



## RICoC Board of Directors

### CES Implementation Committee, Regionalization Workgroup

#### Regionalization Policy – March 7, 2024

The Coordinated Entry System (CES) Regionalization Workgroup, a subcommittee of the CES Implementation Committee, recommended the following strategies to address regional access and referral needs within the RICoC's statewide implementation of CE at the RICoC Board's September meeting. These strategies were approved by the RICoC Board on September 7, 2023, as a test for a time-limited period. **The RICoC Board voted on March 7, 2024, to make the strategies outlined below CES Policy and Procedure, specifically Strategy 1 and Strategy 2.**

As the CES Policies and Procedures document is in the process of being updated as part of the CE Evaluation Workgroup, this document will serve as an addendum to the CES Policies and Procedures until the updated full language comes to the CoC Board later this spring/early summer.

#### **1. Shelter Set Asides**

To allow shelter providers, in coordination with CES referral matchers, to add needed flexibility in placing households experiencing unsheltered homelessness directly into open shelter beds, the RICoC Board is establishing a 25% set-aside across all existing\* shelters. The CE Lead is responsible for tracking and counting shelter set-aside beds, differentiating referrals to maintain system-level data and reporting, and to maintain communication with shelter providers regarding referrals.

To utilize the shelter set-aside, shelter providers are expected to coordinate with local service providers, including outreach teams, community partners, emergency services personnel, and other primary workers, to identify high acuity and/or underserved households experiencing unsheltered homelessness within their region. Shelter providers will indicate the UID of any client they wish to be considered for a set-aside referral when opening availability within Clarify for review by the CE Lead.

Additionally, all shelter beds will continue to be prioritized for households who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness. This allows for needed flexibility, while preserving the community's expressed values. If the full 25% set-aside cannot be filled by unsheltered households, the CE Lead will refer directly from the shelter queue.

The RICoC Board established this shelter set-aside as part of CE Policy and Procedures. Key implementation partners will continue to meet regularly to monitor progress and discuss challenges.

*\*This 25% set aside applies to existing emergency shelters. Entities who wish to develop additional shelter opportunities may utilize a higher set-aside percentage of new beds/units up to 75% for new shelter projects.*

## **2. Regional Unsheltered Case Conference**

To increase awareness of high acuity unsheltered households within each region, the RICoC Board is continuing the implementation of regular (at least quarterly and preferably monthly) case conferencing meetings made up of Street Outreach and Harm Reduction workers within corresponding service jurisdictions. Case conferencing discussions include client-level, by-name review of households' shelter and/or housing preferences and barriers to placement, alternative available resources, and potential additional supports needed. This will contribute to referral request coordination for assistance within both the shelter set-aside, as outlined above, and the shelter or housing providers' established bed and unit inventories.

The regional case conference convenings will be in addition to the 4 subpopulation case conferencing meetings currently occurring each month (Veterans, TAY/FAM, DV, and Individual). Street Outreach and Harm Reduction workers who want to attend any of the other established case conferencing meetings to engage in client-level discussion on behalf of unsheltered households may do so as needed.

The RICoC Board established the Regional Unsheltered Case Conference structure as part of CE Policy and Procedures on March 7, 2024.

## **3. Regional Hubs for CE Access and System Navigation**

The third part of the original recommendation, which was approved by the RICoC Board on September 7, 2023, included the recommendation below:

*"In addition to ensuring on-going training opportunities and targeted technical assistance, the CE Lead will hire 2 (to start) full-time CES Navigators who will be assigned to distinct regions throughout the state and will function to facilitate successful shelter and housing placements. Regional assignment will initially target agencies/municipalities that have indicated persistent capacity limitations and support needs. As on-site CES Assessors with established hours at participating provider locations, CES Navigators will:*

- *Support agencies, including Street Outreach partners, within their region in ensuring unsheltered households interested in seeking shelter have complete and updated Crisis Assessments;*
- *Support agencies, including Street Outreach partners, within their region in ensuring sheltered and unsheltered households have complete and updated Housing Assessments;*
- *Track high acuity, under-served client movement through the homeless assistance system to ensure households are appropriately queued for referral consideration"*

This recommendation has not yet been implemented, and the CE Evaluation Workgroup is currently working on expanding this recommendation, based on the CE Evaluation recommendation to continue to thoughtfully regionalize the RICoC's CES.

This third recommendation was not part of the RICoC's March 7, 2024, vote to approve the Regionalization Policy, as a more specific recommendation will come to the RICoC Board on CES Navigators as part of the CE Evaluation Workgroup's list of recommendations at the April 4, 2024, RICoC Board meeting.