



KCRHA
King County Regional Homelessness Authority

Coordinated Entry Assessments

Coordinated Entry Committee June 26, 2025

Context

- Seattle/King County Coordinated Entry has not used VI-SPDAT for prioritization since October 2020
- VI-SPDAT: invasive questions, perpetuates racial inequity
- COVID Prioritization: medical administrative data to prioritize based on risk factors for COVID-19, in partnership with SKC Public Health and others
- April 2023: self-reported length of current episode > survivors fleeing or attempting to flee > unsheltered



Current state

- Current system lacks an assessment that aligns with prioritization
- Length of time homeless presents issues:
 - Lack of equity
 - Self-report
 - Does not represent well other known risk factors for chronic homelessness: age, race & ethnicity, gender identity, medical & behavioral health conditions
 - Does not consider other major vulnerabilities such as pregnancy status or DV/IPV status



Goals and priorities

- Short-term: utilize an assessment for prioritization rather than self-report length of time
- Working to foster elements of the CES that work together for "throughput" from our shelter beds into PSH
- Long-term: regain the ability to use administrative data
 - Less invasive
 - Better quality than HMIS



Vulnerability Assessments

- DESC Vulnerability Assessment Tool (VAT)
 - Full assessment
 - "Mini-VAT" variations
- Pathways Community Network Institute, Municipal Information Systems Matching to Appropriate Placement (MAP) assessment
- Southern Nevada Community Housing Assessment Tool (CHAT)
- Seattle/King County Housing Needs Form (HNF)



Mini-VAT variations

- STAR Center referral form
- Emergency Housing referral form
- Permanent Supportive Housing service match tool



Mini-VAT PSH Pilot

- Train DESC and CCA Assessors to use the tool
- Assess Coordinated Entry enrolled households at DESC and CCA shelter programs
- Use tool to prioritize and match households to DESC and CCA PSH units
- Evaluate pilot, bring lessons learned to CEC and discuss recommendations for implementation across larger system



Limitations and considerations

- Prioritization and service matching are not necessarily one in the same
- Even with better assessment, the need to tiebreak will arise





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