

**Coordinated Entry and Assessment-Based Housing Referral System (CEA-BHRS)
Philadelphia Continuum of Care
PA-500**

Proposed Policy Change due to COVID-19

(Vote needed by RtH Board on June 11, 2020)

Background

On March 6, 2020, in response to the 2019 novel coronavirus disease, COVID-19, the Governor of Pennsylvania issued a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency, and on March 17, 2020, the Mayor of Philadelphia and the City's Health Commissioner, Dr. Thomas A Farley, issued a "stay-at-home" order that placed critical restrictions on social and commercial activity to combat the spread of the coronavirus. These constraints have disrupted every system in Philadelphia, including systems dedicated to serving persons experiencing homelessness. As a result, temporary changes have been implemented to Philadelphia's Coordinated Entry system, referred to as CEA-BHRS, in order to prevent the spread of and protect the most vulnerable populations from COVID-19. These temporary changes will remain in effect until the *Emergency Order Temporarily Prohibiting Operation of Non-Essential Businesses and Congregation of Persons to Prevent the Spread of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)* has been lifted.

Response to Date

To address and mitigate the risk of COVID-19 for people experiencing homeless, the following policies have been implemented.

- The Philadelphia Continuum of Care has solidified non-congregate shelter options for persons who are experiencing homelessness and exhibit one of the following characteristics:
 - Tested positive for COVID-19, but does not require hospitalization
 - Exposed to COVID-19 (being within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 for 10 minutes or more)
 - Age 65 or older
 - Possess an underlying health condition such as chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma, serious heart conditions, immunocompromised, severe obesity, diabetes, chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis, and liver disease

Individual and families who identify with the above criteria will be placed in a non-congregate shelter, primarily the Holiday Inn Express located at 13th & Walnut, or the Fairfield Inn & Suites at 13th & Spruce.

- Individuals experiencing homelessness in congregate settings who are 65 or older, or who possess chronic health conditions are eligible for the COVID-19 Prevention Space. Individuals must be able to complete activities of daily living and have no acute medical needs. The length of stay is open until the threat of infection is minimized or until a more permanent housing option has been identified. More information is available [here](#).

CEABHRS Proposed Policy Change – Need Board VOTE

Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing openings will be prioritized for people who are at a higher risk of developing severe COVID-19 systems, including those who are 65 and older or anyone with an underlying medical condition specified by the CDC.