

EveryOne Home
Alameda County Continuum of Care (CoC) Council
Prioritization for Permanent Supportive Housing Opportunities

The Alameda County Continuum of Care Council, in accordance with guidance from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Department Office of Community Planning Notice (CPD) CPD-14-012, maintains the following priority preference groups for access to permanent support housing (PSH) opportunities within Alameda County. All households eligible for a given PSH opportunity can apply for PSH or a waiting list for PSH when applications are being received. All CoC-funded PSH opportunities will maintain marketing and tenant selection policies and procedures that have explicit preferences and prioritization for households that meet the criteria established below. The CoC will work toward establishing and maintaining up-to-date copies of the policies and procedures for access to each CoC-funded PSH opportunity. In addition, the CoC will promote the utilization of this prioritization among non-CoC funded PSH and document the use of this approach among other PSH in the County.

The funding sources and target groups among PSH opportunities within Alameda County vary significantly. The priority group described below must also meet the specific requirements of a given PSH opportunity to be considered. For example, a housing unit set aside for persons with HIV/AIDS could not be offered to someone without verification of their HIV/AIDS status. Preference for this unit would be given to someone with verified HIV/AIDS that *also* met the priority group criteria below.

If more than one household is being considered for a PSH housing opportunity AND both households meet the CoC priority group standards for Alameda County, THEN the household that first applied for the opportunity will be selected first. In other words, the date of application will be used to differentiate among households that meet the preference criteria. If other preference criteria are also used for a given housing opportunity, e.g., city preference, these preferences may be used prior to using the date of application to determine the household next offered the opportunity. The preferences and details of selection for a given PSH program will be identified in their marketing and tenant selection policies and procedures.

Alameda County PSH shall give preference to households that meet the following general criteria:

- 1) The household meets the HUD CoC definition for “chronic homelessness”
AND
- 2) The household is in *at least one* of the *high service need* groups defined below.

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HUD Chronic Homelessness Definition

- (1) A homeless individual or head of household with a disability that meets the HUD definition of a disability who
- (a) lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter;
- AND
- (b) has been homeless and living in one of these places continuously for at least 12 months OR on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years, as long as the combined occasions equal at least 12 months and each break in homelessness separating the occasions included at least 7 consecutive nights of not living in one of the aforementioned places.

Stays in institutional care facilities for fewer than 90 days will not constitute a break in homelessness, but rather such stays are included in the 12-month total, as long as the individual was living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or an emergency shelter immediately before entering the institutional care facility. Institutional care facilities include jails, substance abuse or mental health treatment facilities, hospitals, or other similar facilities.

A family with an adult head of household (or if there is not adult in the family, a minor head of household) who meets all of the above criteria, including a family whose composition has fluctuated while the head of household has been homeless are also considered chronically homeless.

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High Service Need Group

To be considered part of the PSH high priority group individuals must be in *at least one* of the groups below. No extra preferences are given for individuals in more than one group.

#1: In a 12 month period (verified one or more of the following via referrals from designated agencies or administrative data)....

- a) Cherry Hill Detox or Sobering Station admissions (3 or more)
- b) Hospitalization (medical or psychiatric) admissions (3 or more)
- c) Incarcerations (3 or more)
- d) EMS transports (5 or more)
- e) Law enforcement contacts (5 or more)

#2: High Health Risk (one or more of the following verified by a clinician and/or clinical records)

- a) 60 years of age or older AND one or more chronic health conditions (heart disease, emphysema/COPD, diabetes, asthma, cancer, hepatitis C)
- b) Kidney Disease/End Stage Renal Disease or Dialysis
- c) History of Frostbite, Hypothermia, or Immersion Foot
- d) Liver Disease/Cirrhosis, or End-Stage Liver Disease
- e) HIV+/AIDS
- f) Arrhythmia
- g) Seizure Disorder
- h) Schizophrenia or Schizoaffective Disorder
- i) Tri-Morbidity
 - a) Mental health, learning, developmental, or other cognitive disability AND
 - b) Substance use disorder AND
 - c) Chronic health condition (heart disease, emphysema/COPD, diabetes, asthma, cancer, hepatitis C)

#3: VI-SPDAT assessment completed and score = 8 or more (self-report)



Elaine de Coligny, Executive Director
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