

## **Ohio Balance of State Continuum of Care CE Victim Service Policy**

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COHHIO and the Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) met recently to discuss Coordinated Entry implementation and how to best serve survivors of domestic violence (DV) in the Ohio BoSCoC. As a result of the meeting, COHHIO, ODVN and other regional partners have agreed to form a Domestic Violence Workgroup to discuss alternate assessment tools and protocol development for survivors. In the meantime, however, we wanted to clarify how providers are expected to assist survivors right now.

Access point providers should continue to offer referrals to victim service shelters when applicable, but all emergency shelters are required to serve households fleeing domestic violence.

### **VI-SPDAT and Victims of Domestic Violence**

Regarding assessments, the VI-SPDAT remains the common assessment tool for the Ohio BoSCoC, but no household, including those fleeing domestic violence, is required to complete the VI-SPDAT assessment if they are not comfortable doing so. Providers completing VI-SPDAT assessments should always inform the household that they are not required to complete the assessment in order to access services, but it is particularly critical that this is emphasized with households who are fleeing domestic violence. If a household fleeing domestic violence chooses to complete the VI-SPDAT, providers should shred physical copies of the VI-SPDAT once the assessment is completed and the score is recorded.

### **Prioritization of Victims of Domestic Violence for RRH and PSH**

RRH and PSH prioritization workgroups must continue to include victim service providers in their prioritization process. And as part of those prioritization processes, victim service providers must share client-level data that is comparable to the data reported in the PSH and RRH Prioritization by County Report, in order to ensure that households served by victim service providers are prioritized for RRH and PSH in the same way that non-DV households are.

### **HMIS Data Entry for Victims of Domestic Violence**

As a reminder, victim service providers, such as domestic violence shelters, utilize a database comparable to HMIS and no data from victim service providers, including referral data and assessment data, should be entered into HMIS. This prohibition includes all client level data, both non-identifying and personally identifying information.

Homeless services providers not dedicated to serving victims of DV or sexual assault, are still required to enter client-level data into HMIS. However, if serving a person fleeing DV who requests to have their data entered into HMIS anonymously or not at all, providers are permitted to continue to serve this person and to enter limited or no client-level data into HMIS. The Ohio BoSCoC Data Quality Standards (available at [hmis.cohhio.org](http://hmis.cohhio.org)) allow for missing data related to serving survivors of domestic violence, where the missing data is in response to direct client request. To date, no project has been penalized for poor HMIS data quality relative to serving survivors. However, homeless services providers not dedicated to serving victims of DV or sexual assault are NOT permitted to have a blanket policy of not entering data into HMIS for anyone reporting DV. Every client is given the opportunity to consent to data collection and HMIS data entry.

Questions regarding the Ohio BoSCoC CE Victim Service Policy should be directed to COHHIO's Coordinated Entry Systems Specialist, Chloe Greene at [chloegreene@cohhio.org](mailto:chloegreene@cohhio.org). HMIS related questions should be directed to COHHIO's HMIS team at [hmis@cohhio.org](mailto:hmis@cohhio.org)