

## Prepare for the move to the VI-SPDAT-with MN Script

### Why did MN choose to add clarifying script to the VI-SPDAT?

As the VI-SPDAT was being implemented, MN stakeholders (i.e. CoCs, MN Tribal Collaborative (MTC) and State Funders) expressed concern about some questions on the VI-SPDAT not being culturally appropriate. MTC developed a clarifying script that was shared and reviewed by the MN Coordinated Entry Committee and workgroup. This summer, a proposal was presented to and approved statewide use of the VI-SPDAT with standard clarifying language and a comprehensive assessment of the VI-SPDAT

### Next Steps

1. All assessors are to begin utilizing the VI-SPDAT with the clarifying language, collectively referred to as the VI-SPDAT -MN Script, by **November 1, 2018**. You are NOT expected to reassess previous households.
2. All assessors are to review this document and the online training to support an effective use of the VI-SPDAT with clarifying script.
3. A statewide workgroup of representative stakeholders will work with a technical assistance contractor to thoroughly assess the VI-SPDAT and Coordinated Entry Assessment process, making a subsequent recommendation to the Heading Home Alliance, the Tribal Collaborative, State Funders, and the 10 CoCs.
4. The workgroup will provide regular updates and invite opportunities for feedback.
5. A final proposal, including a tool recommendation, is anticipated by October of 2019.

### Tips for an effective transition to using the VI-SPDAT with MN Script

- ✓ Understand the role of the VI-SPDAT in Coordinated Entry (CE):
  - CE is our new homeless response system – not just a program.
  - CE is more than the VI-SPDAT:
    - CE involves Diversion, Prevention, Assessment and Assignment. All are essential parts of a quality and coordinated system.
    - The VI-SPDAT is one part of the Assessment stage.
  - The VI-SPDAT is a decision ASSISTANCE tool, not a decision-making tool.
    - The VI-SPDAT is a tri-age assessment, not comprehensive assessment.
    - The supplemental questions (eligibility & client choice) are as important as the VI-SPDAT.
- ✓ The VI-SPDAT questions in HMIS will not include the clarifying language but align with the MN script.
- ✓ Utilize a trauma informed, clear and consistent assessment process:
  - Always screen for safety first!
  - Assure you have the appropriate set-up when conducting the VI-SPDAT (i.e. space that respects privacy, always read beginning script, and provide an introduction of who you are and why and how you will conduct the assessment)
  - Utilize the clarifying script provided, but also be open to utilizing additional clarifying questions to assure the questions are understood.
  - Assure cover informed consent (what info. you are collecting, where it goes, who has access and right to refuse) and the responsibility of answering as accurately as possible.
  - VI-SPDATs should only be administered to persons who are literally homeless or who may meet eligibility criteria for a program within your CoC.
  - Follow CoC policy as to when is the best time to conduct an assessment. In most cases allow time for self-resolution prior to assessment.
  - Do NOT ask additional questions. If someone wants to talk, acknowledge their need, remind them you are only seeking “yes or no” answers and offer a time to discuss details with you or through a referral following the assessment.

### Who do I contact with questions?

- Email questions specific to the clarifying questions to: [mncoordinatedsystem@gmail.com](mailto:mncoordinatedsystem@gmail.com).
- Questions related to other aspects of Coordinated Entry should be directed to your appropriate local contact.