

# Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

The TX BoS CoC is seeking public comment on

## Coordinated Entry COVID-19 Prioritization Standards

A public comment period allows for stakeholders to review proposed policy, procedure, and statutory compliance implementation and provide feedback based on experience and expertise.

The document with the proposed time-limited changes to prioritization standards can be found on **page 3** of this document and here: <https://www.thn.org/texas-balance-state-continuum-care/get-involved/texas-balance-of-state-public-comment-portal/>

An electronic public comment form can be found here:  
<https://forms.gle/JYb52SAWCfo3M5cJ7>

Written comments may be submitted via email to: [CE@THN.org](mailto:CE@THN.org), Subject: Comments on CE COVID-19 Prioritization Standards.

This is an **expedited** Public Comment period, opening **Monday, July 13, 2020 12:01 AM CST** and closes on **Friday, July 24, 2020 at 5:00 PM CST**.

Comments received outside this window will not be considered.

# Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

## Introduction:

Prioritization standards are used in the Coordinated Entry process during Case Conferencing and by Receiving Projects to identify and contact households for a project opening. Per the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Coordinated Entry can be used to meet urgent housing needs associated with COVID-19 risk factors.<sup>1</sup> The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that people at increased risk for severe illness include people age 65 and older and people with underlying health conditions.<sup>2</sup>

Current prioritization standards for the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care are found in two documents:

1. [Written Standards for Service Delivery in the TX BoS CoC Housing Crisis Response System](#) (Rapid Re-Housing on pages 35 and 36; Permanent Supportive Housing on pages 44-46)
2. [TX BoS CoC Coordinated Entry Written Standards, version 1.1](#) (Pages 22-25)

Substantive proposed changes include:

1. Proposed as a temporary addendum to the Coordinated Entry Written Standards effective September 1, 2020 through March 1, 2021 (six months).
2. Proposed as utilized by all Rapid Re-Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing projects in the TX BoS CoC regardless of funding source.
3. Proposed as including two new priority factors for Rapid Re-Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing Projects:
  - a. Households Answering "Yes" on the VI-SPDAT/F-VI-SPDAT for "Do you (or any family members) have any chronic health issues with your liver, kidneys, stomach, lungs, or heart?"
  - b. Head of Household Age 55 and older
4. Clarification regarding the eligibility for each project type.

---

<sup>1</sup> Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2020). *Homeless System Response: Changes to Coordinated Entry Prioritization to Support and Respond to COVID-19*. Retrieved from <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/6033/homeless-system-response-changes-to-coordinated-entry-prioritization-to-support-and-respond-to-covid19/>

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2020). *People who are at increased risk for severe illness*. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-increased-risk.html>

# Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

## Coordinated Entry COVID-19 Prioritization Standards

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2020 to March 1, 2021

**Policy:** In order to quickly house homeless individuals who are at increased risk for severe complications from COVID-19, Coordinated Entry will prioritize individuals with priority factors, as outlined in the table below, for all Rapid Re-Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing openings, regardless of funding source during the period of September 1, 2020 to March 1, 2021. At the end of this period, Coordinated Entry Prioritization Standards will revert back to the existing standards.

Project Type	Eligibility	COVID-19 Prioritization Standards
Rapid Re-Housing	<a href="#">Literally Homeless Cat 1&amp;4</a> and VI-SPDAT Score Range: 4-7 or F-VI-SPDAT Score Range: 4-8	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Answered "Yes" on the VI-SPDAT/F-VI-SPDAT for "Do you (or any family members) have any chronic health issues with your liver, kidneys, stomach, lungs, or heart?"<sup>1</sup></li> <li>2. Head of Household Age 55 and older</li> <li>3. Survivor Prioritization</li> <li>4. Sleeping in an unsheltered location<sup>2</sup></li> <li>5. Earliest enrollment date in HMIS or an HMIS-comparable database</li> <li>6. Longest history of homelessness<sup>3</sup></li> </ol>
Permanent Supportive Housing	<a href="#">Literally Homeless Cat 1&amp;4</a> , <a href="#">Chronic Homeless</a> , and VI-SPDAT Score Range: 8+ or F-VI-SPDAT Score Range: 9+	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Answered "Yes" on the VI-SPDAT/F-VI-SPDAT for "Do you (or any family members) have any chronic health issues with your liver, kidneys, stomach, lungs, or heart?"<sup>1</sup></li> <li>2. Head of Household Age 55 and older</li> <li>3. Survivor Prioritization</li> <li>4. Sleeping in an unsheltered location<sup>2</sup></li> <li>5. Earliest enrollment date in HMIS or an HMIS-comparable database</li> <li>6. Longest history of homelessness<sup>3</sup></li> </ol>

For more information:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2020). *People who are at increased risk for severe illness*. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-increased-risk.html>

CDC. (2020). *People experiencing homelessness*. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/homelessness.html>

Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2020). *Homeless System Response: Changes to Coordinated Entry Prioritization to Support and Respond to COVID-19*. Retrieved from <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/6033/homeless-system-response-changes-to-coordinated-entry-prioritization-to-support-and-respond-to-covid19/>

<sup>1</sup> This is question 16 on the VI-SPDAT and 20 on the F-VI-SPDAT. These questions are to be used as a guide and the household's reporting of chronic health issues should be discussed again during case conferencing.

<sup>2</sup> This is question 1 on the VI-SPDAT and 5 on the F-VI-SPDAT. These questions are to be used as a guide and the household's sleeping location should be discussed again during case conferencing.

<sup>3</sup> This is question 2 on the VI-SPDAT and 6 on the F-VI-SPDAT. These questions are to be used as a guide and the household's length of homelessness should be discussed again during case conferencing.