Developing System-wide Prioritization and Targeting Standards

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The McKinney-Vento Act, as amended by the HEARTH Act sets forth selection criteria that will be used to award funds under the CoC Program, which include:

• 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 McKinney-Vento Act, as amended by the HEARTH Act sets forth selection criteria that will be used to award funds under the CoC Program, which include:

• 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. This is necessary to:

• Establish community-wide expectations on the operations of projects within the community
• Ensure the system that is transparent to users and operators
• Establish a minimum set of standards and expectations in terms of the quality expected of projects
The CoC and ESG Program interim rules require recipients and CoCs to consult to develop written standards for administering assistance. This is necessary to:

- Make the local priorities transparent to recipients and subrecipients of funds
- Create consistency and coordination between recipients’ and subrecipients’ projects
The written standards developed by the ESG recipient and the CoC must be integrated into

- The coordinated assessment system, and
- Individual projects’ intake and assessment procedures
Coordinated Assessment

• Each CoC must have a coordinated assessment system designed to coordinated program participant intake assessment and provision of referrals

• The coordinated assessment 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)
Intake Assessment and Triage

• At intake, the needs for assistance (housing and service) of homeless persons, and persons at risk of homelessness, must be assessed.

• Using the assessment, individuals and families should be connected to resources that will effectively meet their identified needs.
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 for assistance (e.g., disability or subpopulation)
  - Reflect the homeless population and subpopulations within the CoC
  - Reflect the housing and service resources available within the CoC
  - Reflect local and national targeting priorities
Prioritizing Assistance: National Priorities: PSH

- Written standards should prioritize the chronically homeless, with a priority to those with the longest histories of homelessness.
- Written standards may also prioritize individuals and families with long histories of homelessness, several disabilities, and high service needs to maintain stability in housing.
Prioritizing Assistance: National Priorities: TH

- Written standards should prioritize individuals and families with heavy service needs to stabilize in housing.
- Written standards may prioritize specific subpopulations of homeless individuals and families, including:
  - Victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking
  - Transition-aged youth
  - Substance abusers

Wrap around services must be designed to address the specific service needs of each subpopulation.
Prioritizing Assistance: National Priorities: RRH

- Written standards should reflect local program design and local needs
- Communities may prioritize:
  - Individuals and families with higher barriers to housing, and higher service needs who are waiting to obtain another permanent housing subsidy (e.g., PSH)
  - Individuals or families with lower barriers to housing, and less service needs who are expected to stabilize in permanent housing with no additional assistance
Prioritizing Assistance: National Priorities: HP

- Written standards should prioritize those individuals and families who would spend the night in an emergency shelter or on the streets without the assistance.
- Written standards may prioritize individuals and families who are presenting to emergency shelter with nowhere else to go.

Not enough is known about the effectiveness of homelessness prevention as an intervention. If communities choose to spend they should note that it is the least proven strategy.
Adapting Written Standards

• When reviewing the written standards (which should occur regularly), consider:
  • Provider feedback on the current written standards
  • Program participant feedback on the intake process
  • The effectiveness and appropriateness of housing and services for current program participants
  • The CoC’s success at meeting the performance standards in Section 427 of the McKinney-Vento Act
  • Changes in the characteristics of the homeless population within the CoC
  • Changes in the housing and service resources available
Resources

- 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 https://www.onecpd.info/

- Notification of the availability of future information will be released via HUD’s Homeless Assistance listserv. To join HUD’s listserv, go to https://www.onecpd.info/mailinglist
Questions

Submit Questions to HUD’s Homeless Resource Exchange Virtual Help Desk at:

http://www.hudhre.info/index.cfm?do=viewHelpdesk

Please note: Due to the high volume of questions, please read the regulations and the training materials provided prior to submitting your question to the Virtual Help Desk.