

# Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness (VCEH) Coordinated Entry Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Policy

## Access & Referral for Permanent Supportive Housing:

Each Local Coordinated Entry Partnership will maintain a local Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Prioritization list. The primary reason for a local prioritization list is that access to PSH is based on having both a subsidy/unit AND services. Service capacity is inherently local and thus necessitates a local list.

The local PSH Prioritization list:

- Will be populated by assessment partners and the local lead agency using the coordinated entry process—e.g., housing assessment must be completed. Only assessment partners and the local lead agency can refer directly to the list.
- May use unique IDs in place of names, etc., for confidentiality purposes
- May be generated in and exported from HMIS, and other households can be added to the list outside of HMIS (e.g., those working with a Domestic Violence (DV) provider).
- May have additions prior to monthly review meeting.
- Is the responsibility of the Lead Agency and they will provide support to manage the list(s)
- Will be (re)generated/updated and reviewed at least monthly by all relevant providers (e.g. shelter, PSH).
- May be included in the generation of a state PSH prioritization list, as needed
- May only be accessed if a Local CE Partnership Agreement is in place. Respective agencies who are part of the local CE Partnership must have signed the agreement.
- Will only include households who have executed a Client Release of Information form.

The local PSH Providers:

- Will use the local PSH Prioritization List to fill all CoC Program PSH openings
- Will review of the PSH Prioritization list to match households with PSH openings considering eligibility for specific services/subsidies and how agencies can work together to enroll a client quickly
- May and should enroll households from the prioritization list in between meetings, as needed.
- Will develop systems to anticipate openings in services and vouchers availability, and review list prior to opening to identify priority client(s).
- Will review of the PSH Prioritization list at least monthly to provide updates on household status
- Are part of a system of shared accountability for enrolling households into a PSH project from the top of the list meaning the top prioritized household that meets eligibility standards
  - There are limited legitimate reasons that can be considered when not enrolling the highest priority household such as household is not eligibility for PSH project, household choice/preference does not match available PSH opening

## General Prioritization for Permanent Supportive Housing:

1. Chronic Homelessness + Prioritization Points
  2. NonChronic Homelessness + Disability, then
    - a. Unsheltered or living in an emergency shelter/safe haven
      - i. Then, homeless at least 12 months + Prioritization Points
      - ii. Then, homeless for less than 12 months + Prioritization Points
    - b. Living in transitional housing (meeting homeless definition prior to entry) + Prioritization Points
  3. NonChronic Homelessness without Disability + Prioritization Points
- Individuals without a disability are not eligible for CoC Program funded PSH. It is also not anticipated that these households would be eligible for most other PSH programs.

Where households are equally ranked on the list, priority will first be given to those who are unsheltered, then those in emergency shelter/safe haven. If there are equally ranked households with the same living situations, (e.g. two households in unsheltered living) the priority will be given to the household that presented for assistance first.

Prioritization Points = Longest History of Homelessness + Most Severe Service Needs

This prioritization policy follows guidance from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.<sup>1</sup>

## **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Prioritization Points**

This information will be captured through the VCEH Housing Assessment.

“Longest History of Homelessness” will be considered as the cumulative time spent homeless (over lifetime)

Mark “0” for less than 1 year of homelessness

Mark “1” for 1 -2 years of homelessness

Mark “2” for 2 – 5 years of homelessness

Mark “3” for more than 5 years of homelessness

Mark Here: \_\_\_\_\_

### Severe Service Needs

The following list is intended to identify households with the “Most Severe Service Needs”. Check all those that apply, include all members of a household unless otherwise stated.

- One or more trips to an emergency room in the past year
- One or more stays in a psychiatric facility (lifetime)
- One or more stays in prison/jail/correctional facility (lifetime)
- One or more stays in a substance abuse treatment facility (lifetime)
- One or more stays in another type of residential facility (including a nursing home or group home) (lifetime)
- Was in foster care as a youth, at age 16 years or older
- Had one or more experiences of homelessness before the age of 25 (adults in household)
- Current open case with Family Services (DCF child welfare)
- No cash income (employment or non-employment) during the past year
- Survivor of domestic/sexual violence or trafficking
- Currently unsheltered or living in a place unfit for human habitation
- Household member living with a chronic health condition that is disabling
- Acute care need (e.g., severe infection, acute diabetic condition, mental health crisis)

Count up checked boxes for Severe Service Needs, Total Here: \_\_\_\_\_

Add Longest History Homeless + Severe Service Needs, Total Here: \_\_\_\_\_

Prioritization is different than eligibility verification. For the purposes of prioritization, self-reported information is sufficient.

Engagement in services is something that is negotiated at the point of enrollment, it is not to be considered in the context of prioritization.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5108/notice-cpd-16-11-prioritizing-persons-experiencing-chronic-homelessness-and-other-vulnerable-homeless-persons-in-psh/>