

## PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY: UNDERSTANDING DEFINITION CASE SCENARIOS & QUIZZES

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This guide walks through the case scenarios and quizzes presented in the **Participant Eligibility** section of the CoC Start-up Training. The case scenarios and quizzes are focused on reinforcing the eligibility requirements for the following program components under the CoC Program interim rule: PH: PSH, PH: RRH, TH and SSO.

### Definition of Homeless

#### *Case Scenario 1: Eduardo*

25-year old Eduardo recently lost his last job and couldn't pay the rent. He crashed with various buddies until the last one kicked him out.

Eduardo was spotted sleeping outside by his former high school teacher, Pete. Pete said Eduardo could stay at his place but Eduardo is always high, so Pete finally told him he had to find somewhere else to stay as soon as possible (within a week). Eduardo has no other friends or family in the area and no money to pay for a hotel or his own place.

**Q: What is Eduardo's Homeless Status at this moment?**

- a. Category 1: Literally Homeless
- b. Category 2: Imminent Risk of Homelessness
- c. Either. He could qualify as Category 1 or Category 2
- d. More information is needed to decide

#### *Case Scenario 2: Traci*

Traci (25) has been living with her boyfriend for the past two years. He has always been controlling, but lately he is accusing her of sleeping around and has become physically abusive. One night he threatened to kill her. She believed him and fled, with nothing but the clothes she was wearing. Traci has presented to a homeless shelter for women.

**Q: What is Traci's Homeless Status?**

- a. Category 1: Literally Homeless
  - b. Category 4: Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence
  - c. Both
  - d. More information is needed to decide
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## Participant Eligibility

### *Case Scenario: Eduardo*

Recall that presently Eduardo has been determined as meeting conditions for Homeless Category 2.

**Q: Based on Eduardo's Homeless Status, what CoC program funded project types might he be eligible for at this moment?**

- a. Rapid re-housing
- b. Transitional Housing
- c. Permanent Supportive Housing
- d. Supportive Services Only

### *Case Scenario: Traci*

Recall that initial screening determined that Traci met conditions under Homeless under Category 4: Fleeing from Domestic Violence when she presented to the shelter. The shelter subsequently admitted her and she then qualified as both Literally Homeless under Category 1 and Homeless under Category 4.

**Q 1: The staff at the homeless shelter is trying to connect Traci to other programs. Based on her Homeless Status (Categories 1 and 4), what CoC programs might she be eligible to receive?**

- a. Rapid re-housing
  - b. Transitional Housing
  - c. Permanent Supportive Housing
  - d. Supportive Services Only
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### Definition of Homeless

#### *Case Scenario 1: Eduardo*

25-year old Eduardo recently lost his last job and couldn't pay the rent. He crashed with various buddies until the last one kicked him out.

Eduardo was spotted sleeping outside by his former high school teacher, Pete. Pete said Eduardo could stay at his place but Eduardo is always high, so Pete finally told him he had to find somewhere else to stay as soon as possible (within a week). Eduardo has no other friends or family in the area and no money to pay for a hotel or his own place.

**Q: What is Eduardo's Homeless Status at this moment?**

- Category 1: Literally Homeless
- Category 2: Imminent Risk of Homelessness
- Either. He could qualify as Category 1 or Category 2
- More information is needed to decide

#### **Brief Discussion of Answer and Reasons**

**Answer:** (b) Category 2: Imminent Risk of Homelessness. Eduardo is currently doubled-up so he is not literally homeless. Pete has asked him to leave so he is at risk of losing his primary residence; he has no other housing options, financial resources or supports to avoid literal homelessness

**Discussion Points:** Even though Eduardo is sleeping on a couch, he does have a primary residence (Pete's place) and is not literally homeless.

**\*Note to Trainer:** *Sometimes program staff thinks Eduardo should be put back on the street before seeking assistance so he qualifies as Category 1.*

#### *Case Scenario 2: Traci*

Traci (25) has been living with her boyfriend for the past two years. He has always been controlling, but lately he is accusing her of sleeping around and has become physically abusive. One night he threatened to kill her. She believed him and fled, with nothing but the clothes she was wearing. Traci has presented to a homeless shelter for women.

**Q: What is Traci's Homeless Status?**

- Category 1: Literally Homeless
  - Category 4: Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence
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- c. Both
- d. More information is needed to decide

### **Brief Discussion of Answer and Reasons**

**Answer:** (b) Category 4: Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence

**Discussion Points:** Traci is presenting at a homeless shelter for women because the threat of violence has made her afraid to return to her primary nighttime residence. She has no other resources (she left with nothing but the clothes she was wearing) and it is appropriate to assume that she lacks resources or support networks (evidenced by the fact that she is presenting at a homeless shelter) and has no other safe place to stay.

***\*Note to Trainer:** be prepared to respond or should bring up the fact that sometimes program staff may believe that Traci is Category 1: Literally Homeless. However, this is not the case as Traci did not lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence until she was threatened with violence and fled to the homeless shelter. However, if for some reason, the shelter was not able to accommodate Traci immediately and she had to sleep in her car and/or in some other location that is not designed or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation OR if the shelter admits her, she would then meet the definition of both Category 1: Literally Homeless and Category 4: Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence.*

## **Participant Eligibility**

### **Case Scenario: Eduardo**

Recall that presently Eduardo has been determined as meeting conditions for Homeless Category 2.

**Q: Based on Eduardo's Homeless Status, what CoC program funded project types might he be eligible for at this moment?**

- a. Rapid re-housing
- b. Transitional Housing
- c. Permanent Supportive Housing
- d. Supportive Services Only

### **Brief Discussion of Answer and Reasons**

**Answer:** (b) Transitional Housing and (d) Supportive Services Only

**Discussion Points:** Individuals defined as Homeless under Category 2 are eligible for both Transitional Housing and Supportive Services Only.

***\*Note to Trainer:** remember that some program staff may believe that Eduardo should be put back on the street before seeking assistance so he qualifies as Category 1 and could therefore possibly access Rapid Re-Housing or Permanent Supportive Housing Assistance. If the topic comes up, make sure that participants discuss why this would be a good or bad idea? Ask participants to consider*

- “What does he need that he could not receive unless he was Literally Homeless (on the streets)—i.e. why would Category 1 be so much better than Category 2?”
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- “Is it ethical or a good use of community resources to require Eduardo to become literally homeless to access resources dedicated to persons who are literally homeless?”
- “Would it be more efficient for the CoC system of care and less disruptive for Eduardo if he was linked immediately to homelessness prevention assistance to relocate to his own housing and connected to community-based recovery services, thereby avoiding becoming literally homeless all together (which will happen if he ends up on the street or in a shelter OR if he enters Transitional Housing)?”

### *Case Scenario: Traci*

Recall that initial screening determined that Traci met conditions under Homeless under Category 4: Fleeing from Domestic Violence when she presented to the shelter. The shelter subsequently admitted her and she then qualified as both Literally Homeless under Category 1 and Homeless under Category 4.

**Q 1: The staff at the homeless shelter is trying to connect Traci to other programs. Based on her Homeless Status (Categories 1 and 4), what CoC programs might she be eligible to receive?**

- a. Rapid re-housing
- b. Transitional Housing
- c. Permanent Supportive Housing
- d. Supportive Services Only

**Answer:** (a) Rapid Re-housing, (b) Transitional Housing, and (d) supportive services only.

**Discussion Points:** Traci might be able to be served by (c) Permanent Supportive Housing, but we can't yet say that with certainty because of the disability requirement for eligibility to PSH.

**\*Note to Trainer:** *Traci's homeless status is actually fluid in that once she was admitted to the homeless shelter, she now also meets the definition of Homeless Category 1: Literally Homeless. From this point forward, she would be determined Homeless Category 1: Literally Homeless; however, she must continue to be documented as Category 4: Fleeing DV because of the additional precautions providers must take when documenting the homeless status of individuals/families who are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence.*

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