

Coordinated Entry System Prioritization Policy Revisions to Include New Prioritized Groups

Background:

For people currently enrolled in a Continuum of Care (CoC) Program funded Permanent Housing (PH) whose long-term housing stability is at at-risk, through no fault of their own, given federal action that impacts the CoC Program, the Orange County CoC Board has committed to identifying alternative permanent housing opportunities and resources to prevent them from experiencing homelessness again. As such the Coordinated Entry System (CES) Prioritization Policy is being updated to recognize these PH Program participants and prioritize their continued permanent housing stability by connecting them to available Permanent Housing opportunities. Attachment A provides a list CoC funded PH Programs.

Based on the feedback of CoC-funded agencies and the Orange County CoC Board, current Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) households funded by the CoC program will be identified as a new prioritized group, within the prioritization schema as detailed in the CES Policies and Procedures. Additionally, households currently enrolled in CoC-funded Rapid Rehousing (RRH) programs will be a second prioritized group, should the household need ongoing assistance beyond the term of the CoC-funded Rapid rehousing program and the agency has no other additional resources to support with.

These households will be prioritized with the established CES prioritization schema as stated in the CES Policies and Procedures and become the highest prioritized groups. The Office of Care Coordination will collaborate with funding partners on how eligibility requirements of each Housing Opportunity will remain in place for this new prioritized group.

CoC funded PH program providers are strongly encouraged to ensure that households enrolled into their respective program(s) are in good standing with their program. This includes but it is not limited to rent balances paid in full, active engagement in supportive services, and units having passed their most recent Housing Quality Standards (HQS) as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in 24 CFR 5.703.

Prioritization:

1. CoC-Funded PSH Households at-risk of homelessness due to CoC Program changes
 - a. Households will be prioritized by anticipated program end date from soonest date to latest date.
 - b. Households will be prioritized by oldest approximate date homelessness episode began as entered in the household's current PSH program enrollment.
 - c. Households will be prioritized by the length of their current CoC-funded PSH program enrollment from longest program enrollment to shortest.
2. CoC-Funded RRH Households at-risk of homelessness due to CoC Program changes

- a. Households will be prioritized by anticipated program end date from soonest date to latest date.
- b. Households will be prioritized by oldest approximate date homelessness episode began as entered in the household's current RRH program enrollment.
- c. Households will be prioritized by the length of their current CoC-funded RRH program enrollment from longest program enrollment to shortest.

Note: Page 19 of the CES Policies and Procedures details the prioritization schema, as follows:

- 3. Households experiencing Chronic Homelessness
 - a. Households with a chronic disability who are currently experiencing sheltered or unsheltered homelessness and who have been experiencing homelessness (a) for at least the last 12 months straight OR (b) on at least four separate occasions in the last three years for a combined minimum of 12 months.
- 4. Households with a Chronic Disability
 - a. Households who are experiencing literal homelessness but who do not meet the length of time requirements to be experiencing chronic homelessness but who have a disability that is expected to be ongoing, substantially impedes their housing stability, and could be improved by more suitable housing.
- 5. Households without a Disability
 - a. Households experiencing literal homelessness who do not have a disability as defined above.
- 6. Households at risk of homelessness
 - a. Households at risk of homelessness are not eligible for many of the opportunities prioritized through CES, but if eligible will generally be the last priority group.

Next Steps:

The Office of Care Coordination, as the CoC Collaborative Applicant and CES Lead, will inform CES Administrators of the necessary changes. The Office of Care Coordination will educate the CES Administrators on the impacted CoC Program funded PH programs and provide training on the procedures to be followed.

In support of timely referrals, the Office of Care Coordination reserves the right to have these referrals made outside of a live Housing Provider Match Meeting as it will support households to maximize the amount of time during the application process and allowing for coordination between providers. CoC funded PH program providers will be asked to ensure that households have the most current housing assessment completed to ensure any referrals to new Permanent Housing opportunities are aligned with the households' housing preferences.

Attachment A: FY 2025 CoC Programs

Project	Applicant Name	Project Name	Project Component	Amount
1	American Family Housing	Permanent Housing Collaborative FY2024	PSH	\$1,144,063
2	County of Orange	Coordinated Entry System SSO Grant 2024	SSO	\$1,576,249
3	Families Forward	Rapid Rehousing for Families	RRH	\$686,663
4	Friendship Shelter, Inc.	Henderson House Permanent Supportive Housing	PSH	\$746,453
5	Human Options, Inc.	DV Bonus Project	Joint TH & PH-RRH	\$2,003,427
6	Illumination Foundation	Stanton Multi-Service Center 2024	PSH	\$561,027
7	Illumination Foundation	Street2Home OC Expansion	PSH	\$2,283,599
8	Interval House	Rapid Rehousing Program	RRH	\$302,387
9	Interval House	Domestic Violence Transitional Housing- Rapid Rehousing Program	Joint TH & PH-RRH	\$1,173,352
10	Mercy House Living Centers	Mills End and PSH Leasing Consolidation	PSH	\$689,061
11	Mercy House Living Centers	Aqua PSH	PSH	\$331,413
12	Mercy House Living Centers	OC PSH Collaboration Project	PSH	\$4,328,557
13	Mercy House Living Centers	OC PSH Collaboration Project II - Expansion	PSH	\$2,755,224
14	Mercy House Living Centers	Mercy House -CoC Leasing - Renewal	PSH	\$644,398
15	Orange County Housing Authority	Jackson Aisle Continuum of Care TRA 2024 Renewal Project	PSH	\$478,138
16	Orange County Housing Authority	#1 Consolidated Continuum of Care TRA 2024 Renewal Project	PSH	\$5,636,939
17	Orange County Housing Authority	#2 Consolidated Continuum of Care TRA 2024 Renewal Project	PSH	\$2,446,028
18	Orange County Housing Authority	#3 Consolidated Continuum of Care TRA 2024 Renewal Project	PSH	\$1,189,035
19	Orange County Housing Authority	#4 Consolidated Continuum of Care TRA 2024 Renewal Project	PSH	\$2,904,126
20	Orange County's United Way DBA Orange County United Way	HMIS Consolidated Community Support NOFO 2024	HMIS	\$691,976
21	Pathways of Hope	FY24 Reallocation - PSH for Seniors	PSH	\$258,988
22	Pathways of Hope	PSH for Families	PSH	\$417,475