

# CoC Permanent Supportive Housing Assistance

## A. Regulatory Citations

24 CFR 578.7(a)(9)(v)

24 CFR 578.37(a)(1)(i)

## B. HUD Guidance Documents and Resources

- SNAPS In Focus: Prioritizing Persons with the Highest Level of Need in Permanent Supportive Housing  
<https://www.hudexchange.info/news/snaps-in-focus-prioritizing-persons-with-the-highest-level-of-need-in-permanent-supportive-housing/>
- Notice CPD-14-012: Prioritizing Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness in Permanent Supportive Housing and Recordkeeping Requirements for Documenting Chronic Homeless Status:  
<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3897/notice-cpd-14-012-prioritizing-persons-experiencing-chronic-homelessness-in-psh-and-recordkeeping-requirements/>
- Notice CPD-16-011: Prioritizing Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness in PSH and Recordkeeping Requirements  
<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5108/notice-cpd-16-11-prioritizing-persons-experiencing-chronic-homelessness-and-other-vulnerable-homeless-persons-in-psh/>
- Housing First in Permanent Supportive Housing  
<https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Housing-First-Permanent-Supportive-Housing-Brief.pdf>
- Prioritizing Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness in Permanent Supportive Housing and Recordkeeping Requirements for Documenting Chronic Homeless Status  
<https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Coordinated-Entry-Policy-Brief.pdf>

## C. Policies and Procedures

### Background

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is widely recognized as the solution for people facing the greatest challenges to housing stability including serious and persistent physical and behavioral health problems. Permanent Supportive Housing costs less than allowing people to continue to cycle through hospitals, emergency rooms, jails, prisons, and mental health and substance use treatment facilities.

Permanent Supportive Housing provides participants with an ongoing rental subsidy and with intensive supportive services. PSH programs are prioritized for households who are

chronically homeless and who are the most vulnerable. PSH programs serve households with high needs (determined by VI-SPDAT score) and multiple barriers to housing. Programs can operate on a project-based or scattered-site model. Essential program components include case management, rental subsidy, health care access, harm reduction and Housing First. Services in supportive housing are flexible and participation in case management is not a requirement for program eligibility or for ongoing program enrollment. They focus on ensuring housing stability as a foundation for addressing needs related to mental health, substance use, health, and employment.

Supportive housing can be provided through three primary strategies: 1) pairing a rent subsidy with dedicated services; 2) building new or rehabilitated units at a single site and providing a rental subsidy and on-site services; or 3) creating a set-aside of units within an affordable housing community and providing a rental subsidy and on-site services.

Evaluations of permanent supportive housing have demonstrated significant improvements in housing stability, reductions in days of homelessness, and reductions in the utilization and costs of public services such as emergency shelter, hospital emergency room and inpatient care, sobering centers, and jails

Permanent Supportive Housing is a Housing First intervention meaning that the primary focus is moving households into housing quickly without preconditions. In other words, programs should not be screening out households based on criteria that are assumed to predict successful outcomes, such as income, employment, criminal history, mental health history, medical history, or evidence of “motivation.” Additionally, housing first programs do not require sobriety or medication/treatment compliance as a condition of housing condition or detainment.

**a) Permanent Housing Prioritization**

Per 24 CFR part 578.37(a)(1)(i)), CoCs must establish policies and procedures for determining and prioritizing which eligible individuals and families will receive permanent supportive housing assistance.

Local Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) programs should adopt and follow the federally mandated CoC Coordinated Assessment process through which all clients are identified, assessed and triaged. Refer to the Coordinated Assessment chapter for more details on this process.

Programs should help people who have achieved stability in supportive housing—who no longer need and desire to live there—to move into affordable housing to free units for others who need it.

**b) Standards and Benchmarks**

Local PSH programs must actively work towards and measure their progress in achieving the goals of:

- 1) Reducing the length of time program participants spend homeless;
- 2) Exiting households to permanent housing, and
- 3) Limiting returns to homelessness within 2 years of program exit.

- 4) Increasing household's income and
- 5) Increasing households who obtain mainstream benefits.