Prioritizing the Chronically Homeless and Other Vulnerable Populations in Permanent Supportive Housing

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Presentation Outline

2

- Purpose and Background
- Updated Orders of Priority
- Applicability
- Using Coordinated Entry to Prioritize
- Questions

Notice CPD-16-11

 Notice on Prioritizing the Chronically Homeless and Other Vulnerable Populations in Permanent Supportive Housing

3

- Published July 25, 2016
- Updates the orders of priority to reflect definition of chronically homeless final rule
- Does not include recordkeeping requirements (now established through final rule)

Purpose of Notice: Background

- To meet the goal of ending chronic homelessness, more available PSH needs to be targeted to this population
 - In 2015, less than 32% of CoC Program-funded PSH dedicated to persons experiencing chronic homelessness
- Need to ensure that available PSH prioritized for persons with longest histories of homelessness and most severe service needs

Purpose of Notice: Goals

- 1. Establish a recommended order of priority for dedicated and prioritized PSH to ensure that those persons with the longest histories of homelessness and with the most severe service needs are given first priority.
- 1. Establish a recommended order of priority for PSH that is not dedicated or prioritized to ensure that those most at risk of becoming chronically homeless are prioritized.

Dedicated versus Prioritization

- *Dedicated* PSH beds required to serve persons experiencing chronic homelessness (static)
- Prioritization means implementing an admissions preference for chronically homeless persons for CoC Program-funded PSH beds in a percentage of turnover (may fluctuate)

Both are required by grant agreement to serve the chronically homeless unless there are no chronically homeless persons

Order of Priority: Dedicated and Prioritized PSH

• No prescribed order of priority for dedicated and prioritized PSH

 CoCs are encouraged to revise written standards to include an order of priority based on both length of time <u>and</u> severity of service needs

Order of Priority: PSH Not Dedicated or Prioritized

8

- HH on streets/shelter/SH+ at least 12 months but < 4 occasions + severe service needs
- 2. HH on streets/shelter/SH + severe service needs (length of time should be considered)
- 3. HH on streets/shelter/SH w/o severe service needs (length of time should be considered)
- 4. HH coming from transitional housing (severity of needs and length of time should be considered)

Applicability

- All CoCs encouraged to adopt updated orders of priority
 - CoCs that previously adopted orders of priority in Notice-14-012 will need to update written standards
 - CoCs that did not previously adopt orders of priority in Notice-14-012 are encouraged to adopt these orders of priority.
- For FY 2016 CoC Program Competition, CoCs may receive points for evidence of <u>either Notice-14-012</u> or Notice-16-; updates are not required to occur prior to closing date

Using Coordinated Entry

10

- Coordinated entry is key to ensuring that the order of priorities provided in Notice are implemented correctly, if adopted by CoC
- Will allow CoC to establish a single prioritized list which should be updated frequently to reflect the most up-to-date and real-time data as possible.
- Must utilize a standardized assessment tool

Recordkeeping

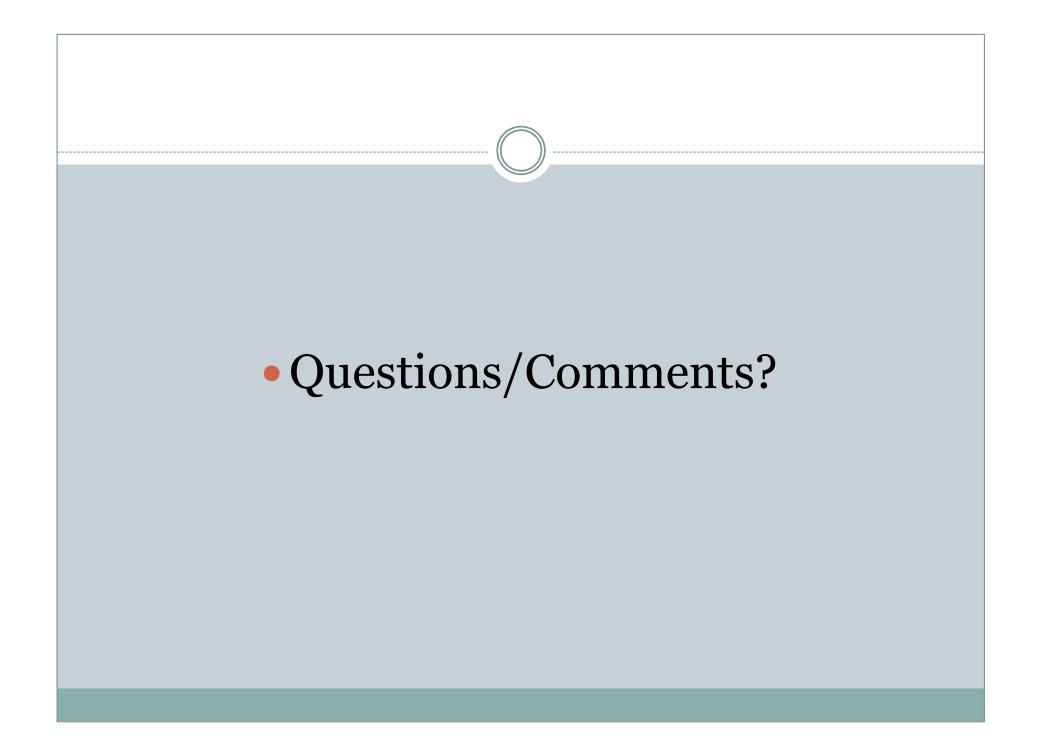
11

Where CoC adopts orders of priority, recipients should maintain records on:

- Written intake procedures that reflect the orders of priority
- Evidence of severity of need
- Evidence that there are no persons experiencing chronic homelessness or no persons of higher priority (recommended for all dedicated PSH when used to serve non-CH persons, even where orders of priority not adopted)

Resources

- Up to date information regarding the McKinney-Vento Act programs and TA materials can be found at <u>http://www.hudexchange.info</u>
- Notification of the availability of future information will be released via the HUD Exchange Mailing List. To join the HUD Exchange mailing list, go <u>http://www.hudexchange.gov/subscribe/mailinglist.c</u> <u>fm</u> and click on "Homeless Assistance Program"
- Submit Questions to the HUD Exchange Ask-A-Question at:
 - o <u>https://www.hudexchange.info/ask-a-question/</u>



PRIORITIZING PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING **NEW MEXICO**

PRIORITIZING FOR PSH IN NEW MEXICO

New Mexico and PSH

Coordinated Assessment
Prioritization Procedure
What Works





NEW MEXICO COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS

Nonprofit corporation founded in 2000; now has 70 member organizations.

Manages the Continuum of Care processes for Albuquerque and the Balance of State, the New Mexico Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and Coordinated Assessment.

Also coordinates local, state and federal advocacy.

Presentation by Hank Hughes, Executive Director

ABOUT NEW MEXICO

- Small population in a large area
- 2 million people in 121,298 Square Miles
- Urban areas are Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Las Cruces.
- Rural areas have unique challenges
- Agencies serve over 8,000 homeless and formerly homeless people each year



PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING IN NEW MEXICO

- 2,415 PSH beds
- 371 dedicated Chronic Homelessness
- 1,737 Prioritized (85% of the rest)
- A total of 2,108 beds for chronic homelessness
- We have 700 self reported chronically homeless people waiting for housing not all of whom will meet the definition of chronically homeless.



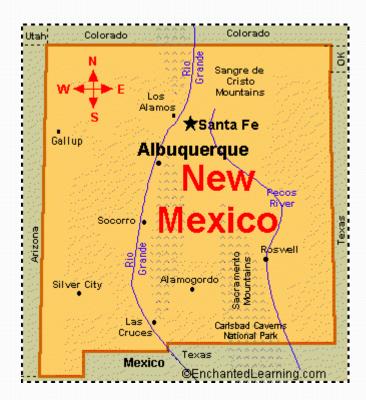
COORDINATED ASSESSMENT

- Statewide System
- Data stored in HMIS
- Uses the VI/SPDAT for assessments
- People can be assessed at any CoC or other participating agency and several outreach points (no wrong door).



NEW MEXICO'S Coordinated assessment

- Funded by 4 CoC Grants with matching funds from the City of Albuquerque and private sources.
- Offices in Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Las Cruces (north middle and south)
- Began in 2014
- Creates a by-name list of everyone who is homeless with over 3,000 people currently on the list



PRIORITIZATION

- Based on length of time homeless (using the HUD prioritization scheme)
- Vulnerability as determined by VI/SPDAT
- Coordinated Assessment staff create a prioritized list for each agency using the state criteria.



WHAT WORKS WELL

- Knowing who is homeless in each community and what their needs are
- Having a statewide system that makes it easier for homeless people to access housing in other communities
- Coordinated Assessment staff can assist the highest needs clients to obtain housing



MORE THINGS THAT WORK WELL

- We can see better where there are gaps in our system such as for those chronically homeless people who are very hard to keep housed.
- Helps us at the CoC level hold agencies accountable to serve harder to serve clients.



NEEDS IMPROVEMENT ASSESSMENT ACCURACY

- People in the midst of a housing crisis do not always answer the assessment questions accurately
- Our short term solution is to allow agencies to house people with low VI/SPDAT scores when they document that the person is more vulnerable than they indicated
- Longer term solution may be a better assessment tool.



DOCUMENTING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

- It takes time to document chronic homelessness and intake workers struggle to gather all the documentation in a timely manner
- Our solution is to add staffing to the coordinated assessment system who will work on documenting chronic homelessness ahead of openings becoming available.



INCORPORATING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Currently victims of domestic violence have the option to get assessed at non-dv agencies which is not as protective of private information as we would like.
- We are developing a system where domestic violence clients can be assessed at a domestic violence agency and have only their need for housing entered into HMIS with a code number.



FINDING ALL Homeless people

- New Mexico is a very rural state and homeless people camp out in the wilderness and do not want their camps known
- Our solution is to expand access to coordinated assessment to as many places where people come for services as possible such as mental health centers and state income support offices as well as targeted outreach.



IT'S AN ADVENTURE!



