

Prioritizing Families

Texas Homeless Network will adhere to the prioritization standards described below when identifying families for invitation to the Family Trust project.

Family Composition Prioritization

Housing Solutions is committed to achieving lasting outcomes for families enrolled in our projects. Research indicates that housing instability significantly affects child development; for example, approximately 50% of children under four years old who experience homelessness also experience developmental delays—up to four times the rate of their housed peers.

Accordingly, THN will apply the following order to the HPL to prioritize children in the crucial developmental years for participation into Family Trust:

- i. Families with children ages 0–5,
- ii. Families with children ages 6–18,
- iii. All other household compositions.

Family Trust - Prioritization Standards

The Housing Solutions Team agrees with HUD that people with more severe service needs and levels of vulnerability should be prioritized for housing and homeless assistance available in a CoC, before those with less severe service needs and lower levels of vulnerability. This will assist households most likely to pass away on the streets, while not screening people out of receiving assistance. Therefore, Family Trust will prioritize households experiencing homelessness with the following characteristics:

- Households with the highest service needs
- Households sleeping in an unsheltered sleeping location
- Households with the longest history of homelessness
- Households with the earliest enrollment date in HMIS or an HMIS comparable database

The following procedure outlines the step-by-step process Family Trust will take in identifying households for project entry:

1. Using the Housing Priority List, Family Trust will identify households with the highest F- VI-SPDAT score.
2. Of the households with the highest total score, identify those households sleeping in an unsheltered location. The unsheltered sleeping location is determined by the response to question 5 of the F-VI-SPDAT version 2. Additional homelessness statuses documented within HMIS through enrollments may also be utilized to determine the household's sleeping location.
3. Of the households with the highest total score and those sleeping in an unsheltered location, identify the households that have experienced homelessness the longest. Length of time homeless is based on question 6 of the F-VI-SPDAT. Additional homelessness history documented within HMIS through enrollments may also be utilized to document this length of time.

4. Of the households with the highest total score, sleeping in an unsheltered location, and having experienced homelessness the longest, identify the household(s) with the date of first enrollment in any services in HMIS, or when the household first presented for assistance anywhere in the TX BoS CoC, giving priority to the oldest enrollment. This can be found through the household's client profile within HMIS by reviewing the households service history.

Once a household is identified with this process the agency may contact said household to offer support utilizing Innovation Funds.

Prioritization Measures following the exhaustion of family identification from the Housing Priority List:

Laredo Housing Authority will adhere to the prioritization standards described below when identifying families for invitation to the Family Trust project. Using the client list within your agency, prioritize the families using the following tier list.

1. Homeless Families with the Longest History of Episodic Homelessness, Disabling Condition, and with the Most Severe Needs.
2. Homeless Families with Disabling Condition and Severe Service needs
3. Homeless Families with a Disabling Condition Coming from Places Not Meant for Human Habitation, Safe Havens, or Emergency Shelters without Severe Service Needs
4. Homeless Families with Disabling Conditions Coming from Transitional Housing
5. Families At-Risk of Homelessness

Prioritization Tiebreaker

When multiple households in a region, are identically prioritized to be served by Innovation Funds, a tiebreaker must occur to determine which household is served first. The housing provider must prioritize the household with the longest history of homelessness. This means comparing the number of days since the household first presented for assistance anywhere in the TX BoS CoC, giving priority to the household with the greatest number of days.