Supplemental Written Standards for use during the COVID-19 public health emergency

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, CoC-, ESG- and EHH-funded projects must continue to follow the Dane County Written Standards (2020). The standards below will override applicable current Dane County Written Standards through the end of the public health emergency unless otherwise stated.

On March 31, September 30, December 30, 2020, and March 31, 2021, HUD issued a notice of waivers to current regulations that CoC- and ESG-funded projects could use. Individual projects must notify HUD of their intention to use the waivers. If HUD issues additional COVID-19 related waivers or changes in the regulations, agencies will be allowed to adopt the changes prior to the Dane County Written Standards getting updated and approved by the Board of Directors.

Case Management

1. Rapid Rehousing (CoC-funded): For projects that notify HUD of use of this waiver, monthly case management meetings are not required. Staff should attempt to connect to program participants via phone, text, email or other virtual means. It is important during a public health emergency that staff check-in with program participants. Expires 6/30/21.

Permanent Supportive Housing

1. For projects that notified HUD of use of this waiver, projects are not required to have participants enter into a lease agreement for a term of at least one year. The initial lease term must be for at least one month. This is applicable to leases executed between March 31 and June 30, 2021.
2. For projects that notified HUD of use of Waiver 2, projects that prioritize people experiencing chronic homelessness, do not need to have third party documentation of a disability if the public health crisis prevents the participant from obtaining one. A written certification by the individual seeking assistance that they have a qualifying disability is considered acceptable documentation. Expires when public health officials determine no additional special measures are necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Recipients will NOT need to obtain additional evidence to verify intake staff-recorded observation.

Prevention

1. For projects that notified HUD of use of Waiver 11, the requirement to re-evaluate participants receiving short-term rental assistance is waived. Re-evaluations must occur not less than once every 6 months. Expires 3/31/22.
2. For projects that notified HUD of use of Waiver 12, monthly case management meetings are not required. Staff should attempt to connect to program participants via phone, text, email or other virtual means. It is important during a public health emergency that staff check-in with program participants. Expires 5/30/20
    a. The above waiver was updated on 5/22/20 to expire on 8/22/20.

3. When using COVID-19 funds, eligibility criteria for prevention assistance will not require a previous episode of homelessness. Households with a previous episode of homelessness will be prioritized for assistance.
4. When using ESG-CV funds, households receiving prevention assistance cannot have an annual income that exceeds 50% of county median income.

Rapid Rehousing

1. During the public health emergency, rapid rehousing households with children will prioritize households staying in emergency shelter or in hotels paid for with emergency shelter funds. All other prioritization elements will remain the same.
2. ESG-CV funds are to be used for individuals who qualify for vulnerable hotels and the following sub-populations will be prioritized:
    a. Youth (up to age 24)
    b. Age 65+
3. For CoC-funded projects that notified HUD of use of Waiver 2 in the 5/22/20 memo, the 24-month rental assistance restriction is waived. Participants who reach 24 months of rental assistance after 5/22/20 can receive ongoing assistance if they are unable to afford their rent without the assistance. This will expire 3 months after a state or local public health official has determined that special measures are no longer necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Transitional Housing & Other Permanent Housing

1. During the public health emergency, transitional housing and other permanent housing programs serving households with children will prioritize households staying in emergency shelter or in hotels paid for with emergency shelter funds. All other prioritization elements will remain the same.

Homeless Definition

1. Regarding temporary stays in institutions.
    a. An individual may qualify as homeless so long as he or she is exiting an institution where they resided for 120 days or less and resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution. Expires 6/30/21.

Coordinated Entry

1. The requirement to conduct an annual coordinated entry planning and stakeholder consultation process is waived. Expires on 9/30/21.