adopted by Funder Alignment Committee on October 26)

The Seattle-King County Continuum of Care requires all HUD Continuum of Care Program-funded permanent supportive housing projects to follow this order of priority when selecting participants for housing and in a manner consistent with their current grant agreement. This document is part of the Seattle-King County Continuum of Care.

#### Order of Priority in CoC Program-funded Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Beds Dedicated to Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness and Permanent Supportive Housing Prioritized for Occupancy by Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness

<p>First Priority</p>	<p><b>Chronically Homeless Individuals and Families with the <u>Longest History of Homelessness and with the Most Severe Service Needs.</u></b></p> <p>A chronically homeless individual or head of household as defined in 24 CFR 578.3 for whom both of the following are true:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The chronically homeless individual or head of household of a family has been homeless and living in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter for at least 12 months either continuously or on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years, where the cumulative total length of the four occasions equals at least 12 months; and</li> <li>ii. The CoC or CoC Program recipient has identified the chronically homeless individual or head of household, who meets all of the criteria in paragraph (1) of the definition for chronically homeless, of the family as having severe service needs</li> </ul>
<p>Second Priority</p>	<p><b>Chronically Homeless Individuals and Families with the <u>Longest History of Homelessness</u></b></p> <p>A chronically homeless individual or head of household as defined in 24 CFR 578.3 for whom both of the following are true:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The chronically homeless individual or head of household of a family has been homeless and living in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter for at least 12 months either continuously or on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years, where the cumulative total length of the four occasions equals at least 12 months; and,</li> </ul>

	<p><b>ii.</b> The CoC or CoC program recipient has <b>not</b> identified the chronically homeless individual or the head of household, who meets all of the criteria in paragraph (1) of the definition for chronically homeless, of the family as having severe service needs.</p>
Third Priority	<p><b>Chronically Homeless Individuals and Families with the <u>Most Severe Service Needs</u></b></p> <p>A chronically homeless individual or head of household as defined in 24 CFR 578.3 for whom both of the following are true:</p> <p><b>i.</b> The chronically homeless individual or head of household of a family has been homeless and living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years, where the total length of those separate occasions equals less than one year; and</p> <p><b>ii.</b> The CoC or CoC program recipient has identified the chronically homeless individual or the head of household, who meets all of the criteria in paragraph (1) of the definition for chronically homeless, of the family as having severe service needs.</p>
Fourth Priority	<p><b>All <u>Other</u> Chronically Homeless Individuals and Families</b></p> <p>A chronically homeless individual or head of household as defined in 24 CFR 578.3 for whom both of the following are true:</p> <p><b>i.</b> The chronically homeless individual or head of household of a family has been homeless and living in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter for on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years, where the cumulative total length the four occasions is <b>less than</b> 12 months; and</p> <p><b>ii.</b> The CoC or CoC program recipient has <b>not</b> identified the chronically homeless individual or the head of household, who meets all of the criteria in paragraph (1) of the definition for chronically homeless, of the family as having severe service needs.</p>

Notes:

- Recipients of CoC Program-funded PSH should follow the order of priority above while also considering the goals and any identified target populations served by the project.
- Where a recipient of CoC Program-funded PSH beds that are dedicated or prioritized is not able to identify chronically homeless individuals and families, the order of priority below, for Permanent Supportive Housing Beds Not Dedicated or Prioritized for Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness, may be followed.
- Recipients of CoC Program-funded PSH must exercise due diligence when conducting outreach and assessment to ensure that persons are served in the order of priority. Some persons, particularly those living on the streets or in places not meant for human habitation, might require significant engagement and contacts prior to their entering housing and recipients are not required to keep units remain vacant where there are persons who meet a higher priority within the CoC and who have not yet accepted the PSH opportunities offered to them. Street outreach providers should continue to make attempts to engage those persons and the CoC and CoC Program-funded PSH providers are encouraged to follow a Housing First approach to the maximum extent practicable.
- For eligibility in dedicated or prioritized PSH serving chronically homeless households, the individual or head of household must meet all of the applicable criteria to be considered chronically homeless.

## Order of Priority in Permanent Supportive Housing Beds Not Dedicated or Prioritized for Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness

Recipients of non-dedicated and non-prioritized PSH to offer housing to chronically homeless individuals and families first, but minimally would be required to place otherwise eligible households in an order that prioritizes, in a nondiscriminatory manner, those who would benefit the most from this type of housing, beginning with those most at risk of becoming chronically homeless. For eligibility in non-dedicated and nonprioritized PSH serving non-chronically homeless households, any household member with a disability may qualify the family for PSH.

<p>First Priority</p>	<p><b>Homeless Individuals and Families with <u>a Disability with the Most Severe Service Needs.</u></b></p> <p>An individual or family that is eligible for CoC Program-funded PSH who has been living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter for any period of time, including persons exiting an institution where they have resided for 90 days or less but were living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter immediately prior to entering the institution <b>and</b> has been identified as having the most severe service needs.</p>
<p>Second Priority</p>	<p><b>Homeless Individuals and Families with <u>a Disability with a Long Period of Continuous or Episodic Homelessness.</u></b></p> <p>An individual or family that is eligible for CoC Program-funded PSH who has been living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter continuously for at least 6 months or on at least three separate occasions in the last 3 years where the cumulative total is at least 6 months. This includes persons exiting an institution where they have resided for 90 days or less but were living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter immediately prior to entering the institution and had been living or residing in one of those locations for at least 6 months or on at least three separate occasions in the last 3 years where the cumulative total is at least 6 months.</p>
<p>Third Priority</p>	<p><b>Homeless Individuals and Families with <u>a Disability Coming from Places Not Meant for Human Habitation, Safe Havens, or Emergency Shelters.</u></b></p> <p>An individual or family that is eligible for CoC Program-funded PSH who has been living in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or an emergency shelter. This includes persons exiting an institution where they have resided for 90 days or less but were living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter immediately prior to entering the institution.</p>
<p>Fourth Priority</p>	<p><b>Homeless Individuals and Families with <u>a Disability Coming from Transitional Housing.</u></b></p> <p>An individual or family that is eligible for CoC Program-funded PSH who is coming from transitional housing, where prior to residing in the transitional housing lived on streets or in an emergency shelter, or safe haven. This priority also includes homeless individuals and homeless households with children with a qualifying disability who were fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and are living in transitional housing—all are eligible for PSH even if they did not</p>

	live on the streets, emergency shelters, or safe havens prior to entry in the transitional housing.
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## Definitions

### **1. Housing First.**

Housing First is an approach in which housing is offered to people experiencing homelessness without preconditions (such as sobriety, mental health treatment, or a minimum income threshold) or service participation requirements and in which rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing are primary goals. PSH projects that use a Housing First approach promote the acceptance of applicants regardless of their sobriety or use of substances, completion of treatment, or participation in services. HUD encourages all recipients of CoC Program-funded PSH to follow a Housing First approach to the maximum extent practicable. Any recipient that indicated that they would follow a Housing First approach in the FY 2013 CoC Project Application must do so for both the FY 2013 and FY 2014 operating year(s), as the CoC score for the FY 2013–FY 2014 CoC Program Competition was affected by the extent in which project applications indicated that they would follow this approach and this requirement will be incorporated into the recipient’s FY 2013 and FY 2014 grant agreement. HUD recognizes that this approach may not be applicable for all program designs, particularly for those projects formerly awarded under the SHP or SPC programs which were permitted to target persons with specific disabilities (e.g., “sober housing”).

### **2. Chronically Homeless.**

The definition of “chronically homeless” currently in effect for the CoC Program is that which is defined in the CoC Program interim rule at 24 CFR 578.3, which states that a chronically homeless person is:

**(a)** An individual who:

- i.** Is homeless and lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and
- ii.** Has been homeless and living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter continuously for at least one year or on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years; and
- iii.** Can be diagnosed with one or more of the following conditions: substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability (as defined in section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15002)), post-traumatic stress disorder, cognitive impairments resulting from brain injury, or chronic physical illness or disability;

**(b)** An individual who has been residing in an institutional care facility, including a jail, substance abuse or mental health treatment facility, hospital, or other similar facility, for fewer than 90 days and met all of the criteria in paragraph (1) of this definition [as described in Section I.D.2.(a) of this Notice], before entering that facility; or

**(c)** A family with an adult head of household (or if there is no adult in the family, a minor head of household) who meets all of the criteria in paragraph (1) of this

definition [as described in Section I.D.2.(a) of this Notice, including a family whose composition has fluctuated while the head of household has been homeless.

**3. Severity of Service Needs.** This Notice refers to persons who have been identified as having the most severe service needs.

**(a)** For the purposes of this Notice, this means an individual for whom at least one of the following is true:

- i. History of high utilization of crisis services, which include but are not limited to, emergency rooms, jails, and psychiatric facilities; or
- ii. Significant health or behavioral health challenges or functional impairments which require a significant level of support in order to maintain permanent housing.

Severe service needs as defined in paragraphs i. and ii. above should be identified and verified through data-driven methods such as an administrative data match or through the use of a standardized assessment tool that can identify the severity of needs such as the Vulnerability Index (VI), the Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (SPDAT), or the Frequent Users Service Enhancement (FUSE). The determination must not be based on a specific diagnosis or disability type, but only on the severity of needs of the individual.

**(b)** In states where there is an alternate criteria used by state Medicaid departments to identify high-need, high cost beneficiaries, CoCs and recipients of CoC Program-funded PSH may use similar criteria to determine if a household has severe service needs instead of the criteria defined paragraphs i. and ii. above. However, such determination must not be based on a specific diagnosis or disability type.