

**HOMELESS ADVOCACY FOR RURAL TENNESSEE
EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT COVID-19 ADDENDUM TO TN-506**

Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures

In response to the public health and economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 outbreak, temporary changes to the existing Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures are needed to ensure that the CoC's coordinated entry process is flexible and responsive to new information.

These additions and clarifications are informed by the collaborative planning, input from TN-506's services providers in communications with Coordinated Entry System staff, local health provider data, 2020 Point-in-Time count data, as well as current published census information.

The goal of TN-506's collaborative pandemic response is to address and mitigate the risk of COVID-19 for people experiencing homelessness. Our guiding principles and strategies for this response are to:

- Focus on public health and safety issues as the foremost emphasis of the CoC's collaborative response.
- Develop CES prioritizations in an equitable manner to target those most at risk of hospitalization and/or death from COVID-19 using local data sources.
- Provide support and guidance for existing CoC partners as they continue to serve a high volume of households experiencing homelessness in emergency shelters and permanent housing programs every day.
- Prepare to maintain focus on housing and facilitating exits to permanent housing, as needed, and in anticipation of a significant slowdown in housing activities due to possible stay-at-home orders, individual provider location temporary closure from positive cases located on premises to allow for full location and staff quarantine of two weeks or longer, provide capacity being limited by lack of staff, volunteers, etc.
- Coordinate the response using the existing robust collaborative infrastructure of TN-506.
- Engage new partners willing to collaborate and contribute to our shared efforts.

In order to meet these goals and to address the threats posed by COVID-19, TN-506 is following HUD and CDC guidance about increased risk of exposure and negative outcomes from COVID-19 for people experiencing homelessness. The following additional prioritization for CES referrals will be in effect for the Emergency Solutions Grant Covid-19 funding through the duration of the funding period or until further Board of Director's action:

1. Active COVID-19 homeless with positive testing, or quarantined homeless awaiting test results = additional 5 points.
2. Unsheltered street homeless over 55 years of age and/or homeless with underlying health conditions which would substantially increase the risk of hospitalization and/or death from COVID-19= additional 4 points.

3. Sheltered homeless over the age of 55 and/or homeless with underlying health conditions which would substantially increase the risk of hospitalization and/or death from COVID-19= additional 3 points.
4. Families with minor children affected by COVID-19 by ways of sickness, loss of income, etc.= additional 2 points.
5. Homeless prevention individuals or households affected in any way by COVID-19= additional 1 point.