

**DOCUMENT TITLE:** Coordinated Entry COVID-19 Prioritization Policy

**POLICY ADMINISTRATION:** The Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness, Jackson/Wyandotte County Continuum of Care Lead Agency

­­­**Policy Formation and Approval Process**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Step | Responsible Party | Due Date | Date Completed | Link to Draft, Notes, etc. |
| Initial Draft | Coordinated Entry Workgroup & Policy and Procedure Coordinator | 6/3/2020 | 6/3/2020 | [Initial Draft](https://gkcceh.squarespace.com/s/Coordinated-Entry-COVID-19-Prioritization-Policy-Draft-1-eg9l.docx) |
| Draft Review | Community Standards Committee | 6/17/2020 | 6/18/2020(Approved for Full Membership Review) | None |
| ~~2~~~~nd~~ ~~Draft~~ | ~~Policy and Procedure Coordinator~~ | ~~6/19/2020~~ | ~~N/A~~ | ~~2~~~~nd~~ ~~Draft~~ |
| ~~2~~~~nd~~ ~~Draft Review~~ | ~~Community Standards Committee~~ | ~~6/26/2020~~ | ~~N/A~~ | ~~Notes~~ |
| ~~3~~~~rd~~ ~~Draft~~ | ~~Policy and Procedure Coordinator~~ | ~~6/30/2020~~ | ~~N/A~~ | ~~3~~~~rd~~ ~~Draft~~ |
| Review & Committee Vote | Community Standards Committee | 7/7/2020 | 6/18/2020 | None |
| Committee Approved Policy Sent to Full Membership for 10 Business Day Review | Policy and Procedure Coordinator | 7/9/2020 | 6/22/2020 | [Email](https://conta.cc/2B1TmWD)[Website](https://www.gkcceh.org/news/feedback-requested-mo-604s-ce-covid-19-prioritization-policy)[Notes](https://gkcceh.squarespace.com/s/CV-19-CE-Prioritization-Policy-10-Day-Full-Membership-Review-Notes.docx) |
| 2nd ~~4~~~~th~~ Draft | Policy and Procedure Coordinator | 7/23/2020 | 7/3/2020 | [2nd ~~4~~~~th~~ Draft](https://www.gkcceh.org/s/Coordinated-Entry-COVID-19-Prioritization-Policy-Draft-2-f9s9.docx) |
| 2nd ~~4~~~~th~~ Draft Sent to Full Membership for 3 Business Day Review | Policy and Procedure Coordinator | 7/23/2020 | 7/6/2020 | [Email](https://conta.cc/30aMZZq)[Website](https://www.gkcceh.org/news/feedback-requested-mo-604s-ce-covid-19-prioritization-policy) |
| Final Draft | Policy and Procedure Coordinator | 7/29/2020 | 7/15/2020 | Final Draft |
| Presented to Board of Directors for Approval, as needed. | Executive Director, Director of Programs, and Policy and Procedure Coordinator | 8/7/2020 | 8/7/2020 | ~~Notes~~ |
| Approved Policy Published via Email and Website | Policy and Procedure Coordinator | 8/10/2020 | 8/10/2020 | EmailWebsite |



**DOCUMENT TITLE:** Coordinated Entry COVID-19 Prioritization Policy

**POLICY ADMINISTRATION:** The Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness, Jackson/Wyandotte County Continuum of Care Lead Agency

**ADOPTED DATE:** August 7, 2020

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** May 22, 2020 through October 31, 2020

**POLICY**: To quickly house homeless individuals/households who have been, or will be, assessed AND have been identified as high-risk for developing serious and life-threatening health complications from COVID-19 (based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for people who are at higher risk), Coordinated Entry will prioritize individuals/households with priority factors, as outlined below, for all housing openings.

While all homeless individuals/households are at risk of getting COVID-19, Communities of Color are more likely to get COVID-19 or experience severe illness due to long-standing systemic health and social inequities. History also shows that severe illness and death rates tend to be higher for Communities of Color during public health emergencies than for other populations. The priority factors described in this policy intentionally address these racial disparities in attempts to reduce the negative impact that COVID-19 has on Communities of Color.

For More Information on Racial Disparities and COVID-19 visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/racial-ethnic-minorities.html>

**Note:** CoC/ESG Permanent Housing Programs must fill all openings using the Coordinated Entry System.

**PROCEDURE**:

* Case managers must notify the Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness (GKCCEH) Coordinated Entry staff, via email (programstaff@gkcceh.org), of shelter and outreach clients, who are already on or will be added to the BNL, identified with priority factors listed below.
* Third-party verification of priority factors is preferred, but self-certification will be accepted for clients who cannot obtain third-party.
* Coordinated Entry staff will maintain list of eligible clients, who have been identified as having at least one of the Priority Factors listed below.
* Once the list of clients with priority factors has been identified, housing referrals will be sent using the appropriate standing prioritization policy, based on which housing intervention has the available opening (RRH, PSH, TH, TH/RRH).
* Clients with multiple priority factors will be prioritized before clients with fewer priority factors. Otherwise, all priority factors will be given equal weight. No priority factor will be of more significance than another.

**EXCEPTIONS**:

* Chronically homeless clients with all required documentation will be prioritized first for PSH openings, followed by COVID-19 priority factors. (Programs that have received the HUD Mega Waiver allowing documentation to be completely waived through September 9, 2020 are exempt from the documentation requirement.)
* High lethality (LAP) clients will be prioritized first for housing openings, followed by COVID-19 priority factors.

**PRIORITY FACTORS:**

* Communities who are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19
* Individuals with significant housing barriers such as criminal records, poor credit, history of evictions, as these factors often contribute to difficulties accessing and maintaining housing.
* Priority consideration should be given to those sleeping in densely-populated unsheltered situations or congregate shelter, regardless of their COVID-19 status
* Having been positive or presumed positive COVID-19 and exiting an isolation/quarantine facility
* Pregnant or breastfeeding women
* Individuals ages 55+
* Fleeing or attempting to flee DV
* Medically vulnerable, with one of the following pre-existing health conditions:
* **Chronic lung disease (such as COPD) or moderate to severe asthma**
* **Serious heart conditions** (expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration, and significantly inhibits ability of the individual to live independently)
* **Conditions that can cause a person to be immunocompromised**, including cancer treatment, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications.
* **Severe obesity** (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
* **Diabetes**
* **Chronic kidney disease and those who are undergoing dialysis**
* **Liver disease**

**Note:**

* For those deemed Medically Vulnerable, with multiple pre-existing health conditions, each condition will be counted as an individual factor (i.e. an individual with COPD and Diabetes will be counted as having two Priority Factors, not one) and therefore would be prioritized over an individual who has only one pre-existing condition.
* These Priority Factors do not need to be co-occurring with a Positive COVID-19 Test.