ACES Prioritization Policy and Process

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 and 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. 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 provides the households Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) score and 31 other supplemental 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 real-time 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.
The term 'underage' refers to those under 18 years-old.
'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	Rationale
1. Chronically Homeless Underage Households by descending VI-SPDAT scores. 2. Chronically Homeless Families with Children (head of household 18+) by descending VI-SPDAT scores. 3. Chronically Homeless Households (all members 18+) with the highest VI-SPDAT scores. 4. Underage Homeless Youth-Only households by descending VI-SPDAT scores. 5. Homeless Families with Children (head of household 18+) by descending VI-SPDAT scores. 6. Homeless Households (all members 18+) by descending VI-SPDAT scores. 7. Doubled-Up Underage Homeless Households by descending VI-SPDAT scores. 8. Doubled-Up Homeless Families with Children (head of household 18+) by descending VI-SPDAT scores.	A. We want to continue to have zero chronically homeless in our CoC. B. Unaccompanied Homeless youth under 18 are very vulnerable to exploitation. C. We want to end homelessness for families with children. D. The VI-SPDAT prioritizes those with disabilities and those with longer histories of homelessness. E. These priorities align with Home, Together: The federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness.

Tiebreaking: If there are ties in any of the above categories, ties will be broken based on the following criteria, in the following order: 1. Unsheltered will be prioritized ahead of sheltered. 2. Veterans will be placed ahead of non-Veterans. 3. Native-Americans will be placed ahead of non-Native Americans. 4. Those with longer current episodes of homelessness will be placed ahead of those with shorter episodes.	A. During many months of the year in Minnesota, sleeping outdoors can be dangerous or deadly due to low temperatures. B. We have ended Veteran Homelessness and need to make sure any Veteran homelessness in our region is brief and non-recurring. C. Native Americans make up 1% of our general population but 8% of our homeless population.

In cases where two households have the same VI-SPDAT score and length of history of homelessness, households with a U.S. Military Veteran are placed ahead of non-veteran families. In subsequent tie-breaking situations, longer length of time on the Priority List is prioritized ahead of shorter.

*Disabled means that any member of the household has a disability which meets the HUD Documentation Requirements.