



REQUEST FOR COMMUNITY INPUT

Los Angeles Continuum of Care Written Standards on Notice of Priority for Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness and Other Vulnerable Homeless Persons in Permanent Supportive Housing

(Insert date once approved) the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) Commission, on behalf of the Los Angeles Continuum of Care, (LA CoC) formally approved and adopted Notice CPD-14-012 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), “Notice on Prioritizing Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness and Other Vulnerable Homeless Persons in Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Recordkeeping Requirements for Documenting Chronic Homeless Status” for all CoC funded projects, including those projects with beds that are required to serve persons experiencing chronic homelessness as defined in 24 CFR 578.3, in accordance with 24 CFR 578.103. The following guidelines will be utilized for all CoC funded projects in these revised standards in a manner consistent with each project’s current grant agreement.

Background

In June 2010, the Obama Administration released *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness (Opening Doors)*, in which HUD and its federal partners set goals to end Veteran and chronic homelessness by 2015, and end family and youth homelessness by 2020. In order to comply with a key HUD directive and to ensure that CoC Program-funded PSH beds are used effectively, this Notice establishes an order of priority to help guide funding decisions. The adoption and implementation of these priorities will ensure we house our CoC’s most vulnerable while adhering to HUD guidelines.

Order of Priority in CoC Program-funded Permanent Supportive Housing

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

For CoC Program-funded PSH that is dedicated or prioritized for persons experiencing chronic homelessness, the following order of priority will be followed:

- a. **First Priority—Chronically Homeless Individuals and Families with the Longest History of Homelessness and with the Most Severe Service Needs.** A chronically homeless individual or head of household as defined in 24 CFR 578.3 for whom both of the following are true:
 - 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

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.¹

b. Second Priority—Chronically Homeless Individuals and Families with the Longest History of Homelessness. A chronically homeless individual or head of household, as defined in 24 CFR 578.3, for which both of the following are true:

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,

ii. The CoC or CoC program recipient has not 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.

c. Third Priority – Chronically Homeless Individuals and Families with the Most Severe Service Needs. A chronically homeless individual or head of the household as defined in 24 CFR 578.3 for whom both the following are true:

i. 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

ii. 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.

d. Fourth Priority - All Other Chronically Homeless Individuals and Families. A chronically homeless individual or head of household as defined in 24 CFR 578.3 for whom both of the following are true:

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 four separate occasions in the last 3 years, where the cumulative total length of the 4 occasions is less than 12 months; and

ii. The CoC or CoC Program has not 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.

¹ Severity of Service Needs. This Notice refers to persons who have been identified as having the most severe service needs. For the purposes of this Policy, this means an individual for whom at least one of the following is true: 1) History of high utilization of crisis services, which include but are not limited to, emergency rooms, jails, and psychiatric facilities; or 2) Significant health or behavioral health challenges or functional impairments which require a significant level of support in order to maintain permanent housing.

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

For CoC-Program-funded PSH projects, the following priorities will be followed for non-dedicated and non-prioritized PSH beds:

a. First Priority – Homeless Individuals and Families with a Disability with the Most Severe Service Needs.

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 and has been identified as having the most severe service needs.

b. Second Priority – Homeless Individuals and Families with a Disability with A Long Period of Continuous or Episodic Homelessness

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.

c. Third Priority – Homeless Individuals and Families with Disability Coming from Places Not Meant for Human Habitation, Safe Havens, or Emergency Shelters.

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.

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

Questions regarding this Notice:

Please provide feedback regarding this policy to policy@lahsa.org by **5:00pm on Thursday, July 14, 2016.**