



## Northwest Michigan Coalition to End Homelessness and Offender Success Program Coordination

This document is being put into place to clarify the process for individuals currently enrolled in the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) Offender Success Program to gain access to the Homeless Response System throughout Northwest Michigan.

The Northwest Michigan Coalition to End Homelessness is a collaborative body of agencies and community partners all working to end homelessness. An important agency involved in this work is the Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency (NMCAA) which services as the Housing Assessment and Resource Agency (HARA) for the 10 county region of the NWCEH. Meaning, NMCAA operates the Call Center and is the main point of entry for people experiencing homelessness across the region. However, within the region, we have tailored access to the homeless response system for Offender Success participants to ensure equitable access for this population. The process below outlines homeless definitions and access to the homeless response system for each of the 10 counties through the NWCEH.

### **Definition of Homeless Qualification:**

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020, William Snow, from the Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provided our Coalition with guidance on the definition of homelessness for Offender Success participants.

From: **Snow, William** <[William.Snow@hud.gov](mailto:William.Snow@hud.gov)>

Date: Wed, Feb 12, 2020 at 2:23 PM

Subject: RE: Confirmation for Question ID 148587 - HUD Exchange Ask A Question

To: Tina Allen <[cofcare@ymail.com](mailto:cofcare@ymail.com)>

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Cc: Jessica Willis [jessica.willis@networksnorthwest.org](mailto:jessica.willis@networksnorthwest.org)

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Hey Tina,

Based on your responses, you can count people in this program as Category 1. Admittedly, this is hard for us because of the close tie to the institution. We would strongly encourage everything be done to ensure that people are not being discharged from institutional settings to homelessness. Classifying this program as homeless seems to contradict that. Based on your response below it appears that people in this situation are no longer under the control of the state and, but for this program, they would go to the street. Your response also clarifies that this is the resource of last resort. For the HIC you would report this program as emergency shelter and people in the program will be included in the PIT count as sheltered.

I'm not sure how/when your AAQ will be responded to directly but the substance of the response should reflect what I stated above. The AAQ responses tend to provide additional detail around the regulation. But I wanted to make sure your HIC and PIT count piece is answered in time for you to report in the 2020 HIC/PIT count submission process.

Thanks,

William Snow

Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Phone: 202-402-4541

[William.Snow@hud.gov](mailto:William.Snow@hud.gov)

Based on the response from HUD noted above, Offender Success program participants in “Commercial Placement” through Offender Success, these individuals are considered Category 1 Literally Homeless as defined by HUD. Offender Success program participants being sheltered in a hotel or motel being paid for by Offender Success are considered Cat. 1 Literally Homeless. Offender Success program participants being served in a temporary “bridge-type housing” placement without intensive support services and paid for by the Offender Success program are also considered Cat. 1 Literally Homeless if but for this placement option, they would be on the streets.

**Program Eligibility Based on Definition of Homelessness:**

Offender Success program participants are eligible (\*\*also based on income and other factors depending on program type) for HUD Rapid Rehousing and HUD Permanent Supportive Housing projects within the NWCEH. This includes DHHS-RRH programs within the Balance of State Continuum of Care.

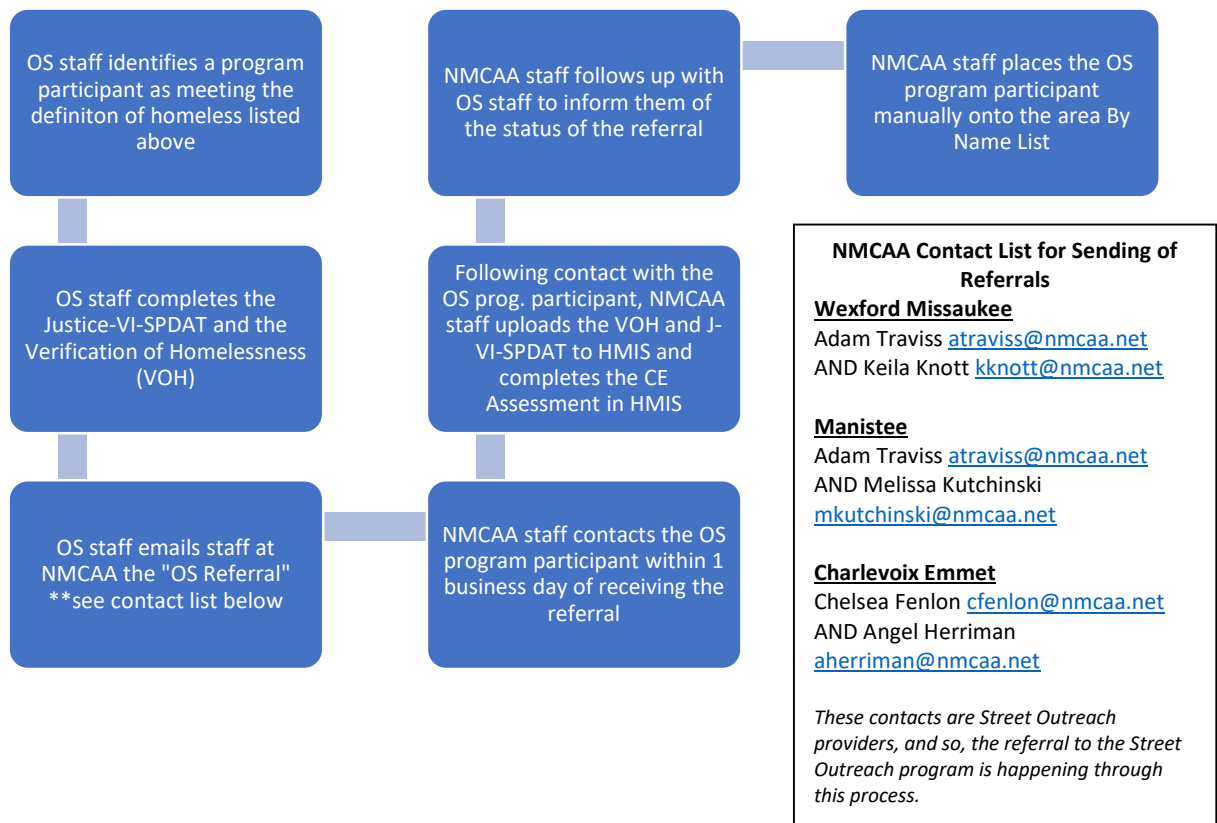
At this time, Offender Success program participants staying in a hotel or motel being paid for by Offender Success are eligible (\*\*also based on income requirements) for MSHDA ESG RRH.

*{The NWCEH is waiting for MSHDA to determine eligibility for MSHDA ESG RRH for Offender Success program participants who are being housed in bridge-type temporary housing and who are not staying in a hotel or motel being paid for by Offender Success}*

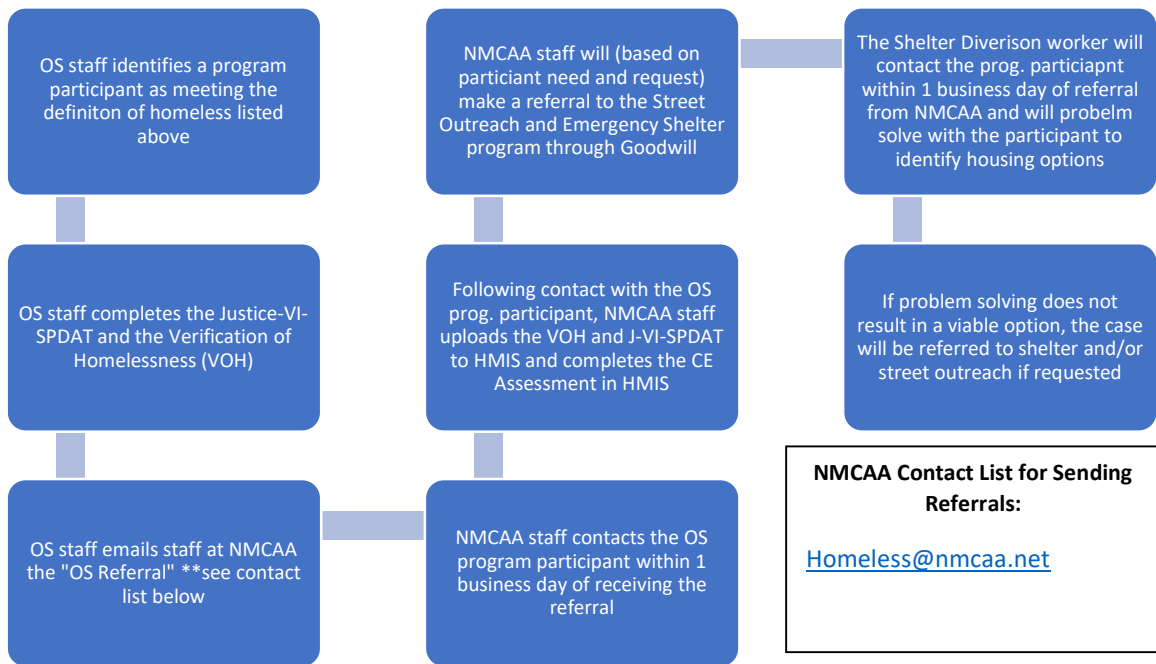
**Process for Access to the Homeless Response System:**

The NWCEH is segmented into regional jurisdictions as defined by HUD. Due to that, there are separate funding allocations and resources available in different counties across the NWCEH. The different processes are detailed by county listed on this chart.

▪ **Wexford, Missaukee, Manistee, Charlevoix, and Emmet Counties**



▪ **Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau:**



*\*\*Placement on the Greater Grand Traverse By Name List is being developed at this time.*

**Offender Success Referral Contents:**

1. Verification of Homelessness: A document on Networks Northwest letterhead stating the shelter/housing status of the program participant. Must be signed and dated by the Offender Success staff person.
2. Justice VI-SPDAT: Paper version of the J-VI-SPDAT emailed as an attachment.
3. Program Participant contact info. Please include the best way for NMCAA staff to contact the participant (phone number, email, text only, through OS Staff person etc.)

**NMCAA Staff (Greater Grand Traverse Only):**

1. Please include in your case note in the referral to GW Street Outreach that the Justice VI was completed and has been uploaded into HMIS.