

Louisiana Balance of State Continuum of Care

Coordinated Entry COVID-19 Supplement

Version 1.1

PUBLIC COMMENT DRAFT

Issued 9-25-2020

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# Overview

This document supplements the Louisiana Balance of State Continuum of Care (LA BOSCOC)'s Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures (CES P&P). It was issued in response to the COVID-19 ("coronavirus") pandemic. It is intended to accomplish two goals:

* **Simplifying the Coordinated Entry System (CES)' intake process** to reduce the amount of time and emotional energy that CES requires of both intake staff and participants;
* **Restructuring the CES' order of prioritization** to ensure that:

(1) Non-congregate shelters are depopulated as rapidly as possible;

(2) People are prioritized within brackets that represent both the acute needs of specific populations and the capacity of the LA BOSCOC's resource network to end functional homelessness within those populations;

* **Exempting Houma Region participants from the Intervention core element of CES,** as, due primarily to funding made available under the CARES Act, the Houma Region currently has enough project slots that the great majority of participants for whom Diversion is unsuccessful can move quickly from the CES Prioritization List into a housing project.

# Changes to the Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures

This document implements the following changes to the CES P&P. Where this document contradicts the CES P&P, this document takes precedence.

## Non-Congregate Shelter Residents

People who are currently living in a non-congregate shelter (NCS) that is designated as an NCS by the Louisiana Housing Corporation (LHC) are a special population per the CES P&P § VII.K., "Special Populations." In addition, this population is exempt from the following requirements in the CES P&P:

* They are not required to wait 30 days after receiving the Diversion element of CES before receiving the Assessment element of CES
* They are not required to receive the Intervention element of CES before receiving the Assessment element of CES.

## Assessment

Under the Assessment element of CES, participants will no longer be assessed using the Vulnerability Index - Service Prioritization Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT).

Participants will be instead assessed using the LA BOSCOC Participant Triage Tool (PTT).

## Prioritization

This document removes CES P&P § VII.B., "The Prioritization List," and § VII.C., "Prioritization Order," and replaces them with the following mechanism and order of prioritization.

For each project type listed, participants will be referred in descending order of priority as listed below. Participants from a given priority bracket will not be referred unless no participants are currently present in any higher priority bracket.

Participants in the same bracket will be prioritized in descending order based on their PTT scores. Participants in the same bracket with the same PTT scores will be prioritized in descending order based on their total length of time homeless as recorded in HMIS or an HMIS-comparable database.

Notes:

* “Trimorbid households” are households in which all three of the following are present among one or multiple household members: physical disability, mental illness or disability, and substance abuse disorder
* “Comorbid households” are households in which any two of the following are present among one or multiple household members: physical disability, mental illness or disability, and substance abuse disorder
* For the purposes of Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) and Transitional Housing (TH) referrals, below, PSH openings are determined at the participant's time of referral

| **PROJ. TYPE** | **BRACKET** | **ORDER OF PRIORITY** | **TIEBREAK #1** | **TIEBREAK #2** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Permanent Supportive Housing | Non-Congregate Shelter Residents | 3rd Party Documented CH | Total Housing Barriers | Length of Time Homeless |
| Trimorbid Households |
| Comorbid Households |
| All Other Families |
| All Other Singles |
| People in All Other Eligible Settings | 3rd Party Documented CH | Total Housing Barriers | Length of Time Homeless |
| Trimorbid Households |
| Comorbid Households |
| All Other Families |
| All Other Singles |
| Rapid Re-Housing  &  Transitional Housing | Non-Congregate Shelter Residents | Chronic Homelessness -- only if all PSH projects are 100% utilization | Total Housing Barriers | Length of Time Homeless |
| Veterans Not Eligible for SSVF |
| Youth |
| All Other Families |
| All Other Singles |
| People in All Other Eligible Settings | CH -- only if all PSH projects at 100% utilization | Total Housing Barriers | Length of Time Homeless |
| Veterans Not Eligible for SSVF |
| Youth |
| All Other Families |
| All Other Singles |

## Intervention

Participants who meet both of the following criteria shall not be served by the Intervention core element of CES:

* The participant is being served by a Coordinated Entry Access Point in the Houma Region;
* The participant specifies during the Coordinated Entry process that they wish to live exclusively in the Houma Region.

When a Coordinated Entry Access Point serves a participant who meets the above criteria, it shall deliver the Diversion core element as specified in the CES P&P; then, if the participant is unable to return to housing as result of the Diversion element's problem-solving session, the Coordinated Entry Access Point shall, during that same session, immediately deliver the Assessment core element as specified in the CES P&P.

# Approval

## Approval Process Timeline

* July 2020 -- Version 1.0 released for public comment
* July 2020 -- Version 1.0 approved by Coordinated Entry Committee
* July 2020 -- Version 1.0 approved by Board
* 9/25/2020 -- Version 1.1 released for public comment
* TBD -- Version 1.1 approved by Coordinated Entry Committee
* TBD -- Version 1.1 approved by Board

## Signature

For this document to take effect, it must bear the signature of either the Board Chair or Board Vice Chair.

This document is effective as of the date on its first page, not as of the date of this page's authorizing signature. This document's effective date cannot be earlier than the date of this page's authorizing signature.

By signing below, the signatory certifies that this document has been reviewed and approved for release according to the procedures of both the LA BOSCOC Coordinated Entry Committee and the LA BOSCOC Board. If the signatory is the Board Vice Chair, the signatory also certifies that they have the authority to sign this document as granted by the most recently approved version of the LA BOSCOC Governance Charter.

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Winona Connor, Chair Date

LA BOSCOC Board

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