Developing System-wide Prioritization and Targeting Standards

M AR C Y T H O M P S O N , S E N I O R A D V I S O R
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SPECIAL NEEDS
HUD’S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
Evolution of Federal Response
As our understanding of the problem has evolved, so too has the Federal, State, and Local response

1. 1980s and 1990s
   - The ‘face of homelessness’ thought of as **single adult men** with mental health and drug/alcohol use
   - Programs consisted largely of emergency services and **housing readiness** through substance abuse and mental health treatment

2. Lack of incentives for coordination between agencies both at the Federal and local level.

3. Today
   - Specific interventions tailored to the needs of **heterogeneous sub-populations**.
   - Programs prioritize permanent solutions, and include a **housing first** approach
   - Coordinated planning and funding, focused on linking people with **mainstream benefits and resources**.
The McKinney-Vento Act, as amended by the HEARTH Act codified the CoC-process in order to:

- Promote community-wide planning and strategic use of resources
- Enhance coordination and integration with mainstream resources
- Improve data collection and performance measurement

The Act established selection criteria to use in awarding CoC funding that require CoCs to report to HUD their system-level performance.
McKinney-Vento Selection Criteria

- Success at reducing the number of individuals and families who become homeless
- Overall reduction in the number of homeless individuals and families
- The length of time individuals and families remain homeless
- The extent to which individuals and families who leave homelessness experience additional spells of homelessness
- Jobs and income growth for homeless individuals and families
- The thoroughness of recipients in the geographic area in reaching homeless individuals and families
There are four major goals in the FSP:

1. End chronic homelessness by 2015
2. End veteran homelessness by 2015
3. End family and youth homelessness by 2020
4. Set a path to ending all homelessness

The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) is tracking the progress through HUD’s annual point-in-time (PIT) data
Why Written Standards?

- The CoC and ESG Program interim rules require recipients and CoCs to consult to develop written standards for administering assistance.
- The written standards developed by the ESG recipient and the CoC must be integrated into
  - The coordinated entry process, and
  - Individual projects’ intake and assessment procedures
Why Written Standards?

- **Written standards are necessary in order to:**
  - Establish community-wide expectations on the operations of projects within the community
  - Ensure that the system is transparent to users and operators
  - Establish a minimum set of standards and expectations in terms of the quality expected of projects
  - Make the local priorities transparent to recipients and subrecipients of funds
  - Create consistency and coordination between recipients’ and subrecipients’ projects
Why Written Standards are Important

Without Written Standards

With Written Standards
Written Standards

- Recipients of ESG funds and CoCs must develop, in coordination with each other, written standards for administering assistance.
- The written standards must include policies and procedures for:
  - Evaluating eligibility for assistance
  - Determining and prioritizing which eligible individuals and families will receive assistance
Written Standards

- Written standards should —
  - Be specific and detailed
  - Address any unique eligibility requirements
  - Reflect the CoC’s homeless population
  - Reflect the housing and service resources available
  - Reflect local and national targeting priorities
  - Be reviewed regularly
Coordinated Entry

• Each CoC must develop and implement a coordinated entry process designed to coordinate program participant intake assessment and provision of referrals

• The coordinated entry process must:
  • Be used by recipients of ESG and CoC program funds
  • Cover the geographic area of the CoC
  • Be easily accessed by individuals and families seeking assistance
  • Be well advertised
  • Include a comprehensive and standardized assessment tool (which incorporate the written standards)
Prioritizing Assistance

- Written standards should clearly articulate how homeless households will be prioritized for assistance
- Written standards may prioritize specific subpopulations of homeless individuals and families
- Written standards should reflect local program design and local needs as well as HUD priorities and/or NOFA requirements
Prioritizing Assistance: PSH

- Prioritize the chronically homeless, with a priority to those with the longest histories of homelessness and most severe service needs
- Prioritize individuals and families with long histories of homelessness, several disabilities, and severe service needs
- Notice-CPD-014-12
• Up to date information regarding the McKinney-Vento Act programs, including a copy of the McKinney-Act amended by the HEARTH Act, the ESG interim rule, the CoC interim rule, and TA materials can be found at http://www.hudexchange.info

• Notification of the availability of future information will be released via HUD’s Homeless Assistance listserv. To join HUD’s listserv, go to http://www.hudexchange.gov/subscribe/mailinglist.cfm and click on “Homeless Assistance Program”
Questions

Submit Questions to the HUD Exchange Ask-A-Question at:

- [https://www.hudexchange.info/ask-a-question/](https://www.hudexchange.info/ask-a-question/)

- Please note: Due to the high volume of questions, please read the regulations and the training materials provided prior to submitting your question to Ask-A-Question.