

Sacramento Coordinated Access System

Housing Assessment Overview

The assessment for housing within the Sacramento Coordinated Access System (CAS) involves evaluating eligibility and various factors to determine housing needs and barriers. Eligibility considerations include housing status, the presence of minor dependents, and the availability of support systems that can prevent homelessness. For housing assessment, the assessment process comprises two main parts.

In the first part, applicants provide information about their current residence, the number of household members, joint custody of children, and receipt of welfare benefits. It also examines pregnancy status, citizenship, disability, income, recent relocations, and institutional exits. Specific situations such as fleeing domestic violence or being in foster care after age 16 are also considered. The assessment aims to ascertain the applicant's ability to meet basic needs and any potential housing barriers.

The second part delves into experiences related to the criminal justice system, child welfare, childhood homelessness, trauma, eviction history, and unsheltered experiences. It explores access to food, health conditions, housing discrimination, safety, preventative care, and access to medication and education. Additionally, it considers the applicant's level of education and the duration of homelessness in their lifetime. Housing preferences, including location, pets, and specific requirements, are also noted. Finally, applicants can express their need for assistance in areas such as case management, food, employment, public benefits, adult and child education, and childcare.

This comprehensive assessment aims to provide a holistic understanding of an individual's housing situation, needs, and potential obstacles, ensuring that appropriate housing and support services can be offered through CAS.

Individuals and families can also be assessed by trained 2-1-1 agents or providers with HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) access to be placed onto the shelter waitlist. These assessments take, on average, less than 10 minutes and are valid for 90 days. While there is only ~25% of the necessary shelter units to meet the demand, meaning the majority of people being assessed will not be referred to shelter, the most vulnerable clients in our community typically see a wait time of less than two weeks to get into shelter.

Various crisis resources may require a separate assessment.