



Massachusetts Balance of State Continuum of Care

The Massachusetts Balance of State CoC Coordinated Entry Process

What is the Coordinated Entry Process? The 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 through referrals to housing or programs within the BoS geography.

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 standardizes the assessment of housing needs and prioritizes the referrals of those most vulnerable to the most appropriate housing interventions. This process is required for CoC-funded projects and provides a way to ensure that those who are most vulnerable are prioritized for CoC resources.

Who can participate in Coordinated Entry? Anyone within the 115 communities that comprise the MA BoS CoC and are literally homeless (living in a place not meant for human habitation), living in an emergency shelter, or fleeing domestic violence may be evaluated through Coordinated Entry. For a more detailed definition of homelessness, please refer to <https://www.hudexchange.info/news/huds-definition-of-homelessness-resources-and-guidance/>.

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. 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 dhcdcocapplications@mass.gov