

# **Priority Policy for Permanent Housing Placements**

## **South Central Illinois Continuum of Care (IL-515)**

### **Preamble**

Recipients of CoC Program grants should follow the following priorities while serving identified target populations. For example, a Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) project that targets homeless persons with serious mental illnesses should follow the priorities to the extent that targeted persons meet the criteria. If there are no persons with a serious mental illness that meet the criteria of chronically homeless, the grantee should follow the priorities in Section 3 for persons with a serious mental illness.

The South Central Illinois Continuum of Care recognizes that some persons – particularly those living on the streets or in places not meant for human habitation – require significant engagement prior to accepting housing. Grantees should not let units remain vacant indefinitely while waiting for a chronically homeless person to accept an offer of PSH.

### **1. Priority for Dedicated PSH Units for Persons and Families Experiencing Chronically Homeless**

All grantees of projects with Permanent Supportive Housing units that are dedicated for persons and families experiencing chronic homelessness<sup>1</sup> shall prioritize these units based on:

- a) The length of time in which an individual or family has resided in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or an emergency shelter; and
- b) The severity of the individual's or family's service needs.

### **2. Priority for All Other PSH Units – Prioritized for Chronically Homelessness**

All grantees of projects with Permanent Supportive Housing units that are not dedicated for persons and families experiencing chronic homelessness shall prioritize every unit for persons and families experiencing chronic homelessness. Within the category of chronic homelessness, these units shall be prioritized based on:

- a) The length of time in which an individual or family has resided in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or an emergency shelter; and
- b) The severity of the individual's or family's service needs.

---

<sup>1</sup> "Chronic Homelessness" is as currently defined by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

### 3. Priority for Non-Chronic Homelessness

When there are no chronically homeless individuals and families within the CoC's geographic area that can be housed in a vacant unit, all grantees shall follow the following order of priority for housing placements:

- a) **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.
- b) **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.
- c) **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.
- d) **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.

#### South Central Illinois Continuum of Care Governing Board

ADOPTED 4/13, 2017

By Jessie Beaumont (Name)

Exec (Title)

South Central Ill. CoC