

ORDERS OF PRIORITY FOR HOMELESS HOUSING BEDS

These Orders of Priority for Homeless Housing Beds include two (2) parts:

- A. **Order of Priority for All Homeless Housing Beds, and**
- B. **Order of Priority for Homeless Housing Beds Where There are No Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness within the Everett/Snohomish County CoC.**

The Everett/Snohomish County Continuum of Care (CoC) follows these Orders of Priority in filling homeless housing beds through the Coordinated Entry (CE) system. These Orders of Priority have been adopted by the Partnership to End Homelessness (PEH) CoC Board to ensure that the most vulnerable individuals and families are prioritized for limited homeless housing resources. These Orders of Priority are used to fill the following types of homeless housing beds:

- **Transitional Housing (TH)**
- **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)**
- **Rapid Rehousing (RRH)**
- **Other Permanent Housing (OPH)**

Prioritization is based on specific and definable criteria collected via the standardized Investing in Futures (IIF) Housing Assessment; prioritization decisions are based on the following vulnerability factors and assessment information:

- **Length of time homeless, and**
- **Severity of service needs.**¹

Prioritization criteria are separate and distinct from eligibility criteria for homeless housing programs. It is ultimately the Homeless Housing Provider's responsibility to determine and document individuals' and families' eligibility for homeless housing programs.

¹ Severe service needs are *not* based on a specific diagnosis or disability type, but only on the severity of needs of the individual or family, considering: history of high utilization of crisis services (e.g., emergency rooms, jails, and psychiatric facilities); significant health or behavioral health challenges, substance use disorders, or functional impairments that require a significant level of support to maintain permanent housing; and, the presence of a child under the age of two (2) or two (2) or more children under the age of five (5) who are currently living in a place not meant for human habitation, and the presence of a pregnant woman in the household.

A. Order of Priority for All Homeless Housing Beds

The CoC adopts the following order of priority for all of the CoC's homeless housing beds. **Veterans are the highest priority within each of the categories below.**

1st Priority:

Chronically Homeless² Individuals and Families with the Longest Histories of Homelessness and the Most Severe Service Needs

A chronically homeless individual or head of household for whom both of the following are true:

- i. The chronically homeless individual or head of household has been homeless and living in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter³ for at least 12 months⁴ either continuously or on at least four (4) separate occasions in the last three (3) years, where the cumulative total length of the four (4) occasions equals at least 12 months;

AND

- ii. The CoC has identified the chronically homeless individual or head of household as having severe service needs.

2nd Priority:

Chronically Homeless Individuals and Families with the Longest Histories of Homelessness

A chronically homeless individual or head of household for whom the following is true:

- i. The chronically homeless individual or head of household has been homeless and living in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter for at least 12 months either continuously or on at least four (4) separate occasions in the last three (3) years, where the cumulative total length of the four (4) occasions equals at least 12 months.

Where the CoC is not able to identify chronically homeless individuals and families within the CoC, the **Order of Priority for Homeless Housing Beds Where There Are No Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness within the Everett/Snohomish County CoC** will be followed.

² The definition of chronically homeless requires an individual or head of household to have a disability and to have been living in a place not meant for human habitation, in a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter for at least 12 months either continuously or cumulatively over a period of at least four (4) occasions in the last three (3) years. For the definition of chronic homelessness, refer to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's [Defining "Chronically Homeless" Rule \(80 FR 75791\)](#).

³ In all instances where a place not meant for human habitation, safe haven, and emergency shelter are referenced, this also includes an individual who has been residing in an institutional care facility, including a jail, substance abuse or mental health facility, hospital, or other similar facility, for fewer than 90 days and met all of the criteria of chronic homelessness or literal homelessness, as applicable, before entering the facility.

⁴ Priority is based on the length of time (e.g., number of months) the individual or head of household has been living in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter.

B. Order of Priority for Homeless Housing Beds Where There Are No Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness within the Everett/Snohomish County CoC

The CoC adopts the following order of priority for all of the CoC’s homeless housing beds when the CoC has determined that there are no chronically homeless individuals or families within the Everett/Snohomish County CoC. **Veterans are the highest priority within each of the categories below.**

<p>1st Priority: Homeless Individuals and Families with the Longest Histories of Episodic Homelessness and the Most Severe Service Needs A homeless individual or a family for whom both of the following are true:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. The homeless individual or head of household has been homeless and living in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter on <i>less than</i> four (4) occasions in the last three (3) years, where the cumulative total length of occasions equals <i>at least</i> 12 months; <p><i>AND</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">ii. The CoC has identified the homeless individual or head of household as having severe service needs.
<p>2nd Priority: Homeless Individuals and Families with the Longest Histories of Homelessness and the Most Severe Service Needs A homeless individual or a family for whom both of the following are true:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. The homeless individual or head of household has been homeless and living in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; <p><i>AND</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">ii. The CoC has identified the homeless individual or head of household as having severe service needs.
<p>3rd Priority: Homeless Individuals and Families with the Longest Histories of Homelessness A homeless individual or a family for whom the following is true:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. The homeless individual or head of household has been homeless and living in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter.
<p>4th Priority: Homeless Individuals and Families Coming from Transitional Housing A homeless individual or a family for whom one (1) of the following is true:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. The homeless individual or head of household has been homeless and living in a transitional housing, where prior to residing in the transitional housing, had lived in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in emergency shelter; <p><i>OR</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">ii. The homeless individual or head of household has been homeless and living in transitional housing and who was fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking prior to residing in the transitional housing; there is no requirement that the homeless individual or head of household lived in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter prior to entering the transitional housing.