

Ratio Implementation Policy

Background

In June 2025 the Downtown Rising Initiative kicked off in the Atlanta Continuum of Care (CoC). With the launch of this initiative, the CoC adopted the “Downtown Rising Prioritization Policy” and the “Transfer Policy.” These policies introduce a new ratio model for making referrals within the Atlanta CoC. The main goal of this new ratio model was to champion and uphold the Guiding Values of the Coordinated Entry System and to ensure that the distribution of referrals was fair, equitable, and evenly distributed among the general housing queue, the transfer queue, and the Downtown Rising queue. All referrals made must meet basic program eligibility and follow standard prioritization metrics required for all Permanent Housing (PH) programs.

Default Ratio Policy: The 2025 “Transfer Policy” implemented a default 2:1 ratio model. More specifically, for every two referrals made in accordance with the Permanent Housing (PH) prioritization metrics, one referral would be made from the queue of transfer clients.

Downtown Rising Initiative Ratio: In accordance with the “Downtown Rising Prioritization Policy,” the default ratio was adjusted to help the campaign meet and achieve its strategic goals. In effect, the ratio model became the 1:1:1 Referral Ratio. More specifically, for every one referral made from the housing queue, one referral would be made from the transfer queue, and one referral would be made from the Downtown Rising queue. As the Downtown Rising Initiative achieved its strategic goal in February 2026, our CoC has begun to proactively address the future potential of the 1:1:1 Ratio.

Policy

Reversion to Default Ratio

With the conclusion of the Downtown Rising Initiative, the referral ratio reverts to the default 2:1 model. However, in recognition of the demonstrated effectiveness of the 1:1:1 model, the CoC establishes the following framework for future implementation.

Process to Invoke the 1:1:1 Ratio

Any proposal to implement the 1:1:1 ratio must:

1. Be approved by Partners for HOME Executive Leadership and align with strategic goals.
2. Be submitted as a formal Implementation Proposal to CE Manager.

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3. Be reviewed by the Coordinated Entry Refinement Committee.
4. Be approved by a simple majority (50% + 1) of seated Committee members, provided quorum is met.

If the proposal does not receive sufficient votes:

- The CE Manager may authorize one appeal.
- The proposal may be resubmitted for a final vote.
- The second vote shall be final.

Required Elements of an Implementation Proposal

Each proposal must clearly define:

1. The purpose and strategic objective of invoking the 1:1:1 ratio.
2. A defined start date and end date.
3. The defined population to which the ratio will apply.
 - If applicable, include geographic focus and/or by-name list.
4. Acknowledgement that:
 - Invocation of the 1:1:1 ratio does not guarantee PH referrals.
 - Invocation of 1:1:1 ratio does not guarantee move-in success of referrals made or expedited move-in timeline.
 - Referrals remain subject to unit availability, accommodation needs, and program eligibility.
 - All candidates must meet HUD and CoC eligibility standards.

Permanent Housing Eligibility Standards

All referrals must comply with HUD and CoC standards, including:

- **Category 1 Homelessness:** Individuals must meet HUD's definition of Category 1 homelessness.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

- Must meet the definition of chronic homelessness.
- Must meet HUD disability criteria.

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- Must score 11 or higher on the VI-SPDAT.
- Must be document ready (Valid ID, Birth Certificate, Social Security Card, valid HUD McKinney documentation).

Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)

- Must score 4 or higher on the VI-SPDAT.
- Must be document ready (Valid ID, Birth Certificate, Social Security Card).

Case-by-Case Approval Requirement

Each new strategic initiative seeking to invoke the 1:1:1 ratio requires separate approval by the Coordinated Entry Refinement Committee.

Approval of one initiative does not authorize future use of the 1:1:1 ratio beyond the defined parameters and timeline.

This process ensures:

- Transparency
- Equity
- Alignment with Coordinated Entry prioritization standards
- Compliance with CoC policy and HUD requirements

Policy Approval Process

This policy was approved by the following committees/bodies as per the Atlanta CoC Policy Approval Process.

- Proposed to CE Refinement Committee: 2/26/26
- Approved by the Client Advisory Council 5/11/26
- Approved by the Policy Committee: 5/29/26
- Approved by the Governing Council: 6/18/26
- Primary POC: Regina Rubalcava (rrubalcava@partnersforhome.org)