
TALKING POINTS WITH CLIENTS: PRIOR & FOLLOWING THE VI-SPDAT ASSESSMENT



SAN DIEGO
Regional Task Force
on the Homeless

Prior to Conducting VI-SPDAT

- Ask where client stayed last night/current housing situation - determine if VI-SPDAT is appropriate.
- **NOTE: If client is not literally homeless, STOP! Do not enter client into the Coordinated Entry System (CES). Provide resource information on their identified needs they are reporting.**
- Ask what services or support he/she would find helpful to secure housing; other interventions attempted.
- Explain what VI-SDPAT is ask if he/she has taken VI-SPDAT before:
 - Will be asked questions about his/her homelessness and health to help determine level of need and identify an appropriate housing intervention
 - NOT a housing application or Section 8; NOT an emergency solution; does NOT guarantee housing; NOT a waitlist; NOT immediate
 - Based on resources in CES, accuracy of client info, and prioritization
 - Inform client has the right to refuse, skip, or have a question repeated; responding honestly can better identify appropriate housing resource.
- Review & obtain signature on Multi-Party Authorization (MPA) - Information provided can be shared with listed agencies to help link to services and a potential housing resource. MPA is valid for 7 years.

DO NOT re-assess if VI-SPDAT was conducted w/in the last year or a major life changing event has NOT occurred

Following the VI-SPDAT

(Completing the VI-SPDAT is not the end of the CES process)

- **DO NOT GIVE CLIENT THEIR VI-SPDAT SCORE** - Only Housing Intervention range
 - No Housing Intervention- not prioritized for housing in CES; provide outside resources; diversion
 - Rapid Re-Housing- Rapid refers time-limited support; client will have to assume payment of lease thereafter. Can be room for rent, or roommate situation.
 - Permanent Supportive Housing- resource EXTREMELY LIMITED; MUST HAVE VERIFIABLE DISABLING CONDITION AND CHRONIC HOMELESS STATUS
- CES does not have all housing resources in system. Encourage client to continue to attempt to access all other housing opportunities to include family reunification.
- Inform client that he/she will be contacted if prioritized and matched to a potential housing resource but will miss the opportunity if contact information is not accurate or updated in CES.

Client's Next Steps

- Documents (CA ID, SS card, birth certificate, proof of income) are needed (if not collected at the time assessment) & can be entered into CES at assessment site or by participating agencies.
- **UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION** any time it changes w/ housing navigator or at any assessment site.
- Encourage client to advocate for himself/herself; follow up on applications & waitlists; update info
- If client is housed outside CES process or leaves San Diego County, ask client to call RTFH to inform so that we can exit from CES.