

SPRINGFIELD-HAMPDEN COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE

EQUAL ACCESS POLICIES

EQUAL ACCESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH GENDER IDENTITY

CoC- and ESG-funded programs must comply with the following Equal Access rules:

- (1) Programs must provide equal access to an individual in accordance with the individual's gender identity, and in a manner that affords equal access to the individual's family.
- (2) An individual must be placed, served, and accommodated in accordance with the gender identity of the individual.
- (3) An individual must not be subjected to intrusive questioning or asked to provide anatomical information or documentary, physical, or medical evidence of the individual's gender identity.
- (4) Placement and accommodation of an individual in temporary, emergency shelters and other buildings and facilities with physical limitations or configurations that require and are permitted to have shared sleeping quarters or shared bathing facilities shall be made in accordance with the individual's gender identity.
- (5) Programs must take nondiscriminatory steps that may be necessary and appropriate to address privacy concerns raised by residents or occupants and, as needed, update its admissions, occupancy, and operating policies and procedures in order to comply with these Equal Access rules.

EQUAL ACCESS IN HOUSING

CoC-funded housing must comply with the following equal access requirements:

- (1) Eligibility for CoC-funded housing shall be made in accordance with the CoC eligibility requirements, and shall be made available without regard to actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.
- (2) Providers of CoC-funded housing and their staff and volunteers are prohibited from inquiring about the sexual orientation or gender identity of an applicant for, or occupant of, CoC-funded for the purpose of determining eligibility for the housing or otherwise making such housing available. This prohibition on inquiries regarding sexual orientation or gender identity does not prohibit any individual from voluntarily self-identifying sexual orientation or gender identity. This prohibition on inquiries does not prohibit lawful inquiries of an applicant or occupant's sex where the housing provided or to be provided to the individual is temporary, emergency shelter that involves the sharing of sleeping areas or bathrooms, or inquiries made for the purpose of determining the number of bedrooms to which a household may be entitled.