

## Coordinated Access and Assessment – Family Placement Committee Priorities during COVID-19

### CAA Family Placement Committee Priorities During COVID-19

Thank you for your unwavering efforts to continue to support Calgarians experiencing homelessness during this time.

As we examine the goal to support those in most urgent need of housing during this time, we find ourselves reflecting on what that means within our local setting. Targeting families accessing shelter while balancing placements to allow for consideration of families who are temporarily accommodated has always been a consideration for FPC. During the initial months of the pandemic, a strong focus was shifted to ensure that families accessing shelter were the highest priority as the nature of the virus spread made this essential. The focus remains targeting families who are accessing emergency shelter but will be increased to include review of additional vulnerability factors impacting a families' ability to obtain housing without additional supports.

It is vital that we remain responsive and transparent in order to quickly adjust the priority of placements as we respond to the emerging needs of the COVID-19 situation and with winter months approaching. As we continue to monitor community needs, we will be introducing this temporary response at the Family Placement Committee.

To ensure transparency, equity and replicability of these decisions, Calgary Homeless Foundation (CHF) has developed the following decision-making guide. This guide will be utilized along with collateral information provided by programs and system partners to allow for a consistent placement approach until we are able to resume under the regular FPC Terms of Reference and priorities. Until such time, placement will be aligned with the strategies supporting the COVID-19 response as outlined below.

### Decision Making Guide:

#### **1. Reviewing Emerging COVID-19 priorities and needs:**

- Families accessing emergency shelter and engaged in their housing plan will be prioritized first for all available spaces.
- Families who are identified as high risk in community based on emerging COVID-19 health determinants will be prioritized

#### **2. If program placements are still available, the following priorities will be applied:**

- Remaining spaces will be split between families accessing scattered site shelter and families who are temporarily accommodated but have risks that include:

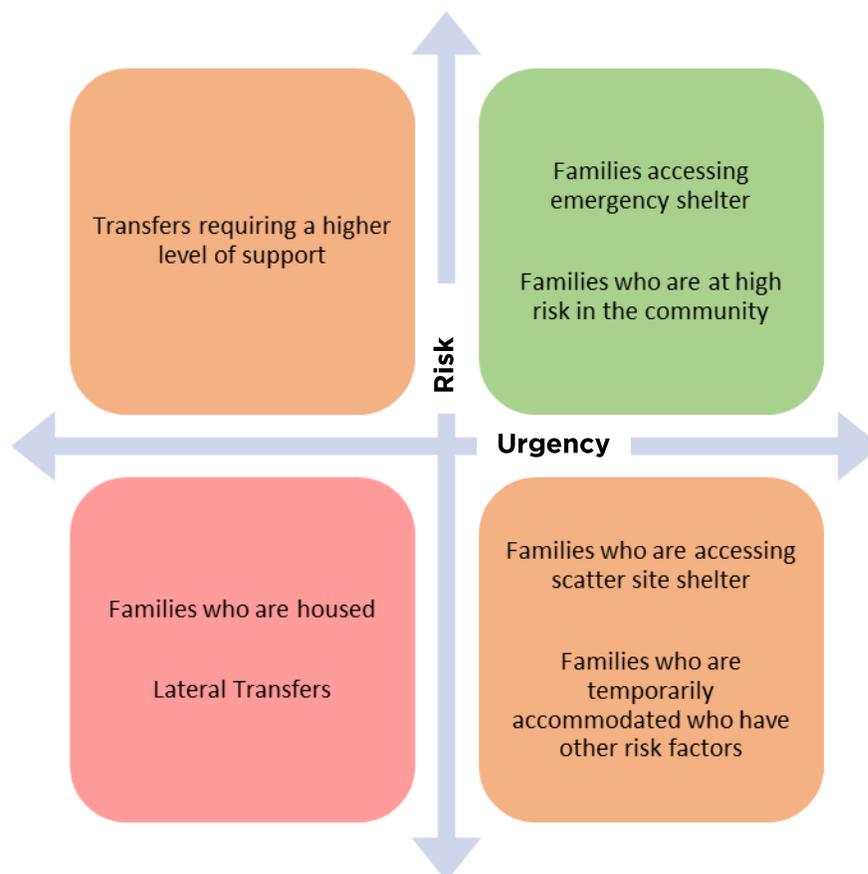
medical vulnerability, safety concerns, or other collateral that supports program match

- For instances where other factors need to be included for decision making purposes, level of engagement will also be taken into consideration. This will be assessed using our data and the collateral from community partners to target those who are engaged and available for connection.

### 3. Program Transfers

- Transfers that are within the family sector will only be reviewed for placement if the level of support required is higher than what the current program offers (i.e. Rapid Rehousing to Intensive Case Management). These will be reviewed as part of priority #2 (above)
- Transfers from either Youth or Adult placement will only be considered when the dependent is living with the head of household and there is an indication of risk if the transfer to a family program does not occur
- Transfer out of the family sector will happen in accordance with the APC or YPC COVID-19 Prioritization Guide.
- Lateral transfers will not be considered at FPC

System Partners who want to provide collateral about families can email the FPC Chairs with the information they want to share.



## FAQ

What vulnerability factors will be included other than medical vulnerability?

Vulnerability factors that will be considered during triage will include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Couching in an unsafe environment
- Domestic Violence
- Rough Sleeping