

# NE CoC Coordinated Entry

## Temporary prioritization policy

December 1, 2020 – March 30, 2021

Due to COVID-19, the Northeast Minnesota Continuum of Care (NE CoC) Coordinated Entry Committee is amending the approved Coordinated Entry Prioritization Policy. The purpose is to assure that persons most at risk for obtaining or spreading COVID-19 due to their homeless status are prioritized for housing to protect their health and the health of others.

The temporary prioritization will supersede the current policy during the period of December 1, 2020 to March 30, 2021 and may be extended or ended early with a CoC vote if needed.

### **The following prioritization criteria will be used prior to standard NE CoC Coordinated Entry System (CES) Prioritization Policy:**

1. Literally homeless: Anyone who is currently outside or in a place not meant for human habitation, **then** anyone who is in a communal shelter or motel room, paid for by the county or a homeless provider regardless of score.
2. Persons who are unsafely doubled-up, defined as persons who have moved more than twice in the past 30 days or who are staying with someone who is violent. Persons who are unsafely doubled will be prioritized for housing after all persons who are identified as being literally homeless have been offered housing.

Persons in each of the previous categories will be prioritized based on the following additional criteria:

1. People 50 years and older
2. People of all ages with any of the following underlying medical conditions:
  - i. Cancer
  - ii. Chronic kidney disease
  - iii. COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
  - iv. Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant
  - v. Obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 or higher)
  - vi. Serious heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
  - vii. Sickle cell disease
  - viii. Type 2 diabetes mellitus

**The applicants still need to meet project eligibility criteria.** It is the responsibility of the project receiving referrals from CE to document a household's eligibility for the project, including documenting homeless or at-risk of homelessness status and any additional NOFA criteria. Not every household that is at increased risk of severe illness for COVID-19 will be eligible for each project.