

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Temporary Housing Prioritization Policy

Justification: People at high risk of developing severe COVID-19 symptoms (65+ and people of all ages with underlying medical conditions, per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)) are at higher risk of death than other people living in congregate shelter settings or in unsheltered locations. Quickly re-housing this high-risk population will limit the spread and impact of COVID-19. Therefore, HUD guidance suggests that Coordinated Entry Systems (CES) support the swift assessment and re-housing of any person who meets any of the COVID-19 risk factors indicated by the CDC.

Coordinated Entry Systems (CES) are designed so that they can be flexible and re-calibrated to address emergent system needs. In response to the global pandemic caused by COVID-19, the current Charlotte-Mecklenburg CES Housing Prioritization Policy must be adjusted so that the system continues to prioritize shelter and housing resources for the community's most vulnerable individuals and also individuals who are most at-risk for severe COVID-19 symptoms.

The following Temporary Housing Prioritization Policy proposal is based upon CDC guidance related to high-risk populations as well as CES housing prioritization adjustments made by other communities in response to emergent need due to COVID-19.

Proposal: The CoC shall make decisions of prioritization of homeless individuals based on the protocol outlined below. Each "Priority Group" represents specific cohorts. Priority Group 1 is considered the cohort for which housing resources should be prioritized first. Using this protocol, Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) programs and Rapid Re-housing (RRH) programs must attempt to fill each housing opportunity (rental subsidy, etc.) with individuals from the highest remaining priority group unless (a) the individual does not meet program eligibility requirements; (b) there are no such individuals; or (c) the program lacks the appropriate supportive services needed for that individual. Programs are encouraged to fill each housing opportunity in order based on the hierarchical criteria listed below, with considerations given to client choice and acuity.

Implementation: Upon approval, the following Temporary Housing Prioritization Policy will be implemented immediately for existing and emergent housing resources.

Evaluation: On a monthly basis the Coordinated Entry Oversight Committee (CEOC) will solicit stakeholder feedback via open meeting and review the Temporary Housing Prioritization Policy for effectiveness in ensuring that the goal of housing the community's most vulnerable individuals and families is being met. On a monthly basis, the CEOC will also review disaggregated data

to ensure people of color are assessed and housed at a rate that is proportionate to their makeup of homeless households in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. Needed adjustments will be made as identified and approved by the CEOC and will be implemented within 5 business days of approval.

Housing Type	Priority Group	Population	COVID Vulnerability Risk Score (Primary Criteria)	Living Situation (Secondary Criteria)	Subpopulation Priority (Tertiary Criteria)
PSH (Chronically Homeless ONLY)	1	- VI SPDAT Scores 12+ - Vulnerability Review approvals	Individuals/ households with the highest household member COVID Vulnerability Risk Score will be prioritized from high to low.	High or Medium Risk Living Situation or Individual is exiting a Q/I NCS	1. Chronically Homeless Families 2. Chronically Homeless Single Adults and Youth (Veterans) 3. Chronically Homeless Single Adults and Youth (Non-Veterans)
PSH/ RRH/Mainstream Housing (Chronically Homeless ONLY)	2	- VI SPDAT Scores 10-11	Individuals/ households with the highest household member COVID Vulnerability Risk Score will be prioritized from high to low.	High or Medium Risk Living Situation or Individual is exiting a Q/I NCS	1. Chronically Homeless Families 2. Chronically Homeless Single Adults and Youth (Veterans) 3. Chronically Homeless Single Adults and Youth (Non-Veterans)

RRH/Diversion/Mainstream Housing (Chronically Homeless ONLY)	3	- VI SPDAT Scores 5-9	Individuals/ households with the highest household member COVID Vulnerability Risk Score will be prioritized from high to low.	High or Medium Risk Living Situation or Individual is exiting a Q/I NCS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chronically Homeless Families 2. Homeless Single Adults and Youth (Veterans) 3. Chronically Homeless Single Adults and Youth (Non-Veterans)
RRH/TH/Diversion/Mainstream Housing (Non-chronic Homeless)	4	N/A	Individuals/ households with the highest household member COVID Vulnerability Risk Score will be prioritized from high to low.	High or Medium Risk Living Situation or Individual is exiting a Q/I NCS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Non-chronic Homeless Families 2. Non-chronic Homeless Single Adults and Youth (Veterans) 3. Non-chronic Single Adults and Youth (Non-Veterans)
Diversion/TH/Mainstream Housing (Chronically Homeless)	5	- VI SPDAT Scores 1-4	Individuals/ households with the highest household member COVID Vulnerability Risk Score will be prioritized from high to low.	High or Medium Risk Living Situation or	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chronically Homeless Families

				Individual is exiting a Q/I NCS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Homeless Single Adults and Youth (Veterans) 3. Chronically Homeless Single Adults and Youth (Non-Veterans)
Diversion/TH/Mainstream Housing (Non-chronic Homeless)	6	N/A	Individuals/ households with the highest household member COVID Vulnerability Risk Score will be prioritized from high to low.	<p>High or Medium Risk Living Situation</p> <p>or</p> <p>Individual is exiting a Q/I NCS</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Non-chronic Homeless Families 2. Non-chronic Homeless Single Adults and Youth (Veterans) 3. Non-chronic Single Adults and Youth (Non-Veterans)

Definitions:

COVID Vulnerability: A member of the household has at least one of the CDC specified vulnerabilities for severe COVID symptoms: advanced age; chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma; heart conditions; immunocompromised (cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications), diabetes, chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis, hemoglobin disorders, or liver disease.

COVID Vulnerability Risk Score:

Risk Factor	Response	Point Value
Household Member is of Advanced Age	70+	3
	60-69	2
	50-59	1
Lung Disease (Asthma/ COPD)	Yes	1
	No	0
Heart Disease (History of a Heart Attack or Stent)	Yes	1
	No	0
Chronic Kidney Disease Undergoing Dialysis	Yes	1
	No	0
Chronic Liver Disease	Yes	1
	No	0
Hemoglobin Disorders (Sickle Cell, Thalassemia)	Yes	1
	No	0
Diabetes	Yes	1
	No	0
Immunosuppressed (Cancer/ HIV)	Yes	2
	No	0
Other Immune Compromised (Up to 2 points)	Yes	2
	No	0
Total Possible Points		13

Living Situation Risk

Once the existing CES order of priority is applied, those with potentially higher risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19 should be prioritized for permanent housing first (PSH and RRH). The following living situations should be considered:

- Individuals/Households sleeping outdoors or in other places not meant for regular human habitation in close proximity (less than 6 feet apart) to others not in the same household without regular access to hygiene facilities where frequent handwashing is possible. **(High-Risk)**
- Individuals/Households sleeping in emergency shelters where appropriate social distancing and isolation is not possible (e.g., sharing bedrooms or congregate sleeping spaces with people from other households where sleeping/general presence cannot consistently be 6 feet apart.) **(High-Risk)**
- Individuals/Households sleeping in emergency shelters where appropriate social distancing is being practiced for sleeping (e.g., individuals/households share separate sleeping areas from other households or where sleeping is at least 6 feet apart from others) but bathing/hand-washing facilities and common areas are shared with other people not in the same household. **(Potentially Medium-Risk)**
- Individuals/Households sleeping outdoors or in other places not meant for regular human habitation, but not in close proximity to others not in the same household yet still without regular access to hygiene facilities where frequent handwashing is possible. **(Potentially Medium-Risk)**
- Individuals/Households sleeping in emergency shelters where appropriate social distancing is being practiced (e.g., individuals/households share separate sleeping areas from other households such as a separate bedroom with doors and bathing/handwashing facilities are separate from others not in the same household). This includes individuals currently staying in hotel and/or motels or in other alternative locations arranged by the shelter. **(Potentially Lower-Risk)**

Sample By Name List in Priority Order

HMIS Number	VI SPDAT Score (Priority Group)	COVID Vulnerability	Living Situation Risk	Sub-population
12345	15 (1)	10	High	CH Family
12346	12 (1)	10	High	CH Single Veteran
12347	11 (2)	5	High	CH Single Veteran
12348	11 (2)	5	High	CH Youth Non-Veteran
12341	7 (3)	10	Medium	CH Single Non-Veteran
12399	9 (3)	5	Medium	CH Single Veteran
12342	- (4)	10	Medium	Literal Family
12343	- (4)	9	Medium	Literal Single Non-Veteran