

# City of Atlanta Continuum of Care Coordinated Entry System for Homeless Services

## Policies and Procedures Addendum to address the COVID-19 Public Health Crisis

Updated June 12, 2020

Please note: This is an ongoing and evolving public health crisis; as more information becomes available the Atlanta CoC will recommend updates to policies and procedures as it relates to the Atlanta CoC in response to the public health concern as a result of COVID-19

## **Overview**

The Atlanta Continuum of Care (CoC) is working closely with the Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as well as City, County, and Federal partners to develop and implement a coordinated COVID-19 response related to individuals experiencing homelessness in the City of Atlanta.

During this public health crisis, people at high risk of developing severe COVID-19 symptoms (those 65+ and people of all ages with underlying medical conditions, per the CDC) are at higher risk of death than most others living in congregate settings or unsheltered. Rehousing this high-risk population will limit the spread and impact of COVID-19, so prioritization policies should support swift assessment and rehousing for anyone meeting ANY of the risk factors indicated by the CDC. The Atlanta CoC will continue working with local health partners, including DPH and monitoring CDC guidance to maintain an updated understanding of who is most vulnerable to severe illness or death from COVID-19 and adjust prioritization criteria as appropriate. The science is changing as we learn more about COVID-19 and the CE assessment and prioritization process needs to adapt accordingly.

The Atlanta CoC will use the new CE prioritization criteria for new housing inventory that becomes available for those unsheltered and those residing in the Non-Congregate Hotel through a case conference process. The existing housing portfolio will continue to follow the prior prioritization criteria established prior to COVID-19. Individuals that meet both criteria will be prioritized for both existing and new housing inventory.

Additionally, the Atlanta CoC has implemented social distancing and other precautions as recommended by the Department of Public Health and the CDC. Mobile coordinated entry (CE) access points have been suspended. To accommodate the ongoing needs to assess individuals experiencing homelessness, a remote and telephonic process has been established to continue to allow for those experiencing homelessness to have access to housing resources.

## **Time Frame**

Prioritization will continue until the New Normal/Phase 5 is obtained as outlined in the City of Atlanta's Reopening Phases published document.

"The City continues to base our guidance, particularly in regards to social distancing and appropriate safety measures, on public health and CDC recommendations. This applies to all Phases and recommended actions."

Information was obtained from: <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Changes-to-Coordinated-Entry-Prioritization-to-Support-and-Respond-to-COVID-19.pdf>

## **Determination of Eligibility:**

To facilitate access to the most appropriate response to each household's immediate and long term housing needs and to ensure housing resources are targeted to those who are most vulnerable and/or have been homeless the longest, the Atlanta CoC will utilize the following prioritization criteria in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

<p>ALL Program Models</p>	<p>No additional eligibility requirements can be applied beyond those required by funders or established as a Coordinated Entry policy</p> <p>All eligibility requirements stipulated by funders will apply</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>People 65 years and older</p> <p>People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma</li> <li>• People who have serious heart conditions</li> <li>• People who are immunocompromised <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications</li> </ul> </li> <li>• People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)</li> <li>• People with diabetes</li> <li>• People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis</li> <li>• People with liver disease</li> </ul>				
<p>PSH</p>	<p><b>1</b></p>	<p>Chronic Families</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="932 1675 1430 1734"> <p>Prioritization score</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="932 1734 1430 1793"> <p>Date of assessment</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="932 1793 1430 1852"> <p>Length of time homeless</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="932 1852 1430 1898"> <p>Veteran family</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Prioritization score</p>	<p>Date of assessment</p>	<p>Length of time homeless</p>	<p>Veteran family</p>
<p>Prioritization score</p>							
<p>Date of assessment</p>							
<p>Length of time homeless</p>							
<p>Veteran family</p>							

			High Utilizer of other systems (jail, hospital, institution)
	<b>2</b>	Chronic Singles	Prioritization Score
			Date of assessment
			Length of time homeless
			Chronic veteran
			High Utilizer of other systems (jail, hospital, institution)
	<b>3</b>	Chronic Youth	Prioritizations Score
			Date of Assessment
			Length of time homeless
			Chronic veterans
			High Utilizer of other systems (jail, hospital, institution)
RRH	<b>1</b>	Families	Prioritization Score
			Date of Assessment
			Length of time Homeless
			Veteran youth
	<b>2</b>	Youth	Prioritization Score
			Date of Assessment
			Length of time homeless
			Veteran
	<b>3</b>	Non-Chronic Singles scoring over 8	Prioritization Score
			Date of Assessment
			Length of time homeless
			Veteran
	<b>4</b>	Non-Chronic Singles Scoring 3-7	Prioritization Score
			Date of Assessment
			Length of time homeless