**Tiebreakers**

Within any prioritization category, each of the prioritization criteria within the priority category must be met by the household. Where two households meet all criteria within a single priority category, CES will prioritize referrals for households as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Single Adult Tiebreakers:** | **Family Tiebreakers:** | **Youth and TAY Tiebreakers:** |
| 1. Highest Assessment score 2. COVID prioritization criteria (when applicable) 3. Greatest age (unless program guidelines specifically identify a particular age group) 4. Greatest collective length of homelessness 5. Greatest utilization of emergency services | 1. Highest Assessment score 2. COVID prioritization criteria (when applicable) 3. Largest household size 4. Single parent households 5. Children under 5 years of age or medically verified pregnancy | 1. Highest Assessment score 2. COVID prioritization criteria (when applicable) 3. Greatest age (unless program guidelines specifically identify a particular age group) 4. Greatest collective length of homelessness 5. Greatest utilization of emergency services |

**COVID Prioritization Criteria**

Providers may elect to enter COVID risk factors for households who pose a high risk of vulnerability to COVID-19 into HMIS. These COVID risk factors are as follows:

* age over 60
* breathing condition, such as COPD or acute asthma
* serious underlying medical condition [as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH)]

Note: COVID risk factors are not automatically applied to all households. For example, households ages 60 and over are not automatically recorded with a COVID risk factor. These risk factors must be selected and manually entered into HMIS by a provider.

Background: From March 2020 – May 2022, CES implemented a “temporary” COVID prioritization due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. On March 26, 2022, the Governor of Hawaii lifted COVID restrictions across the state. Effective May 19, 2022, CES is following suit and lifting the "temporary" COVID prioritization until the Governor of Hawaii reinstates or modifies existing COVID restrictions.

Since COVID restrictions are no longer in place, CES will implement COVID risk factors to the prioritization list in the form of a tiebreaker. These COVID risk factors will be considered as a second tiebreaker, following the highest assessment score, in all priority categories.

In the event that COVID restrictions are reinstated, CES will prioritize households identified in HMIS with COVID risk factors ahead of households who do not have COVID risk factors, so long as the housing pathway for these households are the same.

Please see below examples of what this may look like in regards to prioritization:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| With COVID restrictions in place | Without COVID restrictions in place |
| What it means:  A household in PSH 2 recorded in HMIS with COVID risk factors will be referred to PSH resources upon availability ahead of a household in PSH 1 without COVID risk factors  What it does not mean:  A person in RRH category 1 with a COVID risk factor would not be prioritized ahead of a household in PSH Category 3 without a COVID risk factor for PSH resources as the housing pathway for the household in RRH category 1 is RRH and not PSH. | What it means:  Two households fall in the PSH 1 category, both households have an assessment score of 17. The household with a COVID risk factor will be referred ahead of the person without a COVID risk factor.  What it does not mean:  A person in PSH category 3 with a COVID risk factor would not be prioritized ahead of a person in PSH category 2 without a COVID risk factor. |