

Duluth-St. Louis County (MN-509) Minnesota Continuum of Care

Order of Priority in CoC Funded Permanent Supportive Housing, Transitional Housing, and Rapid Re-Housing Housing Programs.

Updated July 2022

Recipients of CoC funded PSH, TH, and RRH programs are required to follow the order of priority when selecting participants for housing in accordance with the Duluth-St. Louis County Minnesota Continuum of Care's (SLC CoC-MN-509) written standards while also considering the goals and any identified target populations served by the project, and in a manner consistent with their current grant agreement.

Due diligence should be exercised when conducting outreach and assessment to ensure that persons are served in the order of priority as adopted by the SLC CoC. HUD and the SLC CoC recognize that some persons—particularly those living on the streets or in places not meant for human habitation— might require significant engagement and contacts prior to their entering housing. Housing providers are not required to keep units vacant where there are persons who meet a higher priority within the CoC and who have not yet accepted the PSH opportunities offered to them.

Chronically Homeless Individuals and Families with the Longest History of Homelessness and with the Most Severe Service Needs are considered for openings first.

A chronically homeless individual or head of household as defined in 24 CFR 578.3 for whom both of the following are true:

- A homeless individual with a disability as defined in section 401(9) of the McKinney-Vento Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360(9)), who:
 - Lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter, and
 - Has been homeless and living as described for at least 12 months* or on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years, as long as the combined occasions equal at least 12 months and each break in homelessness separating the occasions included at least 7 consecutive nights of not living as described.
- An individual who has been residing in an institutional care facility for less, including jail, substance abuse or mental health treatment facility, hospital, or other similar facility, for fewer than 90 days and met all of the criteria of this definition before entering that facility**; or
- A family with an adult head of household (or, if there is no adult in the family, a minor head of household) who meets all of the criteria of this definition, including a family whose composition has fluctuated while the head of household has been homeless.

After chronically homeless families and individuals have been considered, households who meet the State of Minnesota definition of long-term homelessness (LTH) are considered next.

The definition for LTH in the state of MN is:

Persons including individuals, unaccompanied youth, or families with children who lack a permanent place to live continuously for a year or more or at least four times in the past three years. Time spent in an institutional care or correctional facility shall be excluded when determining the length of time a household has been homeless except in the case where an individual was in a facility for fewer than 90 days and was homeless at entry to the facility.

- **Doubled Up/Couch Hopping:** Doubled up or couch hopping is considered an episode of homelessness if a household is doubled up with another household (and duration is less than one year) and couch hops as a temporary way to avoid living on the streets or in an emergency shelter.

- **Transitional Housing (TH):** Time spent in transitional housing is a neutral event. It is not considered time housed or time homeless when determining LTH eligibility.

- **Institutions:** Time spent in an institutional care (treatment, hospital, foster care, etc.) or correctional facility (jail or prison) is a neutral event. It is not considered time housed or time homeless except in the case where an individual was in a facility for fewer than 90 days and was homeless at entry to the facility. That time can be considered time homeless.

After chronically homeless households & LTH households have been considered, the eligibility will be based on length of time homeless.

Priority Populations:

Veterans will be prioritized as follows: If Coordinated Entry scores two households identically in terms of acuity and one household is a Veteran household and the other is not, the Veteran household should be served first. A Veteran, for CES purposes, will be defined as qualifying after a single day of federal Active Duty service, including Active Duty for Training, regardless of type of discharge. Note that this definition includes many people who do not meet the federal definitions used for most Veteran benefit programs and is also much broader than the state definition of Veteran.

Households made up of individuals and families will be matched based on the admission criteria and the capacity of units/vouchers available. If there is an option for an individual or family household for program opening, homeless families will be prioritized over homeless individuals depending on the program type and availability. This is true for youth depending on program type and availability as well.

Coordinated Entry Assessment & Scoring

All Households will be placed on the Coordinated Entry priority list and will be ranked by their score. First, the people with the highest scores will be prioritized (people with the highest barriers). From these households, people facing chronic homelessness will be prioritized. If two people have the same score, the household who has been on the list longer, will be prioritized first. When an opening is made available, the housing program will be referred the top scoring households for the household type. Please see below for score ranges per housing type. The CoC

understands that scores are from one assessment at one moment in time. A policy is in place to override the score through a CE meeting if the needs are higher than initially identified.

Families:

0-3 = Divert to Mainstream Resources

4-8 = RRH/TH

9+ (to 22) = PSH

Singles:

0-3 = Divert to Mainstream Resources

4-7 = RRH/TH

8+ (to 17) = PSH