

Coordinated Entry System Assessment Tool Recommendation - May 2018

Recommendation:

The Minnesota Coordinated Entry System (CES) Committee recommends that **CES stakeholders** (Continuums of Care, MN Tribal Collaborative, and State Funders) evaluate the CES assessment tool and follow-up with recommendations based on the evaluation. This could mean editing the VI-SPDAT or developing a new tool, with the ultimate goal of having a statewide tool that better serves the needs of Minnesota.

Why was the recommendation made?

- CoCs and State homeless designated programs are mandated to evaluate CES so statewide evaluation of the assessment tool will help meet a portion of that requirement.
- Assessments should have trauma-informed culturally and linguistic competent questions, but stakeholders have questioned whether the current tool, VI-SPDAT meets these criteria.
- MN stakeholders still desire to utilize standard assessment forms across the state to support persons who move between CoC regions and Tribal lands.

How will it occur?

1. **STAKEHOLDER VOTE:** CES stakeholder groups will be asked to vote on whether to participate in a statewide evaluation of the assessment tool and support for researching recommendations based on the feedback. This vote will also include vote to how to proceed in interim (how to assure compliance and use VI-SPDAT scripting in the interim).
2. **STATEWIDE EVALUATION:** A statewide survey will be sent via the CoCs and Tribal Partners to request feedback on the VI-SPDAT and priorities for an ideal assessment tool. The CES Committee will compile and present the feedback to the Heading Home Alliance.
3. **RESEARCH OPTIONS:** If all stakeholder groups agree, a new workgroup will be established (comprised of stakeholder representatives) to research available tool options that meet HUD and MN identified criteria. Their recommendation will then be presented to the CES Committee and Heading Home Alliance.
4. **DEVELOP A PLAN:** If a new tool or additional edits are recommended, the CES Workgroup will formulate a detailed plan to carry out, seeking input and sharing updates along the way.
5. **VOTE ON NEW or EDITED TOOL:** CES stakeholder groups will be presented with the final recommendation and asked to vote. All stakeholders will need to agree on the tool and the plan to move forward.
6. **IMPLEMENTATION:** If approved, all CoCs will work with other Stakeholders and ICA to implement tool. Implementation plans and timelines will vary greatly depending on if we edit our existing tool, develop a new tool, or locate another tool

What are the TARGETED timelines?

- SURVEY: May '18
- VOTE TO INVESTIGATE: June - July '18
- RESEARCH TOOLS: Aug. '18 – Feb. '19
- PLAN DEVELOPMENT: March -June'19
- VOTE ON FINAL TOOL: June '19
- IMPLEMENTATION: The timeline will depend significantly on the decision of the final tool.

What are key considerations?

- All stakeholder's opinions matter.
- HUD has both mandated and recommended qualities for an assessment tool that the CES Committee will need to assure are met.
- Based on research and feedback of the evaluation, there are 3 outcomes that will be considered: update the VI-SPDAT, search for another existing tool, or development of a new MN tool.
- We acknowledge that communication and training were not ideal in initial implementation of the VI-SPDAT and we intend to improve both.
- Changing assessment tools will require significant planning and transition resources likely including; training, data transfer, policy changes, and HMIS integration. Therefore, a transition to a new tool cannot occur rapidly.
- No tool will be perfect.
- Consensus is being sought to assure we have a tool that meets all stakeholder needs.

What if I have more questions?

- **TRIBAL COLLABORATIVE MEMBERS:** Contact Tammy Moreland
- **AGENCIES/END USERS:** Talk with your CoC Coordinator.
- **STATE AGENCIES:** Contact Ji-Young Choi
- **ALL:** Visit the MN Housing website [Coordinated Entry page](#) for updates.