



**Preparing for  
DedicatedPLUS  
Referrals to PSH**  
December 2, 2020



# Agenda



- Welcome & Introductions
- Who Qualifies as DedicatedPLUS?
- CT BOS DedicatedPLUS Policy
- Tools for Verifying DedicatedPLUS Homeless Status
- Frequently Asked Questions and Examples

# Purpose of DedicatedPLUS

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To enable CoCs to serve people who are highly vulnerable but not currently experiencing chronic homelessness, e.g.,:

- People who were experiencing chronic homelessness, moved into PSH or RRH, were not able to make the housing situation work, and ended up homeless again.



# Who Qualifies as DedicatedPLUS?

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Individuals, households with children, and unaccompanied youth that at intake are:

**(1) experiencing chronic homelessness (CH); or**

**(2) residing in a Transition Housing (TH) project that will be eliminated and was chronically homeless when entered TH project; or**

**(3) residing in Emergency Shelter, Safe Haven or unsheltered location and had been admitted and enrolled in a PSH or RRH project (having met CH criteria upon entering) within last year, but was unable to maintain housing placement; or** (AAQs re “Admitted” and timing of Disability Verification pending)

# Who Qualifies as DedicatedPLUS? (2)



(4) residing in TH funded by a Joint TH and PH+RRH component project and who were experiencing chronic homelessness prior to entering the project; or

**(5) residing in Emergency Shelter, Safe Haven or unsheltered location for at least 12 months in the last 3 years, but has not done so on 4 separate occasions and the individual or head of household meet the definition of ‘homeless individual with a disability’; or**

(6) receiving assistance through a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)-funded homeless assistance program and met 1 of the above criteria at initial intake to the VA's homeless assistance system.



## DedicatedPLUS v. Chronic

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- Criteria for DedicatedPLUS and chronic homelessness are very similar.
- DedicatedPLUS projects must serve only:
  - Households with a disabled adult/head of household
  - Households who were homeless for a least 12 months



# DedicatedPLUS v. Chronic (2)

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A DedicatedPLUS project can serve:

- Disabled people who have been homeless for 12 months over 3 years during fewer than 4 separate occasions

**< 4 Occasions**

# DedicatedPLUS v. Chronic (3)

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A DedicatedPLUS project can serve:

- People who had been admitted and enrolled in a PSH or RRH project within the last year unable to maintain housing placement if:
  - Chronic when entered PSH or RRH
  - Currently living in shelter, safe haven or unsheltered





# Policy & Referral Changes

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All CT BOS PSH projects converted to DedicatedPLUS.

CANS will make DedicatedPLUS referrals beginning January 2021:

- 100% of CT BOS PSH units will use DedicatedPLUS eligibility criteria;
- 100% of Next Step/RAP units dedicated to serving people experiencing homelessness will use DedicatedPLUS eligibility criteria; and
- 100% of Low-income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) units dedicated to serving people experiencing homelessness will use DedicatedPLUS eligibility criteria.

# Questions?

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Must an adult have a disability to qualify the household as DedicatedPLUS?

**Yes (disabled minor heads of household can also qualify)**

Can people with less than 12 months of homelessness over the past 3 years qualify as DedicatedPLUS?

**Generally, no, but people who were chronic upon RRH/PSH entry qualify under certain conditions**

Can people with 12 months of homelessness but only 2 or 3 occasions of homelessness in the past 3 years qualify as DedicatedPLUS?

**Yes**

# SKYE

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- They have a HUD qualified disability.
- They were living on the streets from January to July 2020.
- They lived at a residential rehab program for 3 weeks July to August 2020.
- They moved to a motel paid for by ESG in August and remain there.
- Is Skye qualified as DedicatedPLUS as of December 2020?

**YES**

# The Reid Family

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- Lived in shelter from January to May 2019
- Stayed with family in North Carolina
- Returned to shelter in CT in June 2020
- Remain in shelter in December 2020
- Oldest child is disabled and receives SSI.
- Do they qualify as DedicatedPLUS as of December 2020?  
**NO – an adult needs to have a qualifying disability**



# Natalie

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- Natalie has a disabling condition that meets the HUD definition.
- She got kicked out by her family and was in shelter from January to February 2020.
- She moved to RRH from shelter.
- She is being evicted from her RRH unit, but remains there until the marshal locks her out.
- Does she qualify as DedicatedPLUS in December 2020?
  - **NO – she was not chronic at entry into RRH, and she is currently living in permanent housing.**

# Updated Homelessness Verification Tools

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[Homelessness Verification Form](#) – USE REQUIRED; Discard old versions

[Sample Letters](#) for Documenting: (USE OPTIONAL)

- Chronic Homelessness
- Other Situations that Qualify as DedicatedPLUS
- Due Diligence to Obtain Third-Party Evidence of Homelessness
- Template for Participant Self-Certification of Homelessness

# Updated Sample Intake Policy

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HUD requires Recipients and Subrecipients of CoC funds to have written intake procedures establishing:

- how the project will determine and document participant eligibility; and
- the order of priority for obtaining evidence of homelessness as third-party documentation first, intake worker observation second, and certification from the person seeking assistance third.

Sample policy includes quick reference guide for who is eligible for which CT BOS programs

**MUST UPDATE YOUR POLICY**



# Document Eligibility at Project Entry

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- HUD requires documentation of homeless status up until the project entry date, i.e., the date on which the project offers and the participant accepts entry into the project
- May precede the date in which the participant is housed.
- Example: Participant accepts entry into RRH project on 12/14/18 & is housed on 12/24/18. Must document homelessness as of 12/13/18.





# DedicatedPLUS- Recordkeeping Requirements

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## Evidence of DedicatedPLUS Status must include:

- Evidence of homeless status at time of project entry
- Evidence of at least 12 months of homelessness with last 3 years
- Evidence of disability

## **AND**

If applicable, evidence that the person was chronically homeless immediately before entering RRH or PSH AND lived in RRH or PSH within the year prior to intake.

For additional details see [Homelessness Verification Form](#)

# Self Certification

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- Disability cannot be self-certified (unless COVID Waiver in use)
- For all clients, up to 3 months of homelessness can be documented through self-certification.
- Self-certification of more than 3 months may not be used for more than 25% of households served by a project during an operating year
- Must be accompanied by documentation of intake workers attempts to obtain third-party documentation.
- Documentation of breaks in homelessness between occasions can be entirely based on self-report.
- HUD allows self-certification while third-party documentation is gathered for up to 180 days (participants enrolled for fewer than 180 days can be excluded from determination of whether at least 75% of participants have at least 9 months of third-party documentation). HUD FAQ 2872

# What counts as third-party documentation?

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- HMIS record
- Letter from a shelter or outreach worker
- Letter from a shopkeeper, building owner, neighbor or, sister
- Letter from a clergy person or educator
- Letter from a doctor, counselor or therapist
- Letter from law enforcement

Letters must:

- Be on agency letterhead
- Be signed and dated
- Include name and title of the person signing



# Safety

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If at any point an applicant does not want someone to be contacted because of fear for their personal safety– the worker SHOULD NOT contact that person. Rather, the worker should document the applicant’s statements and should attempt to document homelessness via an alternative third-party or self-certification as necessary.



# Filling Vacancies

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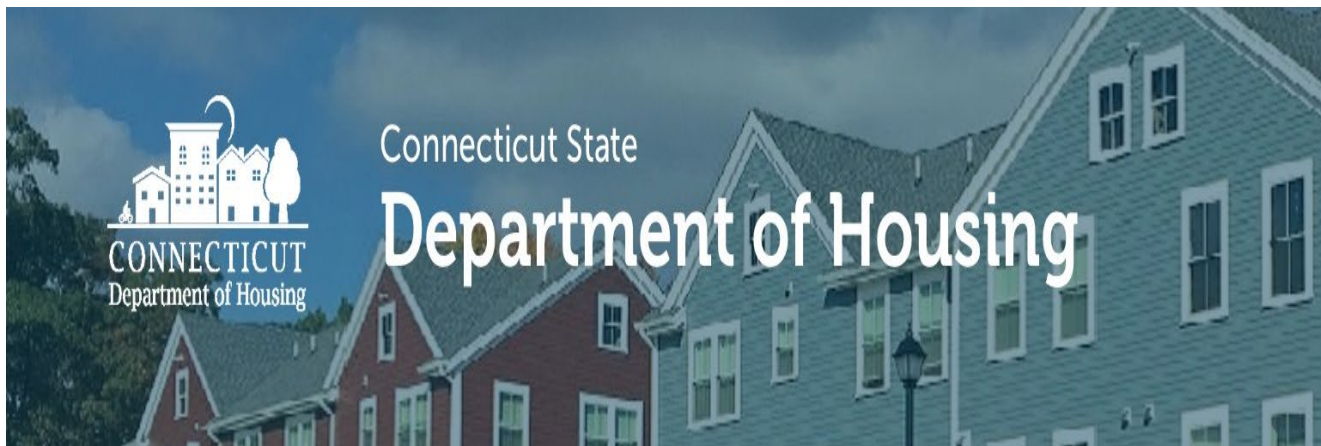
- Not required to allow units to remain vacant.
- If no eligible applicant with DedicatedPLUS status is ready to accept unit, CAN will offer to next person on list.
- Continue to locate and engage people homeless the longest.
- CANs should document outreach/engagement efforts.



# Department of Housing Updates

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- Changes to PSH prioritization criteria in CAN policies and procedures
- Next steps



# CoC Support - Contact Info

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