

Minnesota Coordinated Entry System (MN CES)

Coordinated Entry Fact Sheet

1. What is a coordinated entry system (CES)?

CES means a centralized or coordinated process designed to coordinate program participant intake assessment and provision of referrals. A coordinated entry system covers the geographic area, is easily accessed by individuals and families seeking housing or services, is well advertised, and includes a comprehensive and standardized assessment tool.

2. Why do we need a CES?

A local CES ensures that people get the help that they need to end their homelessness swiftly and to streamline access to limited resources so that clients can be prioritized by the severity of their barriers to housing. Without a CES, each homeless assistance project operates with their own unique eligibility criteria, assessment tools, and referral processes.

3. What is Minnesota's approach to CES?

Although each individual CoC in Minnesota must design and implement a coordinated entry system, CoC stakeholders and State homeless assistance funders recognize great benefit in establishing CE design principles that are consistently adopted and followed by all CoCs. While local factors such as client needs, provider capacity, resource availability, and geographic characteristics might require some amount of local, community-specific accommodation and customization, the State's CE Strategic Plan establishes guidelines for CE systems across the State that adhere to a common set of design principles and operating guidelines. This statewide strategy will ensure that clients experience consistency in the manner in which CoC resources are accessed, clients' needs are documented, and referrals are coordinated.

4. How do I access the MN CES?

Access points and models throughout Minnesota will vary by number of access points, services offered at each access point and the type of entity that is responsible for the point of entry and decision-making that occurs there. ***However, any homeless assistance provider agency that serves persons who are homeless but is not a defined access point will only enroll clients who are referred from defined access points.***

5. How will people be assessed through the MN CES?

Minnesota will not prescribe the specific tools that must be used for each assessment stage or phase, but most CoCs have adopted the ***Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool*** (VI-SPDAT) as a component of the Comprehensive Assessment phase of assessment. CoCs may incorporate the VI-SPDAT into a locally defined process but must ensure a publicly available, well-crafted, comprehensive tool that includes all three components identified above and must result in an explicit score or referral result for all households that complete the *comprehensive assessment* component of the tool.

6. Where can I go for more information on the MN CES?

Please contact your local CoC coordinator or chair for more information on the MN CES. Each CoC has been participating in the MN CES decision making group about the system, and should be able to provide more information on both the MN CES and your CoCs local implementation of it.