



Welcome Home Village Interim Housing Prioritization

Applicability: Applies to all referrals from the SLO CoC CES system to the Welcome Home Village Interim Housing Project.

Approved Date: June 23, 2026
Most Recent Revision Date: June 3, 2026

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Purpose

This guidance outlines the Coordinated Entry System (CES) process for referring individuals to the Welcome Home Village (WHV) Interim Housing units. Eligibility and prioritization align with the CES Prioritization & Referral Policy and the Encampment Resolution Fund (ERF) requirements by prioritizing individuals from the Bob Jones Bike Trail (BJBT) encampment for placement in Interim Housing (non-congregate shelter) units. The goal of this guidance is to ensure a low-barrier, person-centered, equitable, and efficient process that prioritizes unsheltered individuals with the highest needs

Eligibility and Prioritization

To be eligible for referral to interim housing units at WHV, households must

- Contain single adults (18 or older)
- Be experiencing homelessness, with priority given to those experiencing unsheltered homelessness
- Include no minor children
- Fall within one of the four prioritization groups listed below

CES will prioritize referrals among eligible households based on the following vulnerability factors:

- VI-SPDAT score
- Chronic homelessness status

- Length of time homeless
- Other risk indicators identified in the CES Prioritization & Referral Policy

Once current BJBT residents are housed, CES will prioritize households with a history of staying at the BJBT encampment who fall within the same high-vulnerability cohort. High vulnerability is defined as individuals and households who score 8–10 or 11+ on the VI-SPDAT survey. Prior denial or exit from a PSH or interim housing unit will not exempt clients from future referrals. If no eligible or interested households from the encampment are available, CES will refer the most vulnerable unsheltered households in the community, as outlined by the current Prioritization Scoring & Eligibility Criteria Guidance. In alignment with Housing First principles and the ERF grant requirements, referrals to interim housing will not be contingent on sobriety, income, service participation, or other preconditions.

Bob Jones Bike Trail Residence Eligibility Groups

Households staying or having stayed on the BTBJ will be designated into one of the following four groups. Households from group one (1) will be prioritized first, then group two (2), then group three (3), then group four (4). A household referred to Interim Housing at WHV will maintain its group status.

Group 1: Households currently staying on the BJBT, as verified by outreach efforts or CLS data documented in HMIS.

Group 2: Households for whom the BJBT was their primary nighttime residence, defined as the location where the individual slept the majority of nights throughout a continuous 30-day period during their current period of homelessness, or **after** December 2023, as verified by outreach efforts, CLS data documented in HMIS, or third-party outreach attestation uploaded into HMIS.

Group 3: Households for whom the BJBT was their primary nighttime residence during a previous period of homelessness or stayed on the BJBT **before** December 2023. Verified by outreach efforts, CLS data documented in HMIS, client self-report, or third-party outreach attestation uploaded into HMIS.

Group 4: Households that have stayed on the BJBT intermittently during a previous period of homelessness. Verified by outreach efforts, CLS data documented in HMIS, client self-report, or third-party outreach attestation uploaded into HMIS. A household referred to Interim Housing at WHV will maintain its group status.

Table 1: Eligibility Groups

Group	Group Eligibility Criteria	VI-SPDAT Requirement
1	Current BJBT Resident	No score requirement. Referrals will be from highest to lowest acuity.

2	BJBT stay was after December 2023	Will be from highest to lowest acuity.
3	BJBT stay was before December 2023	Will be from highest to lowest acuity.
4	BJBT stay(s) was intermittent during a previous episode of homelessness	Will be from highest to lowest acuity.

Eligible households will be referred based on vulnerability, beginning with those who score highest on the VI-SPDAT assessment and proceeding in descending order.

CES will refer:

- All clients in Group 1, regardless of their VI-SPDAT score, prior to considering other groups.
- Clients in Groups 2-4 will only be eligible for referral to Interim Housing if they have a VI-SPDAT score of eight (8) or higher, consistent with the existing CES prioritization policy.

CES may document and consider other relevant factors when assessing residency history and making prioritization decisions, in alignment with the established CES prioritization processes.

Process

The following processes ensure that WHV supports the goals of the BJBT Encampment Resolution while maintaining CES's commitment to serving the most vulnerable individuals through an equitable, coordinated system. Placement decisions will follow Housing First principles: referrals are not contingent on sobriety, income, service participation, or other preconditions unrelated to basic eligibility.

Referral Documentation

All referral decisions are documented in HMIS, and the process is designed to be transparent, equitable, and accountable to community priorities and funding requirements. Referrals will include an official match letter documenting the referral date, referral to project, and the referred client's HMIS unique ID.

Interim Housing Units

- When an interim housing unit at WHV becomes available, CES will identify the highest-priority eligible individual with a documented current or recent stay at the BJBT encampment, within two business days of being notified of an open bed in

HMIS (for more details on the matching process, please review CES Matching Guidance).

- Individuals will be prioritized based on established CES vulnerability factors, including VI-SPDAT score, chronic homelessness status, disabling conditions, and length of time homeless.
- While the WHV is in the initial leasing process and there is high unit turnover and vacancies, CES will host a case conference with the housing provider and case managers to confirm eligibility and the accuracy of referrals.
- If no eligible BJBT residents are available, CES will refer the next highest-priority unsheltered household from the CES Permanent Housing Queue. Whenever possible, CES will prioritize individuals who have previously stayed at the BJBT, provided they meet eligibility requirements and fall within the most vulnerable group.
- CES staff and outreach teams will coordinate to locate, engage, and support individuals through placement and move-in.
- All referrals will be documented in HMIS and include a match letter, ensuring transparency and compliance with both CES policy and funding requirements. Referrals must align with low-barrier Housing First principles, and all referral decisions will be documented in HMIS.

Please note that guidance may be updated to reflect changes in CES policies, program requirements, or community priorities.