

Western PA CoC Written Standards Training 2021

Transitional Housing (TH) and Transitional Housing/ Rapid Rehousing (TH-RRH) Joint Component


PRESENTED BY DIANA T. MYERS AND ASSOCIATES, CONSULTANT FOR THE COC
MAY 11TH, 2021

What are the Written Standards?

- Required by HUD
- Provide guidance for CoC and ESG programs related to service delivery
- Ensure that all programs are operating in a consistent, coordinated way that is compliant with HUD and CoC standards

Structure of Written Standards

- Standards for all project types
 - Includes recordkeeping and case management standards
 - *If you did not attend the training on Standards for all Project Types or watched the recording yet, please check it out!*
- Standards by project type – specific standards that must be followed if you are operating PSH, RRH, etc.
- Appendices
- Templates – separate document. Not required, but available as a resource



Standards for Transitional Housing (TH)

Access

- Referrals must come through CE
- Projects must follow CoC Order of Prioritization in filling vacancies
- TH should be as low barrier as possible while honoring eligibility and prioritization criteria

Eligibility

- Literally homeless (Cat. 1) or Fleeing/Attempting to Flee DV (Cat. 4)
- TH should be used for households with barriers to maintaining/retaining housing
 - People whose primary need is affordable housing should not be prioritized for TH, as TH provides more intensive supports
- **Regarding Chronic Status:** A household enrolled in TH loses their Chronic Homelessness status

Prioritization

- TH should be targeted to people who face more severe challenges to finding housing
- Model is generally targeted toward:
 - People with substance use disorders
 - Survivors of domestic violence
 - Transition aged youth

Prioritization

- **Top Priority:** Chronically Homeless/Literally Homeless and highest VI-SPDAT score (working your way down by score)*
 - Starting with unsheltered, then moving to sheltered
- **Next Priority:** Non-Chronic/Literally Homeless and highest VI-SPDAT score
 - Starting with unsheltered, then moving to sheltered

Full Order of Prioritization can be found in the Standards

Prioritization

Since TH residents who were chronically homeless prior to entering TH are no longer considered chronically homeless upon entering TH, TH Provider and CE Assessment Center should assist the household in making an informed decision about best housing option

Prioritization: Emergency Transfers due to DV

If emergency transfer is needed due to DV:

- Provider should offer alternate unit within their organization's own inventory whenever possible
- If alternate unit not available, the provider should follow the process outlined in the Emergency Transfer Plan. Emergency transfer requests may be expedited and prioritized in order to identify a housing resource for which the participant/ household is eligible as soon as possible

Prioritization

- Projects should consider household's county of preference for chronically homeless households, **BUT:**
- Before moving on to non-chronic households, TH projects should identify chronically homeless households residing anywhere in the CoC, and offer TH opening first

Documentation (TH Specific)

- Executed Occupancy Agreement (for leasing projects)
- *See Documentation for all Project Types for additional requirements*

Duration and Amounts

- TH should be used as temporary/bridge housing not exceed 12 months. Average target stay should be 9 months or less
- Longer-term TH, in excess of six months or twelve months, should be targeted to people who face more severe challenges to finding housing

Duration and Amounts

For TH projects using rental assistance, rent contributions are mandatory. Rent contribution or maximum occupancy charge is highest of the following:

- 30% of the family's monthly adjusted income;
- 10% of the family's monthly gross income; or
- If the family is receiving payments for welfare assistance from a public agency and a part of the payments is specifically designated by the agency to meet the family's housing costs, the portion of the payments that is designated for housing costs

Duration and Amounts

For non-rental assistance projects, the occupancy charge is optional and can be lower, but not higher, than the maximum occupancy charge on previous slide

TH Specific Case Management

- Exit planning should start upon project entry
- Case managers should offer to meet with participants at least bi-weekly

Performance Measures

- **Clients exit to permanent housing:** At least 73% of households
- **Clients increase their income through either employment or benefits:** At least 48% of adults will increase their income
- **Average length of stay of 12 months or less:** target goal: 9 months or less
- Clients do not return to homelessness within 2 years

Standards for Transitional Housing- Rapid Rehousing (TH- RRH)

TH-RRH Specific Standards

- Projects administering Joint TH/RRH projects should follow RRH and TH specific standards
- Projects must offer both components
- Projects should target and prioritize people experiencing homelessness with higher needs

TH-RRH Specific Standards

- The maximum duration of support for both components combined is 24 months per household
- TH/RRH projects must be set-up in HMIS data system as two-different Projects: one TH project and one RRH project
- CoC-funded TH/RRH must submit one APR for TH and one APR for RRH

Next Steps

- All CoC and ESG funded programs sign off by July 1st that their program(s) understand the standards, and will implement them: <http://s.alchemer.com/s3/WS-Form>
 - If there are standards that programs are not implementing, make a plan to implement those standards by Sept. 1, 2021.
- Feedback on the standards is welcome year-round: <http://s.alchemer.com/s3/West-Written-Standards-Feedback>

Questions?

- Email westerncoc@pennsylvaniacoc.org

