

From: [Whetten, Michelle](#)
To: [QAP Comments](#)
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Date: Tuesday, June 11, 2013 3:29:37 PM
Attachments: [PIH Notice Homeless.pdf](#)

This is a follow-up to a comment submitted late last week (and also copied below).

The attached notice from HUD emphasizes that ending homelessness and using available housing resources towards that goal is a top priority for HUD. In this notice, PHAs are encouraged to expand the use of project-based vouchers for housing the homeless. While not every development is suitable for housing this population, we encourage LHC to expand the points for providing PSH units to include up to 10 points for housing the chronically homeless and chronically homeless veterans.

Thanks-

Michelle Whetten

Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.

The organizations listed below respectfully request that LHC add to the Selection Criteria of the 2014 Special Interim QAP an option for providing housing for the Chronically Homeless.

Specifically we request that Criteria III. B. *Increased Unit Affordability* (page 5 of 10) be expanded to include the following option: "(iv) At least 5% and less than 10% of units serve PSH households that are Chronically Homeless and/or Chronically Homeless Veterans with incomes at or below 20% AMI. Nonprofit owners may designate up to 50 percent of the units as PSH if they demonstrate expertise in serving PSH tenants and if they include a plan for providing services on site". We request that 10 points be assigned to this option, thereby changing the point scale for the *Increased Unit Affordability* Criteria from the current 2-6 points to 2-10 points.

We also suggest adding the following definition to the QAP glossary:

Chronically Homeless: An individual or member of a family whose head of household:

- (a) Is currently residing in an emergency shelter, safe haven, or place not meant for human habitation (such as the street, abandoned building, or car);
- (b) Has been homeless for at least one year or experienced at least 4 distinct episodes of homelessness in the last three years; and
- (c) Has one or more physical or mental disabilities.

The vast majority of chronically homeless persons are unaccompanied individuals.

Rationale for this requested addition to the QAP: the federal government, through HUD, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness and the 2009 HEARTH Act, has committed to 1) end chronic homelessness within five years, 2) prevent and end homelessness among veterans within five years, 3) prevent and end homelessness among families, youth and children in ten years, and 4) set a path to ending all types of homelessness.

As the definition above suggests, the chronically homeless are the most difficult to house and also the most in need of housing. We applaud and support the inclusion of Permanent Supportive Housing in the 2014 Special Interim QAP Selection Criteria. By providing the option for developers to go one step further and commit to housing the Chronically Homeless and Chronically Homeless Veterans, we will be able to add crucial units to the housing inventory for this population.

Louisiana has made great strides toward ending homelessness in large part due to the innovative Permanent Supportive Housing program championed by LHFA and OCD-DRU after Hurricane Katrina. With the recent creation of the Louisiana Interagency Council on Homelessness and New Orleans Interagency Council on Homelessness, and the direction provided by the New Orleans 10-year Plan to End Homelessness, we are on a path to end chronic homelessness in Louisiana by 2015. By encouraging developers to consider housing this population, LHC can help reach this ambitious but attainable goal .

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