

NY-603 Continuum of Care

Prioritization Policy- Post COVID Prioritization Enacted August 26, 2022 (CoC Governance Board Vote)

Prioritization: Length of time homeless, locally, has been determined to be the most significant and objective measure that creates better equity to access for housing and other services and acknowledges the intersectionality of barriers that people experiencing homelessness may face. The local assessment further focuses on race equity, trauma, person-centered approaches, and diversion/problem-solving.

CE Assessment: Local Phased Assessment tool developed by CE Steering Committee which includes persons with lived experience. The assessment was piloted with people experiencing homelessness and there is a continuous improvement review process. The Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) will provide regional planning support for this process.

Effective Date: September 16, 2022

Permanent Supportive Housing

- CH Dedicated PLUS
- Length of Time Homeless
- CE Assessment Score
- Dynamic Prioritization

CoC-Funded Permanent Supportive Housing Projects:

All CoC-funded permanent supportive housing projects are dedicated to serving chronic homeless households, using the Dedicated PLUS definition*. All new PSH must also apply to be CH dedicated.

All CoC PSH referrals will be prioritized for households experiencing chronic homelessness for the greatest length of time.

If eligible chronic homeless households have been experiencing chronic homelessness for the same length of time (measured in total number of months literally homeless in the past three years), the CE assessment score will be used as a tiebreaker.

For households that are chronically homeless for the same length of time and have the same score on their most recent CE Assessments will be considered for placement based on dynamic prioritization, that specifically considers a household's service needs and preferences and how that aligns with the services directly provided and/or leveraged by a PH project that has an opening.

CoC transfer request form can be submitted for any households currently in CoC PSH or households enrolled in RRH that were chronically homeless at the time of RRH referral.

For CoC-funded PSH that is also funded by OMH, households must also be approved by SPA in order to be referred. Households determined to be eligible by CE and SPA will be prioritized in the same way as detailed above, within the smaller group of households approved for both.

PSH funded through Supplemental NOFO (if applicable):

PSH beds funded through Supplemental NOFO are dedicated for households that are disabled and currently residing on the street, or with a history of street homelessness and currently homeless. Households enrolled in TH-RRH or RRH funded through supplemental NOFO can also be bridged from TH-RRH or RRH to PSH (using the Dedicated PLUS definition).

All referrals will be prioritized by greatest length of time (in months) unsheltered in the past three years.

If eligible chronic homeless households have been experiencing homelessness for the same length of time (measured in total number of months literally homeless in the past three years), the CE assessment score will be used as a tiebreaker.

For households that are chronically homeless for the same length of time and have the same score on their most recent CE Assessments will be considered for placement based on dynamic prioritization, that specifically considers a household's service needs and preferences and how that aligns with the services directly provided and/or leveraged by a PH project that has an opening.

CoC transfer request form can be submitted for any households currently enrolled in CoC RRH that were chronically homeless at the time of RRH referral and had a history of street homelessness.

PSH funded through ESSHI but not CoC (required Coordinated Entry participation):

PSH beds funded by ESSHI are dedicated to serving the homeless or at-risk population identified in the ESSHI grant application and approved by NYS by each individual grantee. ESSHI recipients must allow for the opportunity to accept CE referrals but can also accept other referrals from other community partners and/or by managing internal waitlists.

Within eligible households for each specific project, CE will prioritize referrals for those with the greatest length of time literally homeless.

If eligible households have been experiencing chronic homelessness for the same length of time (measured in total number of months literally homeless in the past three years), the CE assessment score will be used as a tiebreaker.

For households that are chronically homeless for the same length of time and have the same score on their most recent CE Assessments will be considered for placement based on dynamic prioritization, that specifically considers a household's service needs and preferences and how that aligns with the services directly provided and/or leveraged by a PH project that has an opening.

Rapid Rehousing (Category 1)

- Length of Time Homeless
 - CE Assessment Score
 - Dynamic Prioritization

CoC-funded RRH:

Priority 1: Households literally homeless by length of time homeless (CE Assessment as tiebreaker)

RRH beds/units funded through the CoC are dedicated to serving literally homeless households.

All CoC RRH referrals will be prioritized for households experiencing literal homelessness for the greatest length of time.

If eligible literally homeless households have been experiencing homelessness for the same length of time (measured in total number of months literally homeless in the past three years), the CE assessment score will be used as a tiebreaker.

For households that are homeless for the same length of time and have the same score on their most recent CE Assessments will be considered for placement based on dynamic prioritization, that specifically considers a household's service needs and preferences and how that aligns with the services directly provided and/or leveraged by a PH project that has an opening.

CoC-funded RRH funded through Supplemental NOFO (Category 1 and Unsheltered- if applicable):

RRH beds/units funded through the Supplemental NOFO are dedicated to serving literally homeless households that are either currently residing on the street or have a history of street homelessness.

All CoC RRH referrals will be prioritized for households experiencing literal homelessness for the greatest length of time.

If eligible literally homeless households have been experiencing homelessness for the same length of time (measured in total number of months literally homeless in the past three years), the CE assessment score will be used as a tiebreaker.

For households with the same length of time homeless and have the same score on their most recent CE Assessments will be considered for placement based on dynamic prioritization, that specifically considers a household's service needs and preferences and how that aligns with the services directly provided and/or leveraged by a PH project that has an opening.

CoC-funded DV RRH (Category 1 and Category 4):

Priority 1: Households that meet the criteria under Category 4 (fleeing/attempting to flee DV) of the 'homeless' definition AND live in a place described under Category 1 (literally homeless) of the 'homeless' definition, by length of time homeless (**CE Assessment as tiebreaker**).

Priority 2 (only if no households present as fleeing and literally homeless as described in Priority 1 above): Households that meet the criteria under Category 4 (fleeing/attempting to flee DV) of the 'homeless' definition but do not live in a place described under Category 1 (literally homeless), by length of time fleeing (**CE Assessment as tiebreaker**). *

***This group could be prioritized by lethality score at a later date, if a lethality assessment is piloted locally by DV CE and deemed as a more effective objective measure of safety and housing needs.**

Some RRH beds/units funded through the CoC, including new projects funded with CoC DV set aside funds are dedicated to serving households that are actively fleeing DV and experiencing literal homelessness or are actively fleeing domestic violence and not experiencing literal homelessness (such as staying with a family member or friend in the community, or still living with an abuser in the community but attempting to flee).

All DV RRH referrals will be prioritized for households experiencing literal homelessness for the greatest length of time and actively fleeing DV.

If eligible literally homeless households have been experiencing homelessness for the same length of time (measured in total number of months literally homeless in the past three years), the CE assessment score will be used as a tiebreaker.

If there are no eligible households that are experiencing literal homelessness and actively fleeing DV, the household that has been actively fleeing and not experiencing literal homelessness would then be prioritized, by length of time fleeing, as they would all have the same number of days literally homeless (0 days).

Transitional Housing* to Rapid Rehousing Joint Component

***This program model is unique in that it offers immediate access to low barrier crisis beds (TH). Due to the lack of immediate access to low barrier shelter on Long Island, this may be on resource that can move someone living unsheltered and fleeing DV or a youth living unsheltered any safe and accessible housing options.**

- **Households Living Unsheltered**
- **Attempting to flee and currently living with abuser with no available shelter options (would go to the street- no available shelters or ability to stay with family/friends)**
- **Households timing out of DV/youth shelters with no available shelter options (would go to the street)**

CoC-funded DV TH RRH:

Priority 1: Households that meet the criteria under Category 4 (fleeing/attempting to flee DV) of the 'homeless' definition AND specifically live unsheltered as described under Category 1 (literally homeless) of the 'homeless' definition, by length of time homeless (**CE Assessment as tiebreaker**).

Priority 2: Households actively attempting to flee and currently living with abuser with no available shelter option by lethality assessment (tiebreaker length of time attempting to flee/referral date)

Priority 3: Households timing out of DV shelter with no alternative place to go by length of time homeless (CE assessment as tiebreaker). "Timing out" within this context would specifically identify households that are residing in DV shelters, do not qualify for any extensions and would either result in a household becoming street homeless, having to enter a DSS shelter that did not have any DV-specific supports, within the next 14 days.

Priority 4: Households fleeing and literally homeless by length of time homeless (CE Assessment as tiebreaker)

Priority 5: Households fleeing or attempting to flee by length of time fleeing (CE Assessment as tiebreaker)*

***This group could be prioritized by lethality score at a later date, if a lethality assessment is piloted locally by DV CE and deemed as a more effective objective measure of safety and housing needs.**

Due to the lack of low barrier shelter options on Long Island, any household that is fleeing and residing on the street should be prioritized first for any TH-RRH beds. If there are more than one household in this situation and only one vacancy, the household with the highest assessment score should be prioritized for immediate access to the crisis bed (TH) first. DV TH RRH (crisis beds) are also targeted to serve households that are actively attempting to flee DV and households that are currently in a DV shelter but are timing out with nowhere safe to go, to provide immediate access to safe housing or continued safe interim housing, as well as households that are attempting to flee an abuser that they are still currently residing with, and no immediate DV shelter options exist for them.

Target groups prioritized by those experiencing street homelessness first, and then by CE Assessment score. For households not residing unsheltered, TH-RRH opportunities would be prioritized based on assessment score, and length of time experiencing literal homelessness as a tiebreaker.

CoC-funded Youth TH-RRH (Category 1):

Priority 1: Youth Living Unsheltered by Length of Time Homeless (CE Assessment as tiebreaker)

Priority 2: Youth Timing Out of Youth Shelter no alternative place to go by length of time homeless (CE Assessment as tiebreaker)

Priority 3: Youth experiencing literal homelessness for the greatest length of time (CE assessment as tiebreaker)

Due to the lack of low barrier shelter options on Long Island, any household that is fleeing and residing on the street should be prioritized first for any TH-RRH beds. If there are more than one household in this situation and only one vacancy, the household with the highest assessment score should be prioritized for immediate access to the crisis bed (TH) first. Youth TH-RRH (crisis beds) are also targeted to serve youth that are experiencing literal homelessness, including those that are timing out of youth shelter with nowhere safe to go, to provide immediate access to safe housing or continued safe interim housing.

Target groups prioritized by those experiencing street homelessness first, and then by CE Assessment score. For households not residing unsheltered, TH-RRH opportunities would be prioritized based on assessment score, and length of time literally homeless as a tiebreaker.

CoC-funded TH-RRH funded through Supplemental NOFO (Category 1 and Unsheltered- if applicable):

Priority 1: CH households living unsheltered by length of time homeless (CE assessment as tiebreaker)

Priority 2: Households living unsheltered by length of time homeless (CE assessment as tiebreaker)

Unsheltered TH-RRH (crisis beds) are dedicated to serving persons that are living unsheltered, including those that are timing out of institutional settings such as hospitals, jails, and rehabs for 90 days or less and will be discharged back to street homelessness.

HUD Dedicated PLUS Definition:

1. Experiencing chronic homelessness as defined in 24 CFR 578.3;
2. Residing in a transitional housing project that will be eliminated and meets the definition of chronically homeless in effect at the time in which the individual or family entered the transitional housing project;
3. Residing in a place not meant for human habitation, emergency shelter, or safe haven; but the individuals or families experiencing chronic homelessness as defined at 24 CFR 578.3 had been admitted and enrolled in a permanent housing project within the last year and were unable to maintain a housing placement;
4. Residing in transitional housing funded by a Joint transitional housing (TH) and rapid re-housing (PH-RRH) component project and who were experiencing chronic homelessness as defined at 24 CFR 578.3 prior to entering the project;
5. Residing and has resided in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or emergency shelter for at least 12 months in the last three years, but has not done so on four separate occasions;
or
6. Receiving assistance through a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)-funded homeless assistance program and met one of the above criteria at initial intake to the VA's homeless assistance system.