



Targeted Prevention Program Standards

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I. Purpose

This document is intended to serve as a guide to service providers implementing a targeted prevention program within the Fredericksburg Regional Continuum of Care (CoC). This document promotes a unified understanding of the core program elements and expectations of local targeted prevention providers. As the local coordinated entry system continues to evolve and strengthen its ability to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-reoccurring, there is an increased need for system-wide alignment around common goals and outcomes, program models and activities, and performance standards. **All targeted prevention providers within the CoC are expected to adhere to the model outlined in this document.** Fidelity to this model will help ensure that all clients enrolled in targeted prevention have similar experiences and opportunities regardless of which service provider they work with.

II. Access and Prioritization

Eligibility & Coordinated Entry

A household must be at imminent risk of homelessness or fleeing/attempting to flee domestic violence (24 CFR 91.5) in order to be eligible for targeted prevention resources. All referrals to the targeted prevention program should be received through the CoC's approved coordinated entry process (Refer to the *CoC Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures* for further details on access, eligibility, and coordinated entry). Persons fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence are connected through the Domestic Violence (DV) specific coordinated entry process. Providers that receive referrals are responsible for all final eligibility determinations. Providers should follow any additional grant guidelines by funding source. There is no limitation on the number of times a household may access and receive targeted prevention services, so long as the household meets eligibility criteria outlined by funding sources and is referred through coordinated entry. However, assistance should be targeted to those that would not be able to succeed but for the assistance.

Prioritization

In order to ensure that those most in need of assistance are prioritized for limited resources, the CoC has implemented a community process that assesses a participant's level of vulnerability to target those least likely to self-resolve.

The CoC prioritizes households eligible for targeted prevention, in the following order:

1. Households fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, labor trafficking, or sex trafficking
2. Households temporarily staying in a hotel or motel that is self, family, or friend paid and have to leave
3. Households temporarily staying with family or friends and have to leave
4. Households exiting hospital, jail, or other institution with no identified housing plan
5. Households being evicted within two weeks

III. Core Components

Targeted prevention is intended to assist families and individuals at risk of homelessness to retain housing, either in their current housing situation or by relocating. Targeted prevention is a housing first, low-barrier intervention with no preconditions to enrollment other than the eligibility requirements outlined above.

Core components of targeted prevention assistance include housing identification, financial assistance, and case management. The type and intensity of assistance provided to a household may include any combination of the core components through a creative and flexible process to explore a household's options. The services described below for each core component are primary types of assistance, but not an exhaustive list. The level of case management and financial assistance is based on a progressive engagement model where the minimum amount of service is provided before increasing support to meet the household's needs. When financial assistance is provided, targeted prevention programs follow a graduated subsidy model where participants become increasingly responsible for their housing costs as they progress through the program. The level of assistance to be provided is assessed and determined by the referral agency.

Grant guidelines may further determine aspects of targeted prevention programs at the agency level, including the types of financial assistance provided by funding source and agency staff training requirements.

Housing Identification

The goal of housing identification is to quickly locate affordable housing options for a household. Receiving housing identification support through targeted prevention does not preclude program participants from conducting their own search and choosing housing they identify independently. Activities under this core component are targeted for both landlords and participants:

1. Landlord Recruitment and Support
 - Engage landlords, homeowners, or renters with units, rooms or housing options
 - Negotiate with landlords or homeowners to facilitate household access, including households with rental barriers
 - Support landlords, homeowners or roommates in order to preserve and develop partnerships for current and future housing placements
2. Household Housing Search and Support
 - Assess tenant needs and barriers to housing placement
 - Set household expectations on location, size and/or rent
 - Conduct a targeted housing search and support households with completing rental applications
 - Provide tenant counseling (including education on how to speak with landlords, understanding rental applications and leases, securing utilities, and understanding tenant obligations)

- Support households with setting up utilities and making moving arrangements
- Support households to secure income if necessary to fully assume housing costs by the end of financial assistance

Financial Assistance

Financial assistance in targeted prevention provides short-term support to households to quickly address their housing crisis. Financial assistance may include paying rent or utility arrears, rental assistance, and other similar, indirect payments. Participants should not be required to pay any portion of their rent in order to be eligible for services, instead, provider staff should work directly with the participants to evaluate needs and determine the amount of financial assistance needed. Case managers are responsible for ensuring that both the landlord and the participant are informed of the supports that are being provided throughout the program participation.

Case Management

Targeted prevention case management should use a strength-based approach to support households to explore resources and options to quickly resolve their housing crisis, with a focus on natural supports and community resources. Case management should be client-driven and voluntary. Case management services may include:

- Conflict resolution and mediation with landlords, family members, and friends
- Leveraging personal, family, friend, and community resources to retain housing
- Preparing households to fully assume housing costs by the end of financial assistance
- Maintaining working relationships with landlords for future participants and to respond to landlord needs that would risk participant tenancy

IV. HMIS and Data Collection

All targeted prevention providers are required to enter data into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). For confidentiality reasons, DV providers are exempt from using the HMIS system but must use a comparable database to collect data. Prompt and accurate data collection assists the homeless system to determine which services and programs clients are utilizing, evaluate the impact of services, and make system improvements. It is the responsibility of the program staff to have accurate and complete data. Providers should refer to the latest version of HUD's *HMIS Data Dictionary* for detailed instructions on what is required to be collected.

V. Performance Standards

Targeted prevention programs will be evaluated on their ability to meet CoC approved Project Performance Standards.