
HART Written Standards for Prioritizing Persons in Permanent Supportive Housing

Purpose/Objective: To enact an order of priority for dedicated and prioritized Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) beds/units based upon Housing and Urban Development Notice CPD-16-11 issued July 25, 2016, so as to ensure that all PSH beds funded through the HART CoC-funded programs are used as strategically and effectively as possible to target chronic homeless and other vulnerable homeless households with the highest needs and greatest barriers towards obtaining and maintaining housing on their own.

- A. HART will support the 2010 Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness to end chronic homelessness by prioritizing non-dedicated PSH beds for persons experiencing chronic homelessness and other vulnerable homeless households with the highest needs and greatest barriers towards obtaining and maintaining housing on their own.
- B. All HUD CoC-funded projects providing PSH will use the Housing First approach in which housing is offered to people experiencing homelessness without preconditions (such as sobriety, mental health treatment, or a minimum income threshold) or service participation requirements and in which rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing are primary goals. PSH projects that use a Housing First approach promote the acceptance of applicants regardless of their sobriety or use of substances, completion of treatment, or participation in services.
- C. HART CoC-funded programs will exercise due diligence when conducting outreach and assessment to ensure that persons are served in the order of priority these individual through the coordinated entry system using HART's approved standardized assessment tool (in accordance with 24 CFR 578.3). This tool is used to identify and prioritize individuals in their assigned counties who have the highest severities need for PSH and highest risk of becoming chronically homeless based upon:
 - history of high utilization of crisis services, which include but are not limited to, emergency rooms, jails, and psychiatric facilities; or
 - significant health or behavioral health challenges or functional impairments which require a significant level of support in order to maintain permanent housing.
- D. Order of priority in CoC program-funded permanent supportive housing beds dedicated and/or prioritized to persons experiencing chronic homelessness and permanent supportive housing prioritized for occupancy by persons experiencing chronic homelessness.
 1. First Priority—Homeless Individuals and Families with a Disability with Long Periods of Episodic Homelessness and Severe Service Needs.

An individual or family that is eligible for CoC Program-funded PSH who has experienced fewer than four occasions where they have been living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter but where the cumulative time homeless is at least 12 months and has been identified as having severe service needs.

2. Second Priority—Homeless Individuals and Families with a Disability with Severe Service Needs.

An individual or family that is eligible for CoC Program-funded PSH who is residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter and has been identified as having severe service needs. The length of time in which households have been homeless should also be considered when prioritizing households that meet this order of priority, but there is not a minimum length of time required.

3. Third Priority—Homeless Individuals and Families with a Disability Coming from Places Not Meant for Human Habitation, Safe Haven, or Emergency Shelter Without Severe Service Needs.

An individual or family that is eligible for CoC Program-funded PSH who is residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or an emergency shelter where the individual or family has not been identified as having severe service needs. The length of time in which households have been homeless should be considered when prioritizing households that meet this order of priority, but there is not a minimum length of time required.

4. Fourth Priority—Homeless Individuals and Families with a Disability Coming from Transitional Housing.

An individual or family that is eligible for CoC Program-funded PSH who is currently residing in a transitional housing project, where prior to residing in the transitional housing had lived in a place not meant for human habitation, in an emergency shelter, or safe haven. This priority also includes individuals and families residing in transitional housing who were fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and prior to residing in that transitional housing project even if they did not live in a place not meant for human habitation, an emergency shelter, or a safe haven prior to entry in the transitional housing.

- E. A HART-assigned representative will review each funded agency's compliance of prioritizing the chronic homeless and other vulnerable homeless households with the highest needs and greatest barriers towards obtaining and maintaining housing on their own at least

annually to ensure that recipients are following HUD requirement based upon 24 CFR 578.103. HART will review agency records for the following documentation:

1. Written Intake Procedures: to ensure compliance with the definition of chronic homeless per 24 CFR 578.3 and evidence of homelessness in the form of the following:
 - third party documentation (including HMIS data)
 - intake workers observations
 - certification from the person seeking assistance
2. Written evidence of duration of the homelessness per 24 CFR 578.3.
3. Written evidence of diagnosis as defined in Section 102 of the Developmental Disability Assistance Bill of Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15002) per 24 CFR 578.3.