



## NORTHERN COLORADO CONTINUUM OF CARE

### CoC-Wide Prioritization Guidance

*Approved by the NoCO CoC Governing Board 6.27.2024*

To guide the Northern Colorado Continuum of Care (NoCO CoC) regional work to address homelessness, it is necessary to outline a set of CoC-wide priorities to help direct funding, strategy and advocacy in a meaningful way. It is the vision of the NoCO CoC to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring for all northern Coloradoans. However, the current reality remains that there is a scarcity of resources to meet the demand for all people experiencing homelessness. A CoC-Wide Prioritization Guidance outlining the types of projects and populations to primarily focus efforts is an important tool to fund the work, set regional and local strategy, and advocate for homelessness solutions.

To determine the 2024 CoC-Wide Prioritization, the NoCO CoC governing board reviewed a variety of data sources, including survey responses from CoC partners as well as HMIS, Coordinated Entry (CAHPS), and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data. The governing board then engaged in thorough discussion of how the approved prioritization would support CoC goals prior to making the final determination.

The NoCO CoC Governing Board approved (as of 6/27/2024) the following CoC-Wide Prioritization Guidance:

#### **Project Type (In Order of Priority)**

##### **1. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) with Comprehensive Supportive Services**

- a. PSH with Comprehensive Services includes both site-based (e.g. facility) and tenant-based (e.g. voucher) housing models that incorporate provision of comprehensive supportive services as a core part of the program
  - i. Tenant-based models should include appropriate housing search and housing retention case management support in addition to the ability to directly provide or connect participants to other supportive services
  - ii. Site-based models should include case management and other services available to participants on-site
  - iii. Permanent Supportive Housing projects that only provide housing subsidy (voucher or unit) but not supportive services would not be prioritized in this category

**Together We Can End Homelessness**  
**[www.NoCOCO.org](http://www.NoCOCO.org)**

970-353-4300 | 970-353-4738 fax  
PO Box 1944 | Greeley, CO 80632 - 814 9th Street | Greeley, CO 80631

**Lead Partners**



## 2. Rapid Rehousing (RRH)

- a. RRH consists of short to medium term rental assistance with case management/supportive services available based on the needs of the program participant

## 3. Supportive Services Only

- a. Examples of Supportive Services Only programs include street outreach, housing search/navigation, landlord engagement, housing retention support, mental and behavioral health services, financial support (non-housing), and a variety of other services related to housing stabilization

## 4. 24/7 Low-Barrier Emergency Shelter

- a. Key aspects of a “24/7 low-barrier emergency shelter” as opposed to other shelter models include implementing shelter practices that provide sheltering during the day as well as at night and remove or diminish barriers to entry and continued residency
  - i. Examples include removing or diminishing rules to entry such as sobriety or identification requirements, background check. Programmatic barriers such as a lengthy application/ intake process, limited hours to present for shelter intake, drug testing for entry, strict curfew, etc. are avoided

### **Additional Project Type Prioritization Guidance for CoC Program Funding (CoC NOFO):**

- CoC Program Renewal Projects will be prioritized over New Projects *IF* the Renewal Project continues to meet CoC project performance standards.
  - \*Under-performing Renewal Projects may be subject to reallocation of funding during the CoC Program NOFO process
- New Projects seeking CoC Program funding will be evaluated for potential funding based on the project’s alignment with the CoC-Wide Prioritization Guidance.
- *HMIS Lead* and *Coordinated Entry* activities are essential functions of the NoCO CoC and as such will always be prioritized for CoC Program funding in Tier 1.

## **Population Type (In Order of Priority)**

### **1. Highly Vulnerable with High Service Needs (any population)**

- a. People meeting this Population Type include those with:
  - i. History of high utilization of crisis services, which include but are not limited to emergency rooms, jails, and psychiatric facilities
  - ii. Significant physical or behavioral health challenges, substance use disorders, or functional impairments which require a significant level of support to maintain permanent housing
  - iii. For Youth (18-24) and Victims of Domestic Violence, high risk of continued trauma or high risk of harm or exposure to very dangerous living situations

### **2. Veterans**

- a. People meeting this population type include persons experiencing homelessness who meet the federal definition of a “veteran” provided by the U.S. Department of Affairs. Veteran eligibility status is based on military character of discharge and other factors<sup>1</sup>.
- b. It is and has been the goal of the NoCO CoC to end homelessness<sup>2</sup> for veterans. The NoCO CoC will prioritize veterans for funding and resources above other populations whenever possible until we have ended veteran homelessness, at which point this prioritization will be re-evaluated by the NoCO CoC governing board.
- c. For purposes of coordinated entry prioritization, the governing board initiates a six-month guidance<sup>3</sup> to prioritize veteran households for housing resources when eligible. After six months, the governing board will re-evaluate the trial guidance and adjust the CoC-Wide Prioritization if needed.

### **3. Single Adults**

- a. People meeting this Population Type include individuals *without* children living with them not represented in Priority 1 and Priority 2. People in other subpopulations, such as victims of domestic violence and youth, without children are included.

### **4. Families with Children**

- a. People meeting this Population Type include households *with* children living with them not already represented in Priority 1 and Priority 2. People in other subpopulations, such as victims of domestic violence and youth, with children are included.

*Note: Specific sub-populations (except veterans), such as victims of domestic violence, youth 18-24, and chronically homeless individuals are not specifically prioritized currently as they are included within the other population types.*

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<sup>1</sup> More information on determining veteran eligibility for homelessness resources in Northern Colorado is available on the NoCO CoC website, [Veteran HMIS Policy Final CAHPs\\_010424.pdf \(mywebsites360.com\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> “Ending Homelessness” for a specific population is reached when our system can consistently house more households from that population each month than the number who are entering or continuing to experience homelessness, also known as reaching “Functional Zero.”

<sup>3</sup> The beginning date of the guidance will be determined by the CAHPS Steering Committee to ensure appropriate communication and preparation for CAHPS partners.