

# **NJT Targeted Enrollment Benchmark**

All programs funded under NJT will be expected to enroll at least 25% TANF recipients, Housing Voucher recipients, homeless or near-homeless individuals, or people with CORI issues. Please see definitions below:

## **TANF/TAFDC Recipients:**

Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) also known as TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) is a government program that gives cash and health insurance to needy families with dependent children. TAFDC helps families meet the basic needs of their children. TAFDC is sometimes called "welfare" or "public assistance."

## **Housing Voucher Recipients:**

A participant who is currently a recipient of one of the following housing vouchers:

- Mobile or Project-Base Section 8 voucher which is funded by the federal government through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (tenant-based vouchers) which is a state-funded voucher program. There are two components to this program: tenant-based (or mobile) vouchers, and project-based (non-mobile) vouchers.
- Alternative Housing Voucher Program which is a state-funded program provided to people with disabilities who under 60 years are of age and their families who are on waiting lists for state public elderly/disabled housing at housing authorities that have rented 13.5% of their apartments to non-elderly disabled tenants.
- The Department Mental Health (DMH) rental assistance program which is a state-funded rental subsidy program.

Please note tax-credit units or moderate-income units will not be considered under this definition housing voucher.

## **CORI:**

A CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information) is a person's criminal history. An individual will have a Massachusetts CORI if you have ever been charged with a crime in a state or federal court in Massachusetts, whether your case ended with a conviction, a finding of not guilty, charges were dismissed, or another outcome.

An individual's CORI is a record of all criminal cases where they appeared before a judge in a court in Massachusetts. Their CORI includes pending charges, prior convictions, and cases that ended without a conviction (for example, a finding of not guilty, or cases that were dismissed.)

## **Homelessness**

1. In places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, abandoned buildings (on the street).
2. In an emergency shelter.
3. In transitional or supportive housing for homeless persons who originally came from the streets or emergency shelters.

4. In any of the above places but is spending a short time (up to 30 consecutive days) in a hospital or other institution.
5. Is being evicted within a week from a private dwelling unit and no subsequent residence has been identified and lacks resources and support networks needed to obtain housing.
6. Is being discharged within a week from an institution, such as a mental health or substance abuse treatment facility or a jail/prison, in which the person has been a resident for more than 30 consecutive days and no subsequent residence has been identified and the person lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing.
  - For example, a person being discharged from prison after more than 30 days is eligible ONLY IF no subsequent residence has been identified and the person does not have money, family or friends to provide housing.
7. Is fleeing a domestic violence housing situation and no subsequent residence has been identified and lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing.

### **Near Homelessness or At-Risk of Homelessness**

1. Has moved because of economic reasons 2 or more times during the 60 days immediately preceding enrolling to the program.
2. Is living in the home of another because of economic hardship.
3. Has been notified within 60 days of enrollment that their right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated within 30 days.
4. Lives in a hotel or motel and the cost is not paid for by charitable organizations or by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals.
5. Lives in an SRO or studio apartment in which there reside more than 2 persons or lives in a larger housing unit in which there reside more than one and a half persons per room (overcrowded housing).
6. Is exiting a publicly funded institution or system of care otherwise lives in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness.

### **How to document the above information in participant's NJT files:**

Please collect documentation that verifies this information. This can also be a self-certified statement if no other documentation can be obtained. OWD is relying on the vendors to flag the participants who fit the 25% benchmark and then verify this somehow in their file. For example, if a participant receives TANF, a copy of their award letter, If the participant is a Housing Voucher recipient a copy of their, recertification letter, or voucher certificate. For CORI and homelessness, though, the "proof" is a bit more difficult to document, a self-certified statement may be the most feasible option to collect. Feel free to contact Vroselyn Benjamin to discuss options for documentation.