

3.3 Low Barrier

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that access to the Coordinated Entry System (CES) is low barrier and non-discriminatory. It aims to guarantee that individuals experiencing homelessness can seek CES services without being denied based on perceived barriers such as substance use, criminal history, disabilities, or health conditions.

FORMS

There are no forms related or required for this Policy

POLICY

Access to the CES is low barrier, meaning that people experiencing homelessness seeking CoC CES are not discriminated against based on perceived barriers to housing. Barriers that are not considered or discriminated against when offering CoC CES services include, but are not limited to:

- Prior or ongoing substance use
- Domestic violence history
- Criminal justice involvement
- Physical, intellectual, and/or developmental disabilities
- Acute, long-term, and/or behavioral health conditions, including Serious Mental Illness(es)
- History of evictions, poor credit history, and/or housing lease violations

KEY TAKE AWAYS

- **Low Barrier Access:** The CES is designed to provide access to services without discrimination or exclusion based on common barriers to housing.
- **Non-Discriminatory Practices:** Barriers such as prior or ongoing substance use, history of domestic violence, criminal justice involvement, disabilities, or health

conditions (including Serious Mental Illness) will not be considered when offering CES services.

- **Inclusive Service Provision:** Individuals with a history of evictions, poor credit history, or housing lease violations are also entitled to access CES services without discrimination.
- **Focus on Housing Support:** The policy reinforces that all individuals, regardless of their past or current circumstances, have the right to receive support in obtaining stable housing through the CES.