



Policy: Emergency Housing Voucher Program Referrals	
Creation Date: 11/2021	Revision Date:

1. **Purpose:** The policy formalizes Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program as a referral source in Dallas and Collin Co CoC and establishes the process for the identification and referral of households to the EHV program.

2. **Background:**

In August 2021, the Homeless Collaborative stakeholders begin planning for the expansion of resources as a result of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). In response, the Homeless Collaborative launched the Dallas Real Time Rapid Rehousing (DRTRR) initiative which would utilize HUD's Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) and Rapid Re-Housing Program Assistance to house over 2,700 individuals and families over two (2) years. The CAS Implementation Workgroup convened on September 28, 2021, to update the CAS Prioritization and Match Criteria to include Emergency Housing Vouchers as an intervention type for referrals in CAS and create a prioritization that targets CAS resources in alignment with the system-wide goal of 50% reduction of chronic unsheltered homelessness by 2023. . As a next step, the CAS Workgroup identified the need to formalize the EHV program as an intervention type for CAS referrals and further define how EHV's will be access and utilized across the CoC.

Under Notice PIH 2021-15, all referrals for the EHV program must go through the Coordinated Entry System which is a mandated program under 24 CFR § 578.7(a)(8). The CoC Lead Entity, Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance (MDHA) and local Public Housing Authority (PHA) agencies to include Dallas County Housing Authority, the city of Dallas Housing Authority, Grand Prairie Housing Authority, and Mesquite Housing Authority, entered into a MOU to further define roles and ensure that direct referral responsibility is maintained by the CoC. The CAS Workgroup convened on November 16, 2021, to finalize the policy that requires all referrals to EHV programs to be facilitated via the CAS process.

3. **Policy:** It is the policy of the Dallas and Collin Co CoC that EHV program referrals must be facilitated through the CAS. CAS will verify whether a household meets the eligibility and match criteria defined by CAS Prioritization & Match policy. After verification is completed, CAS will make direct referrals to the appropriate Public Housing Authority that is administering EHV's and the housing agency providing case management services.

The policy seeks to support equitable access and utilization of limited resources to meet the needs of eligible households. It is the goal of the CoC to distribute vouchers in a manner that aligns with the specific composition of those currently enrolled in CAS. To keep up with the demand and dynamic nature of the referrals, if no households meet literal homelessness or other match criteria defined in the CAS Prioritization and Match Criteria Policy at the time of referral, remaining households will be prioritized based on highest acuity and household size.