

Low Barrier Shelter and Housing Breakfast Meeting

Washington State Coordinated Entry Guidelines

Assessing the Coordinated Entry System

The CES must be low-barrier, and adhere to state and federal anti-discrimination laws. Households cannot be screened out based on the following criteria:

Consolidated Homeless Grant Guidelines

Intake & Project Eligibility

By July 2018, each county must have at least one low-barrier project. At the minimum, homeless households are not screened out based on the following criteria:

- ✓ Having too little or no income
- ✓ Having poor credit or financial history
- ✓ Having poor or lack of rental history
- ✓ Having involvement with the criminal justice system
- ✓ Having active or a history of alcohol and/or substance use
- ✓ Having a history of victimization
- ✓ The type or extent of disability-related services or supports that are needed
- ✓ Lacking ID or proof of U.S. Residency Status
- ✓ Other behaviors that are perceived as indicating a lack of “housing readiness,” including resistance to receiving services

Additionally, CHG Guidelines include the following in respect to program participation in low-barrier projects:

Low barrier projects have realistic and clear expectations. Rules and policies are narrowly focused on maintaining a safe environment and avoiding exits to homelessness. Low barrier projects do not have work or volunteer requirements. Projects that require households to pay a share of rent allow reasonable flexibility in payment.

Households are not terminated from the project for the following reasons:

- ✓ Failure to participate in supportive services or treatment programs
- ✓ Failure to make progress on a housing stability plan
- ✓ Alcohol and/or substance use in and of itself is not considered a reason for termination

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Critical Questions to Ask About Rules

From WSCADV's "Critical Questions to Ask About Shelter Rules"

<http://wscadv.org/resources/critical-questions-to-ask-about-shelter-rules/>

What problem are we trying to solve with this rule?

Are we asking people to make up for a shortcoming in our building, funding or staff?

Is it possible to enforce the rule? If not, what purpose does it serve?

Is this rule a funder's requirement? What is the exact wording of the requirement?

Does the rule actually accomplish the purpose?

Is the rule more controlling than basic social norms and accountability would be outside of the program? *Strive for reasonable expectations!*

Would we really make someone leave the program over violation of this rule?

Is homelessness a justifiable consequence for violating this rule?