# CoC Bridge Housing Policy

Bridge Housing acts as a safety net and/or creates increased housing flow by ensuring housing stability for those who may not be successful in housing programs or who may not need housing case management/subsidy assistance and can be transferred to appropriate interventions that ensure housing stability.

Bridge Housing options are not exclusive to the Continuum of Care or Coordinated Entry, meaning that any successful Bridge Housing intervention should be considered and pursued. Generally, Bridge Housing is used to move clients from Rapid Rehousing programs to other, longer-term housing programs including Permanent Supportive Housing, Housing Choice Vouchers, Mainstream Vouchers, subsidized units, group homes, assisted living and other housing options. A CoC Bridge Housing opportunity is always Permanent Supportive Housing.

Bridge Housing should be considered to support clients who:

* Will not be able to maintain rental/utility payments when program subsidy ends;
* No longer require case management and/or subsidy support to maintain housing; or
* Do not have the supports necessary to thrive in the current housing program and require more or different support not able to be provided by the current housing program.

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines to determine:

* Who is considered for Bridge Housing; and
* Prioritization for available housing.

**Who should be considered for Bridge Housing**

Rapid Rehousing case managers should review every participant who is matched to their program to determine if they will qualify for a CoC Bridge Housing opportunity. Participants must have proof of chronic homelessness before lease signing in the Rapid Rehousing program to ensure qualification for additional programs, and specifically Permanent Supportive Housing programs.

Case Managers will inform the CoC Coordinated Entry Manager when they have participants in need of PSH Bridge Housing opportunities. The Coordinated Entry Manager will track and manage CoC housing matches for all qualified and potential bridge housing candidates and will also review all Rapid Rehousing matches for Bridge Housing eligibility.

**Prioritization for Available Housing**

When a PSH program has openings, determining who is prioritized for those openings will be conducted in the following way:

* When a PSH Project Based Voucher is available: those currently experiencing literal homelessness will be matched.
* When a PSH Scattered Site/Tenant-Based Voucher is available: Clients verified as qualified for CoC Bridge Housing will be matched and will take priority over those experiencing literal homelessness.
	+ The housing opportunity the person bridged from will then be assigned another client, based on dynamic prioritization.

In the event of multiple qualified clients needing bridge at the same time, the Continuum of Care will determine who is matched in the following way:

* The qualified bridge participant who will be exiting the current housing program/subsidy support soonest will receive bridge priority.
* In the instance of a tie when current housing program/subsidy support ends for participants, case managers of the participants will engage in the CoC Override Process to determine which participant receives priority for available housing.