



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Charles D. Baker, Governor ♦ Karyn E. Polito, Lt. Governor ♦ Janelle Chan, Undersecretary

### **The Massachusetts Balance of State Coordinated Entry Process**

What is the Coordinated Entry Process? This Coordinated Entry (CE) process has been created by the Massachusetts Balance of State Continuum of Care (BoS CoC) to facilitate the process of assessing the housing needs of individuals experiencing homelessness and meeting those housing needs.

Why is a Coordinated Entry Process necessary? The goal of the CE process is to provide each consumer with adequate services and supports to meet their housing needs, with a focus on returning them to housing as quickly as possible. The CE process will standardize the assessment of housing needs and prioritize the referrals of those most vulnerable to the most appropriate housing interventions. In addition, some sources of funding from US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) require that a Coordinated Entry process be used to match people and housing.

Who can be on the Coordinated Entry list? This process is intended to serve individuals experiencing homelessness with ties to the 79 communities within the BoS CoC. Homelessness will be defined in accordance with the official HUD definition of homelessness, *Hearth Homeless Definition - Final Rule*. For projects housing serving chronically homeless families or individuals please refer to *Defining Chronic Homelessness Final Rule*.

How does someone get onto the list? All households receive a CE Quick Screen built into the CoC's VESTA (HMIS) done in the shelters or outreach. EA shelters have screening built into ETO and the screener results are transferred to VESTA. Households with medium to high scores are referred to the CE project for a full CE Vulnerability Assessment and Housing Needs Form to be conducted by the referring organization and their participants.

If you have any further questions, please email us at [DHCDcocapplications@mass.gov](mailto:DHCDcocapplications@mass.gov)