

HCV Homeless Preference & CES Policy

Updated Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Homeless Preference &
Coordinated Entry - Next Steps for Voucher Draws

HCV Homeless Preference Waiting List Referral:

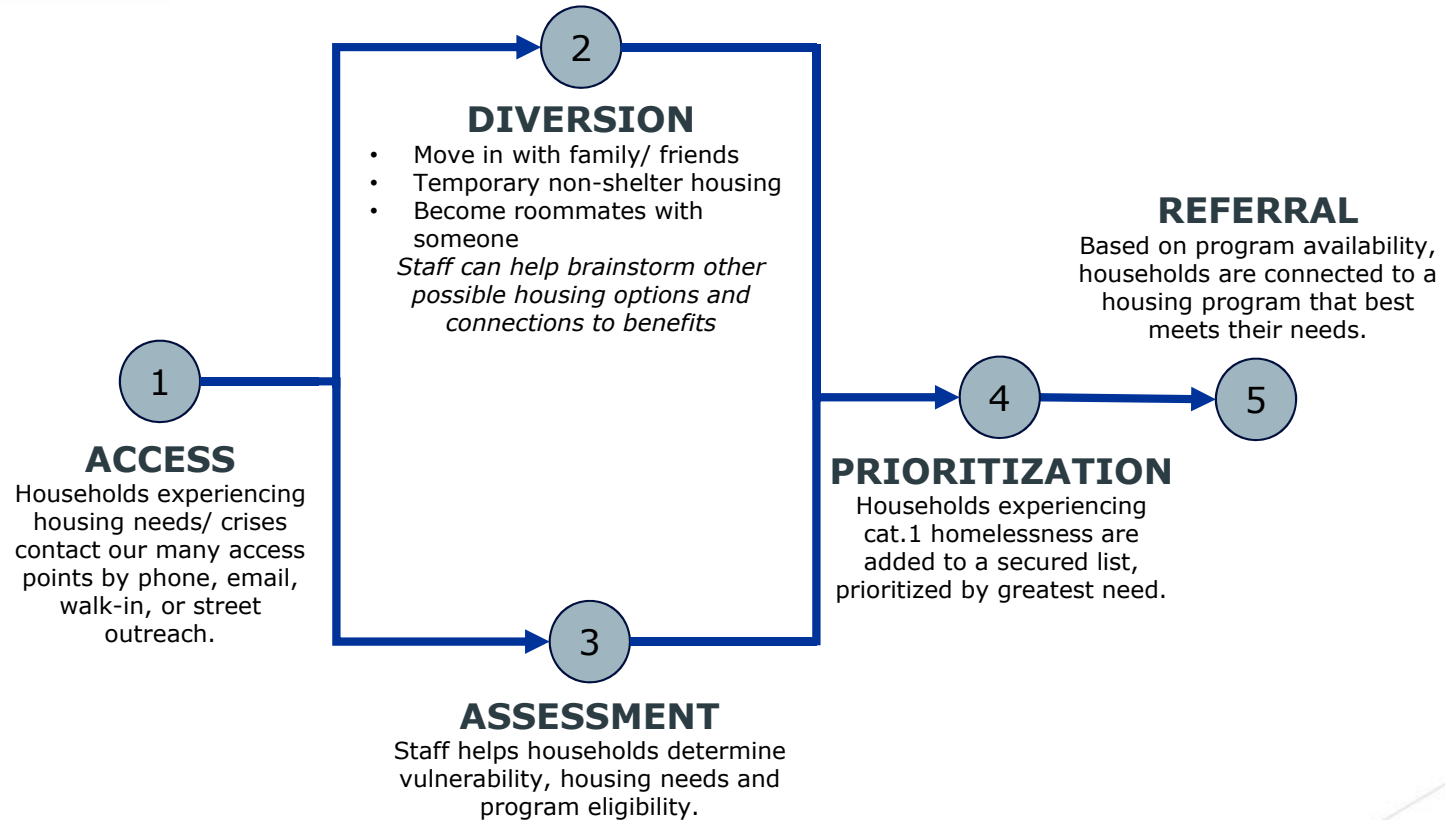
- ▶ MSHDA requires updated Coordinated Entry Policies to reflect use of By-Name Lists and prioritization for HCV Homeless Preference.
- ▶ To access Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV), individuals must first go through the Coordinated Entry System (CES) registry and participate in the HCV prioritization process:
 - The Housing Access Resource Agency (HARA) serves as the primary access point for this registry, along with other designated partners.
 - This ensures that every individual and household is efficiently and equitably considered for all available housing options.
 - This streamlined approach not only reduces the administrative burden for applicants but also for the housing system as a whole.
 - By simplifying the process, we aim to eliminate confusion and duplication, making it easier for those seeking housing support.

HCV Homeless Preference Waiting List Referral

- ▶ HARA staff with active HCV waiting list portal access can add households using the approved Coordinated Entry policy, up to the total allocation noted for the CoC. Additions to the HCV waiting list must not exceed the assigned number of applicants provided by MSHDA. All households added and drawn will be supported with a voucher if the household and the identified rental unit are deemed fully eligible. What this means is that all households determined eligible for the HCV program will have an opportunity to receive rental assistance. Additionally, households added to the waiting list will be fully drawn from the list and will not remain on the waiting list, removing the need for homeless recertification.
- ▶ CoCs will be responsible to ensure households are added to the HCV waiting list via homeless preference within 10 days of MSHDA's notification of waiting list draw allocation.
- ▶ Being drawn for HCV is just the first step toward housing. Given the current housing climate, it is critical that households receive deeper levels of support to reach their housing goals. In the spirit of shared success, CoCs are responsible to assist households with the following:
 - Making requests for vital documents such as social security cards, birth certificates, and state identification.
 - Completing the forms and requests for required information received from the MSHDA Housing Agent, such as the Household Income, Asset, and Expense Declaration.
 - Collecting required income, asset, and expense documentation (such as social security benefit letters and paystubs), and
 - Providing support to the rental search process (Ex. Landlord listings, transportation as needed, application fees, etc.)



Oakland County Continuum of Care Coordinated Entry System (CES) Homeless Response



Prioritization for Housing Choice Voucher – Homeless Preference (HCV-HP):

- ▶ To increase successful housing outcomes, clients on the Centralized Housing Registry that are eligible and in-need will be referred to HCV-HP waiting list. In addition to lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (HUD Definition Category 1) or fleeing domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, or human trafficking (HUD Definition Category 4), additional criteria will now be required to be added to the Centralized Housing Registry.

▶ **Prioritization factors:**

- Homeless start date (CAT1)
- Unsheltered/Sheltered (CAT1)
- VI (CAT1) Based on CoC threshold
- DA (CAT4) Based on CoC threshold
- Referral Date (CAT1 & CAT4)
 - Participants that are CAT2 are not eligible. Only CAT1 & CAT4
 - Initial proof of homelessness upon program entry can be used as documentation of eligibility for HCV Homeless Preference

Households engaged in RRH or TH with ongoing housing needs

- You must meet the Centralized Registry prioritization requirements to be eligible for a voucher, by calling the HARA or HMIS participating agencies can directly refer
- Housed RRH/TH referrals- quarter prior to assistance ending
 - Based on predetermined factors (i.e. income, employment)
 - **Group A** (pulled first)-Those housed with RRH, TH and Assistance ending within the next quarter and has not secured resources to maintain housing
 - **Group B** (pulled second)- CAT1 and CAT4 active on the registry based on predetermined criteria

This Change Is a Positive Step Forward:

- Although the updated process may seem like a significant shift, it's designed to enhance access and responsiveness for those we serve.
- By reducing administrative complexity, we can redirect resources and focus toward helping individuals and families secure the housing and services they need.
- Since the voucher waitlist closure, the HARA has been consistently handling live calls, ensuring continued support.

Advocacy for Those We Serve Is Key:

- Now more than ever, we must advocate for those in need of stable and safe housing to ensure they are prioritized and connected to appropriate resources.
- This updated process ensures that the limited resources available are directed to those who need them most. While we face the unfortunate reality that resources are limited, it is essential that we continue advocating for additional support.

Created in Partnership with the Community:

- This new system is mandated by Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), but the new HCV prioritization process was developed by community stakeholders, especially by those who deeply understood the previous system's challenges.
- The process reflects valuable feedback from the community, addressing necessary changes to comply with MSHDA's mandate and build a stronger, more responsive system.

Increased Capacity and Responsiveness:

- The streamlined process allows us to better manage capacity and prioritize those with the greatest needs.
- As a result, the CoC and HARA can be more responsive, provide real-time assistance, and utilize all available resources as efficiently as possible.

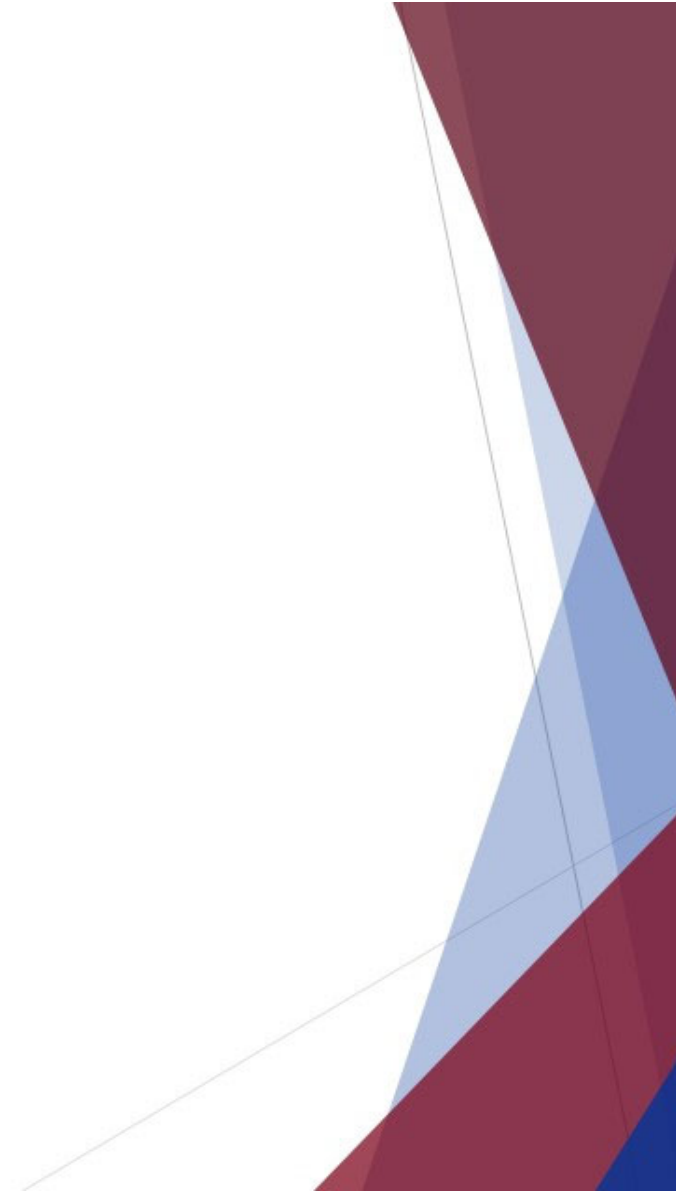
We Are Already Seeing the Change:

- With the HARA taking live calls, individuals and families are experiencing faster connections to housing resources.
- We aim to build on this progress by continuing to implement the process with care and collaboration.

Bottom Line:

- ▶ Oakland County's Continuum of Care (CoC) is committed to creating a more equitable, efficient, and responsive housing system. The updated Homeless Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) prioritization process ensures that resources are allocated to those with the greatest needs, reduces administrative burdens, and eliminates confusion for individuals and families seeking support.

Questions?



Thank you!

