



King County

Coordinated Entry for All Newsletter

April 2019

Greetings Partners!

See below for:

- CEA Improvement Process
- Updates/Changes
- Bitfocus/Clarity Updates
- Community Resources
- Assessor Tips

CEA IMPROVEMENT PROCESS

Interim Prioritization Plan

In the spring of 2018, the PAC set racial benchmarks for prioritized households through CEA. An interim prioritization workgroup has been gathering to identify and test interim models in an effort to approach those benchmarks. The plan resulting from this workgroup utilizes existing responses to supplemental questions in the Housing Triage Tool to revise the current prioritization methodology for our community. Single Adult Interim Prioritization began December 7, YYA Interim Prioritization began Jan 4, and Family Interim Prioritization began Jan 25.

Please note the Interim Prioritization FAQs are available on the CEA website: <https://bit.ly/2Td9F6P>

External Fill

The External Fill Policy allows a housing provider to fill available housing units' external of a CEA referral when CEA is unable to identify an eligible household. An External Fill will be approved when an eligible, prioritized household cannot be identified for an available housing resource after two instances of a case conferencing meeting. Previously, when providers identified households for a resource after that resource went to External Fill, a form was commonly used to send the household's UI to the CEA team. That form is no longer necessary. *If you have identified a household for a unit being externally filled, please send a secure email to cea@kingcounty.gov specifying both the unit and the household's Unique Identifier.* The referral will be sent in HMIS by a member of the referral team.

CHANGES AND REMINDERS

Length of Time Homeless/Episodes of Homelessness Questions in Housing Triage Tool

In the History of Housing and Homelessness section of the VI-SPDAT, there are several questions that our community seems to be understanding differently. To clarify: If someone answers the question "What is your current living situation" with an answer in category 1 of homelessness, several options will populate.

If you have a concern about CEA policies and procedures, please call 206-328-5796 or email cea@kingcounty.gov. Additionally, CEA hosts a monthly feedback and update call on every 1st Friday of the month from 10 to 11 am. To join the conference call, please dial 206-263-8114 and enter the conference ID 486140.





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LIVING SITUATION


What is your current living situation? 

How long have you been in your current living situation? 


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What is your current living situation? 

How long have you been in your current living situation? 

Approximate Date Homelessness Started 

Number of times on the streets, in ES, or Safe Haven in the past three years 

Total number of months homeless on the streets, in ES, or Safe Haven in the past three years 

Providers:

- When the HTT asks for **“Approximate Date Homelessness Started,”** that refers to the **current episode of homelessness**. Do **not** answer this question with reference to the first time a household experienced homelessness.
- **“Number of times on the streets, in ES, or Safe Haven in the past three years.”** There is not a minimum number of nights in which each occasion must total but instead, occasions are defined by a break of at least seven nights not residing in an emergency shelter, safe haven, or residing in a place meant for human habitation.
- **“Total number of months homeless on the streets, in ES, or Safe Haven in the past three years”** refers to the total time someone has been experiencing homelessness within the last three years. This should not include couch-surfing or doubling up. This information is used to determine eligibility for programs that require chronic homelessness.

If you have questions about the way these questions should be answered, please reach out to cea@kingcounty.gov.

CEA Feedback Call

Time change: CEA’s monthly feedback and update call will be held every 1st Friday of the month from 10 to 11 am. To join the conference call, please dial 206-263-8114 and enter the conference ID 486140. For the first half of the upcoming call, the team will be focusing on Diversion and accessing the central fund, then will be opening up the call for questions.

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BITFOCUS/CLARITY

Balance of State (BOS) Denials

Housing providers: if you are denying a household in HMIS for a resource, please do NOT select any of the “BOS” options as the denial reason. These options are only meant to be used by other, smaller communities in Washington.

Expired Referrals

Housing providers: if you are denying a household in HMIS for a resource, please do NOT select “Expired” as the denial reason. That option is valid in other communities that use Clarity, but not in ours. “Expired” is not a referral outcome – enrollment or denial are. The “Pending – In Process” option continues to be used as an indicator of referral acknowledgement on the part of the housing provider.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Public Defense Creates New Post- Conviction Unit

People with criminal convictions who are eligible to have those convictions vacated will get additional legal assistance to do so, thanks to a new post-conviction relief unit at the King County Department of Public Defense. *Learn more:* <https://kcpublicdefense.com/2019/03/12/public-defense-creates-new-post-conviction-unit/>

Using Rent Track to Build Credit

This website is a resource to allow households to pay rent, track that payment, and report it to credit bureaus to support building credit without having to take on new debt: <https://www.renttrack.com/>

ASSESSOR TIPS

Assessor Tab Access

Reminder: HMIS users are only able to request assessor tab access once they have completed Clarity training. For questions or to request access, please email Jennell.hicks@kingcounty.gov.

Post HTT Handout and Provider Messaging on CEA Website

Please find these two documents linked on the CEA website under “Assessors.” <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/community-human-services/housing/services/homeless-housing/coordinated-entry/providers.aspx>. These documents are meant to assist assessors and other providers in conducting the Housing Triage Tool and answering questions that may come up after a Housing Triage Tool has been completed.

Schedule: Assessor Refreshers 2019: <https://bit.ly/2Hug0mk>

Schedule: RAP-Navigator All Staff Meetings 2019: <https://bit.ly/2Hug0mk>

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