

Priority Policy for Permanent Housing Referrals

South Central Illinois Continuum of Care (IL-515)

Preamble

The South Central Illinois CoC Coordinated Entry System (CES) follows this policy when serving identified target populations. The purposes are to reduce and eliminate barriers to housing, and to target those with the highest barriers.

The South Central Illinois Continuum of Care recognizes that some persons – particularly those living on the streets or in places not meant for human habitation – require significant engagement prior to accepting housing. CES should not let units remain vacant indefinitely while waiting for a chronically homeless person to accept an offer of PSH. The Continuum Homelessness Action Team shall attempt to engage all persons that have declined offers of PSH. These persons are prioritized for PSH until they are housed.

CES honors funding restrictions of housing projects. For example, CES refers only persons with serious mental illnesses to a Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) project that is restricted to homeless persons with serious mental illnesses.

1. Dedicated PSH Units for Persons and Families Experiencing Chronically Homeless

CES prioritizes Permanent Supportive Housing units that are dedicated for persons and families experiencing chronic homelessness¹ based on:

- a) The length of time in which an individual or family has resided in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or an emergency shelter; and
- b) The severity of the individual's or family's service needs.

2. All Other PSH Units – Prioritized for Chronically Homelessness

CES prioritizes Permanent Supportive Housing units that are not CH dedicated for persons and families experiencing chronic homelessness. Within the category of chronic homelessness, these units shall be prioritized based on:

- a) The length of time in which an individual or family has resided in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or an emergency shelter; and
- b) The severity of the individual's or family's service needs.

¹ "Chronic Homelessness" is as currently defined by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

3. Priority for Non-Chronic Homelessness

When there are no chronically homeless individuals and families awaiting housing referrals through the Coordinated Entry System, CES follows the following order of priority for all permanent housing referrals:

- a) **First Priority: Homeless Individuals and Families with a Disability with Long Periods of Episodic Homelessness and Severe Service Needs.** An individual or family that is eligible for CoC Program-funded PSH who has experienced fewer than four occasions where they have been living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter but where the cumulative time homeless is at least 12 months **and** has been identified as having severe service needs.
- b) **Second Priority: Homeless Individuals and Families with a Disability with Severe Service Needs.** An individual or family that is eligible for CoC Program-funded PSH who is residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter and has been identified as having severe service needs. The length of time in which households have been homeless should also be considered when prioritizing households that meet this order of priority, but there is not a minimum length of time required.
- c) **Third Priority: Homeless Individuals and Families with a Disability Coming from Places Not Meant for Human Habitation, Safe Haven, or Emergency Shelter without Severe Service Needs.** An individual or family that is eligible for CoC Program-funded PSH who is residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or an emergency shelter where the individual or family has not been identified as having severe service needs. The length of time in which households have been homeless should be considered when prioritizing households that meet this order of priority, but there is not a minimum length of time required.
- d) **Fourth Priority: Homeless Individuals and Families with a Disability Coming from Transitional Housing.** An individual or family that is eligible for CoC Program-funded PSH who is currently residing in a transitional housing project, where prior to residing in the transitional housing had lived in a place not meant for human habitation, in an emergency shelter, or safe haven. This priority also includes individuals and families residing in transitional housing who were fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and prior to residing in that transitional housing project even if they did not live in a place not meant for human habitation, an emergency shelter, or a safe haven prior to entry in the transitional housing.

South Central Illinois Continuum of Care Governing Board

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