



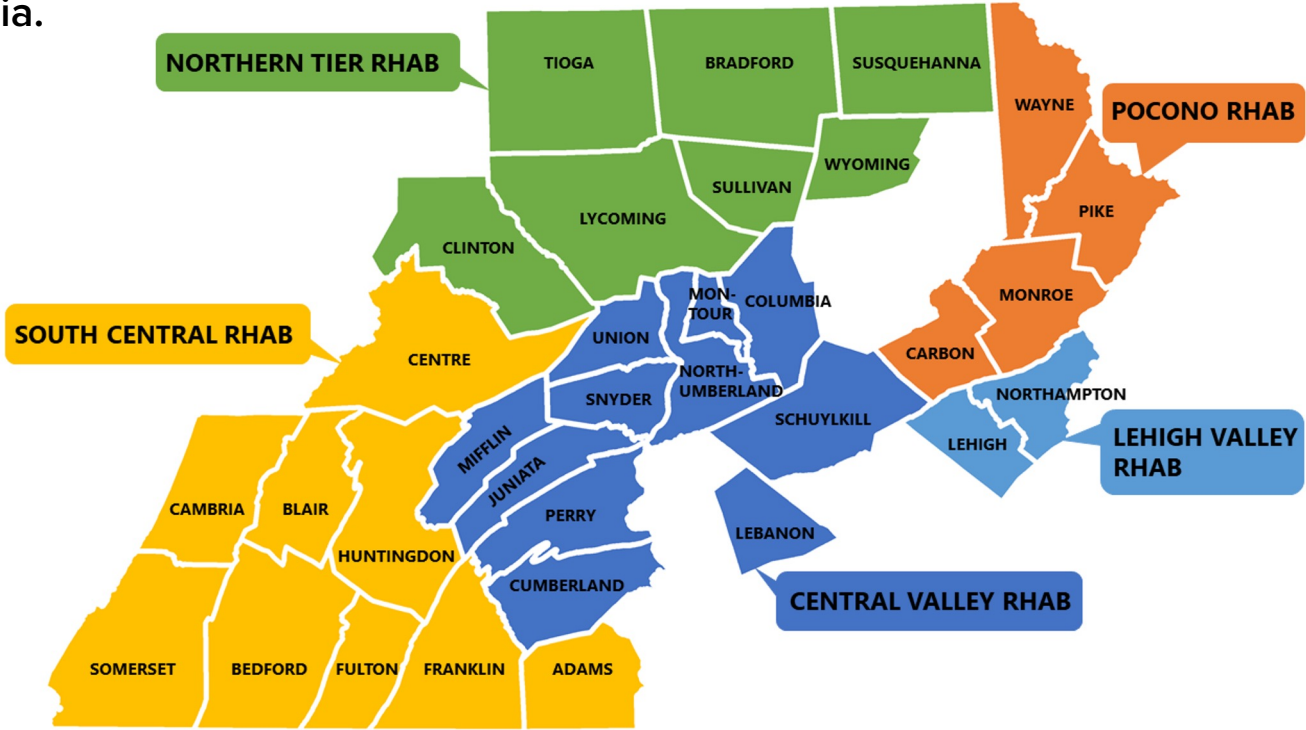
Coordinated Entry Training:

HUD Category 4 Definition of Homelessness

Presentation and Design by Capacity for Change, LLC | April 25, 2024

Eastern Pennsylvania Continuum of Care

The mission of the Eastern PA Continuum of Care (CoC) is to end homelessness throughout its geographic region, which encompasses thirty-three (33) counties in the eastern part of Pennsylvania.



Eastern Pennsylvania CoC Coordinated Entry Overview

- Coordinated Entry is the process by which anyone who is unhoused and experiencing literal homelessness (or is at imminent risk of becoming homeless) can access all the services and housing available offered by the Eastern Pennsylvania CoC network of service providers.
- In the Eastern Pennsylvania CoC region, Coordinated Entry may be accessed in any of the following ways:
 - Calling or texting 211 toll-free from anywhere within the CoC region.
 - Scheduling an appointment with one of over thirty Coordinated Entry Access Sites located in communities throughout the CoC region (some allow walk-ins).
 - Access points at participating Domestic Violence service providers partnering with the CoC.

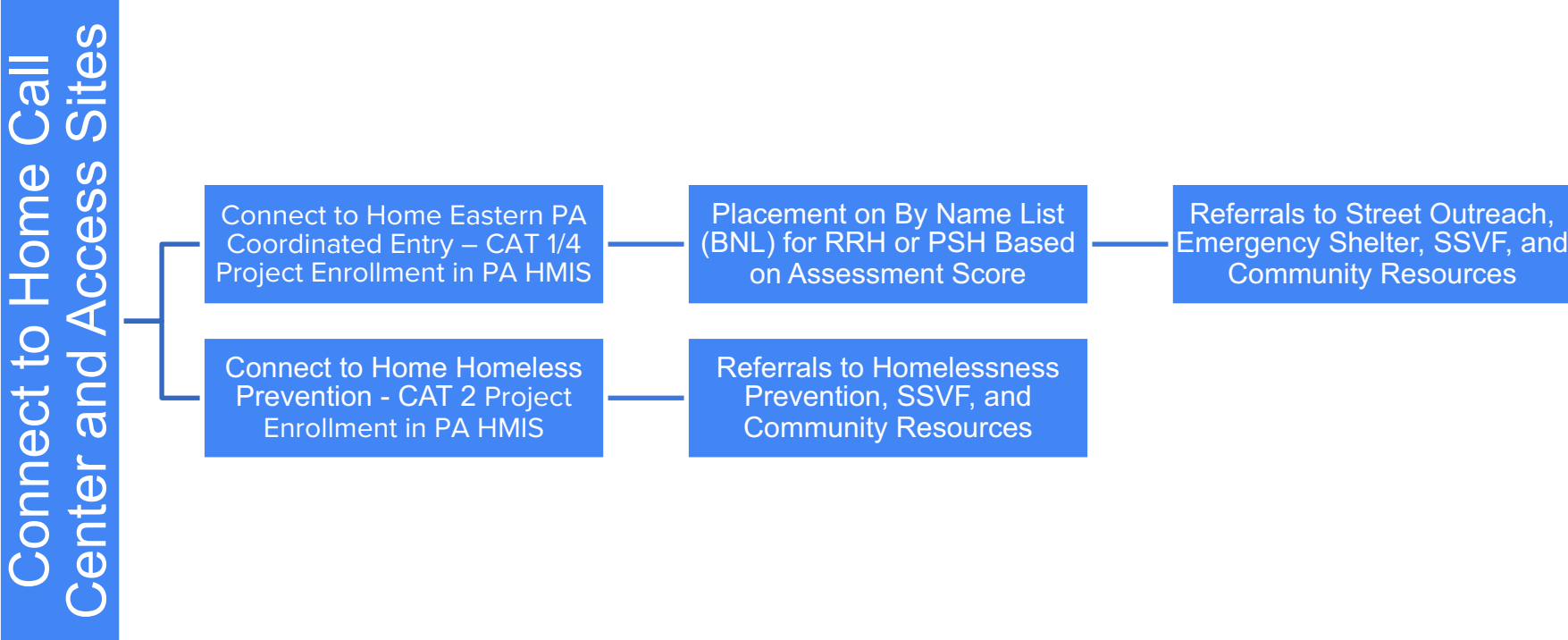
The Coordinated Entry intake, assessment, referral, and Housing By Name List placement is identical regardless of whether a person calls 211 or visits an Access Site.

Eastern Pennsylvania CoC Coordinated Entry System

- Households must be enrolled in Coordinated Entry to access any HUD-funded services and housing in the Eastern PA CoC service region, including:
 - **Street Outreach** (if the household was living unsheltered or in a place not meant for human habitation the previous evening and not already engaged with Street Outreach).
 - **Emergency Shelter** (if the household was living unsheltered or in a place not meant for human habitation the previous evening).
 - **Rapid Re-Housing** (if the household meets the HUD Category 1 or 4 definitions of homelessness).
 - **Permanent Supportive Housing** (if the household meets the HUD Category 1 or 4 definitions of homelessness).
 - **Homelessness Prevention** (if the household meets the HUD Category 2 definition of imminent risk of homelessness).
- Coordinated Entry can also make referrals to other community-based services and housing programs that choose to partner with the CoC, including non-HUD funded shelters, code blue shelters, veterans' services, domestic violence and human trafficking services, and eviction prevention services, among others.

Coordinated Entry does not and cannot guarantee access to any housing or crisis services.

Connect to Home Eastern PA Coordinated Entry Process



HUD Category 4 Definition of Homelessness

Any individual or family who:

- Is experiencing trauma or a lack of safety related to, or fleeing or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous, traumatic, or life-threatening conditions related to the violence against the individual or a family member in the individual's or family's current housing situation, including where the health and safety of children are jeopardized;
- Has no other safe residence; and
- Lacks the resources to obtain other safe permanent housing.

HUD Category 4 Definition of Homelessness Also Includes Households Fleeing Human Trafficking

An individual or family who:

- Is fleeing or attempting to flee human trafficking. HUD considers human trafficking, including sex trafficking, to be “other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or family member” under paragraph (4) of the definition of homeless at 24 CFR 578.3 and “other dangerous, traumatic, or life-threatening conditions related to the violence against the individual or a family member in the individual's or family's current housing situation” under section 103(b) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) is a federal law that, in part, provides housing protections for people applying for or living in units subsidized by the federal government and who have experienced domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, to help keep them safe and reduce their likelihood of experiencing homelessness.

VAWA Housing Protections (Related to Coordinated Entry)

Under VAWA, someone who has experienced domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking (VAWA violence/abuse):

- Cannot be denied admission to or assistance under a HUD-subsidized or assisted unit or program because of the VAWA violence/abuse committed against them.
- Cannot be evicted from a HUD-subsidized unit nor have their assistance terminated because of the VAWA violence/abuse committed against them.
- Can request an emergency transfer from the housing provider for safety reasons related to the VAWA violence/abuse committed against them.
- Has a right to strict confidentiality of information regarding their status as a survivor.
- Has the right to seek law enforcement or emergency assistance for themselves or others without being penalized by local laws or policies for these requests or because they were victims of criminal activity.

HUD/VAWA Definition of Domestic Violence

The term '**domestic violence**' includes felony or misdemeanor crimes committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim under the family or domestic violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant funding and, in the case of victim services, includes the use or attempted use of physical abuse or sexual abuse, or a pattern of any other coercive behavior committed, enabled, or solicited to gain or maintain power and control over a victim, including verbal, psychological, economic, or technological abuse that may or may not constitute criminal behavior, by a person who—

- (A) is a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, or person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim;
- (B) is cohabitating, or has cohabitated, with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner;
- (C) shares a child in common with the victim; or
- (D) commits acts against a youth or adult victim who is protected from those acts under the family or domestic violence laws of the jurisdiction.

HUD/VAWA Definition of Economic Abuse

The term '**economic abuse**', in the context of domestic violence, dating violence, and abuse in later life, means behavior that is coercive, deceptive, or unreasonably controls or restrains a person's ability to acquire, use, or maintain economic resources to which they are entitled, including using coercion, fraud, or manipulation to—

- (A) restrict a person's access to money, assets, credit, or financial information;
- (B) unfairly use a person's personal economic resources, including money, assets, and credit, for one's own advantage; or
- (C) exert undue influence over a person's financial and economic behavior or decisions, including forcing default on joint or other financial obligations, exploiting powers of attorney, guardianship, or conservatorship, or failing or neglecting to act in the best interests of a person to whom one has a fiduciary duty.

HUD/VAWA Definition of Technological Abuse

The term '**technological abuse**' means an act or pattern of behavior that occurs within domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence or stalking and is intended to harm, threaten, intimidate, control, stalk, harass, impersonate, exploit, extort, or monitor, except as otherwise permitted by law, another person, that occurs using any form of technology, including but not limited to: internet enabled devices, online spaces and platforms, computers, mobile devices, cameras and imaging programs, apps, location tracking devices, or communication technologies, or any other emerging technologies.

HUD/VAWA Definition of Dating Violence

Dating violence means violence committed by a person—

(A) who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and

(B) where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:

(i) The length of the relationship.

(ii) The type of relationship.

(iii) The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

HUD/VAWA Definitions of Sexual Assault and Stalking

Sexual Assault is any nonconsensual sexual act proscribed by Federal, tribal, or State law, including when the victim lacks capacity to consent.

Stalking means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to— (A) fear for his or her safety or the safety of others; or (B) suffer substantial emotional distress.

HUD/VAWA Definition of Human Trafficking

Sex trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age.

Forced labor is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

Key Eastern PA CoC CE Policies & Procedures – CAT 4

1. Safety planning questions and offer to transfer to a local DV hotline or the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1.800.799.SAFE (7233).
2. Alternative Coordinated Entry intake and assessment through participating Eastern PA CoC Victim Service Providers.
3. DV Anonymous CE project enrollment option in PA HMIS.
4. Emergency Transfer Plan when any member of the household is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and/or human trafficking, and reasonably believes that there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if the participant remains within the same unit. As an additional protection for victims of sexual assault, the participant may also be eligible to transfer if the sexual assault occurred on the premises within the 90-calendar-day period preceding a request for an emergency transfer.

Learn More About Eastern PA CoC Coordinated Entry

- ❖ Connect to Home Eastern Pennsylvania Coordinated Entry System Overview, including 211 Call Center Contact Information and Access Site Locations and Hours

<https://pennsylvaniacoc.org/balance-state-eastern-pa-coc/connect-home-coordinated-entry-system-eastern-pa>

- ❖ Connect to Home Coordinated Entry Policies and FAQs

<https://pennsylvaniacoc.org/connect-home-eastern-pa-coordinated-entry-policies-and-faqs>

- ❖ Eastern PA CoC Written Standards For All Projects, including Coordinated Entry

<https://pennsylvaniacoc.org/eastern-pa-coc-written-standards>

- ❖ HUD Coordinated Entry Policy Brief

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/4427/coordinated-entry-policy-brief/>

- ❖ HUD Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Resources

<https://www.hud.gov/VAWA>

- ❖ Eastern Pennsylvania Continuum of Care Emergency Transfer Plan

<https://pennsylvaniacoc.org/sites/default/files/attachments/2020-12/Eastern%20PA%20CoC%20-%20VAWA%20Emergency%20Transfer%20Plan%20Policy.pdf>