

## **ACES Prioritization Policy and Process 2021**

The Southwest MN Continuum of Care utilizes a single prioritization list for Coordinated Entry. The single prioritization list applies to the entire geographic region. All populations/subpopulations must be used to fill all Transitional Housing (TH), Rapid-Rehousing (RRH), and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) units/vouchers dedicated to serving people experiencing homelessness. Our goals are to help strategically and fairly target available resources and assure that those who are most vulnerable receive housing as quickly as possible. The Priority List is available in real-time and uses 32 data fields to help determine client eligibility and preferences.

The SW MN CoC uses dynamic prioritization, a process wherein all available housing resources for persons experiencing homeless in the CoC are flexibly and immediately offered to the individuals who need them most acutely in that moment, regardless of whether the individuals might be better-served in the future by a type of program not presently available to them.

When a TH, RRH, or PSH unit or voucher becomes available, the weekly Priority List report is run from HMIS and reviewed. Variables such as unit size, location, and target population requirements are considered vis-à-vis client household number, counties of interest and special eligibility requirements. The list is pared down to those who would be both interested and eligible for the vacancy.

The term ‘homeless refers’ to Category 1 and Category 4 Definitions found [HERE](#). ‘Doubled Up’ refers to those sharing a dwelling temporarily but lacking a permanent place to live. Those ‘Doubled Up’ are not eligible for HUD programs, but can be eligible for some Minnesota-funded programs. Disabled means that any member of the household has a disability which meets the [HUD Documentation Requirements](#).

### **Prioritization Order**

1. Chronically Homeless Underage Households (all members under 18).
2. Chronically Homeless Families with Children (head of household 18+).
3. Chronically Homeless Adult-Only Households (all members 18+).
4. Underage Homeless Youth-Only Households (all members under 18).
5. Homeless Families with Children (head of household 18+).
6. Homeless Households (all members 18+).
7. Doubled-Up Underage Homeless Households (all members under 18).
8. Doubled-Up Homeless Families with Children (head of household 18+).
9. Doubled-Up Adult-only Households (all members under 18).

**Tiebreaking:** If there is more than one household in a category above, prioritization will be done using the following criteria in the following order.

1. Unsheltered will be prioritized ahead of sheltered.
2. Those with disabilities will be placed ahead of those without disabilities.
3. Those fleeing domestic violence will be prioritized ahead of those who are not.
4. Veterans will be placed ahead of non-Veterans.
5. Native-Americans will be placed ahead of non-Native Americans.
6. Those with longer current episodes of homelessness will be placed ahead of those with shorter episodes.