



Chicago Coordinated Entry Temporary Prioritization Plan

On April 28th, 2020, the Coordinated Entry (CE) Leadership Team adopted a temporary prioritization plan in response to COVID-19 and following the guidance of the Chicago Department of Public Health Department (CDPH). This team will review data related to this temporary prioritization and the changing landscape of COVID-19 on June 23, 2020. This plan may be continued or adjusted then or in future monthly reviews.

Temporary CE Prioritization Plan

CDPH Recommended Priority Population Set-Asides	Households at High Risk for Serious Illness due to COVID-19 and Tested Negative *10% Set-Aside for Youth (Ages 18-24, with or without children) 10% Set-Aside for Unsheltered Households 20% Set-Aside for Families
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High Risk Criteria

- CDPH defines individuals at high risk of serious illness due to COVID-19 as those who:
 1. Are over the age of 60 and/or
 2. Are any age and have underlying health conditions identified by the CDC as risk factors¹, including moderate to severe asthma, chronic lung disease, poorly-controlled diabetes, serious heart conditions, chronic kidney disease, severe obesity, liver disease, or people who are immunocompromised.

Housing Set-Asides

The CDPH recommended priority population will include youth, families and unsheltered participants. These three cohorts will also have set-asides; ensuring housing commitments for these sub-populations while this temporary plan is in effect. Individuals who are at high risk of serious illness due to COVID-19 will be prioritized within all populations.

* This prioritization plan maintains the previously implemented 10% set-aside for youth, continuing this much needed practice.

Racial Equity

In recognition of the way racism permeates systems, it is imperative that the implementation of this plan accounts for systemic racialized inequities and therefore works to create and sustain equitable access for people of color. The CE Leadership Team will review disaggregated data to ensure people of color are identified, tested, assessed and housed at a rate that is proportionate to their makeup of homeless households in Chicago. This team will make adjustments to the CE temporary prioritization plan as needed to make certain it is racially equitable.

¹ See <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/groups-at-higher-risk.html>.



Coordinated Entry Temporary Prioritization Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When does this temporary prioritization plan begin?

A: This plan begins on May 11, 2020.

Q: How long will this temporary plan last?

A: The CE Leadership team will review the plan on June 23, 2020 to determine if it should continue and what adjustments may be needed. As examples, if testing does not include unsheltered households, is not racially equitable, or if healthcare experts recommend a different prioritization the team will make needed changes. These are only a few potential considerations along with supporting data of the plan's implementation.

Q: How are people being identified?

A: In May and June, people in the high-risk for severe Covid-19 and tested negative cohort are being identified by the Chicago Department of Public Health. The CoC is working with CDPH to prioritize housing needs of individuals CDPH has identified as at risk for severe COVID-19.

Q: What if a person is at high risk for severe COVID-19, tested negative, and is not located at the shielding hotel?

A: In May and June, 2020, people in the shielding hotel will be prioritized initially, and we will expand from there. We are receiving public health and medical guidance from CDPH to inform the temporary prioritization plan. While we don't have specific timelines for expansion, we will work with CDPH as they identify people more directly from shelters and encampments.

Q: What if someone is at risk for severe COVID-19 and does not have access to testing or is vulnerable and has already tested positive?

A: Per the temporary prioritization, they will not be prioritized for housing unless part of a set-aside. The CoC is working with CDPH to prioritize housing needs of individuals CDPH has identified as at risk for severe COVID-19. CDPH is working to provide testing at shelters and encampments. At present, CDPH is focused on those who have tested negative, but this may shift as CDPH COVID-19 response continues to evolve.

Q: If testing is primarily conducted in shelters, does that mean that people need to be in a shelter to access housing?

A: In the prioritized cohort people must be at high risk for severe COVID-19 AND tested negative so the testing locations are influencing who will be housed. While most testing to date has taken place in shelters, CDPH anticipates expanding street based testing.

Q: What if I have feedback?

A: We welcome your feedback! Please share it by sending an e-mail to chicagoces@csh.org.