



CoC Light RRH Assistance Tier Policy (HUD CoC RRH Only)

Effective Date: Passed by CoC Board on February 25, 2026

Next Review Date: Monthly from the date of CoC approval

End Date: September 30, 2026 (can be extended or Policy fully adopted by vote of the CoC)

## **Purpose**

This policy establishes a tiered Rapid Rehousing (RRH) assistance approach for HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) RRH funds. The goal is to right-size financial assistance and stabilization supports based on assessed need, while maintaining Coordinated Entry (CE) prioritization and ensuring equity, transparency, and compliance. The Spokane Regional CoC believes that this pilot project aligns with the mission of making homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring. The Collaborative Applicant will work closely with the Coordinated Entry Leads to update the Initial Universe Assignment Thresholds (page 5) as needed.

## **Scope**

This policy applies only to households referred to HUD CoC funded RRH. It does not apply to Consolidated Homeless Grant (CHG) RRH or other funding sources that support RRH. All households must be referred through the CoC Coordinated Entry System. Where the SALA determines the order of referral, tiering determines the initial assistance package.

## **Guiding Principles**

- CE remains the front door. Referral and Prioritization follow the CoC's adopted CE policy and procedures.
- Tiering determines the initial level of assistance, **not** eligibility for RRH



- Assistance decisions are consistent, documented, and compliant with Fair Housing and Equal Access requirements.
- The CoC maintains a step-up process so households can receive deeper assistance when RRH Light assistance is not sufficient.
- Low barrier access is still in effect—meaning, a project cannot deny eligibility based on no or too little income, no documents (ID, SS Card), drug use, etc.

## **Definitions**

**SALA:** Spokane’s Universal Assessment Tool used in CE to determine prioritization. This tool assesses housing barriers, risk and service needs (attached).

**Light RRH Assistance (Tier 1):** RRH intervention limited to a security deposit and up to one month of rental assistance, plus light touch stabilization supports.

**Traditional RRH (Tier 2):** RRH assistance that may include additional months of rental assistance and or other financial assistance as allowable under the CFR’s. Rental assistance can be offered for up to two years (24 months).

**Set-Aside:** A cap on the proportion of RRH placements supported under Tier 1 at any given time (30% defined below).

**Universe:** A SALA-ordered referral pool for a defined RRH intervention level (e.g.: Light RRH or Traditional RRH), maintained by household type and prioritized highest to lowest with the pool.

## **Eligibility**



Households must meet HUD CoC RRH eligibility requirements and be referred through Coordinated Entry. Tier assignment does not change RRH eligibility, it only sets the initial subsidy amount.

### **Tiering Approach**

Tier assignment is based on SALA results plus a small set of supplemental, objective factors that impact lease-up and housing stability (discussed below). SALA is treated as a multi-domain assessment (safety, housing access barriers, system involvement, disability/health, and homelessness severity (chronicity)).

Because we have DV specific RRH projects available in our system, households who are fleeing DV, will be pulled separately from SHCA/HFCA/YVA.

### **SALA Scoring and maximum points (per scoring matrix outlined in the SALA)**

The SALA scoring matrix indicates the following maximum possible scores by household type:

**Singles: 28**

**Families: 30**

**Youth and Young Adults: 32**

Universe assignment and prioritization will be based on the SALA total score as calculated in HMIS. If the SALA tool is updated, the CoC will review and, if needed, reissue the universe thresholds.

Supplemental factors, outside of the SALA score on its own, should be used to confirm the appropriateness of Light RRH. These factors **must** be objective



and documented. Below are the factors that CE Leads should consider before making the referral to RRH providers:

- Eviction within the last three-years
  - What was the reason for the eviction?
    - This is a key determinant of whether Light RRH will be a successful intervention.
  - Does the household truly have a legal eviction?
    - Often, households are under a misunderstanding that a court proceeding ended with a legal eviction. It is the case manager's responsibility to confirm this prior to enrollment.
- Prior to returns to homelessness (inference is that there are other underlying issues at play and may require intensive case management to ensure stabilization).

If the household has either of these barriers, Light RRH is not an appropriate intervention regardless of SALA score. Should the CE Lead have any questions on the appropriateness of sending a referral, this should be a topic at the weekly case conferencing with the City of Spokane (CHHS).

### **Tier Definitions and Assistance Packages**

**Light RRH Assistance (Tier 1):** This universe is for households who, based on SALA scores and the factors listed above, are likely to sustain housing with limited financial assistance and light-touch stabilization supports.

#### **Tier 1 package includes:**

- Security deposit assistance not exceeding up to two times the rental amount (example: rent is \$800 per month, so a security deposit cannot exceed \$1600).



- Advanced payment of the last month of rent.
- Any other allowable Move-In costs under 24 CFR §578.53.
- No more than two months of rental assistance (if Move-In is after the first of the month, provider is authorized to pay the prorated amount PLUS the full amount of the next two full months. No more than this may be paid in Tier 1.
- All households must possess a Housing Stability Plan (30/60/90 days). The provider must also clearly communicate (and in written documentation given to the Household) that they are able to come back in for post housing case management should things go sideways with their tenancy. However, no re-enrollment into the project is allowable.

**Traditional RRH (Tier 2):** This is traditional RRH which includes medium to long term subsidy assistance and case management. Current RRH written standards apply and is not altered with this pilot project.

### **Tier 1 Set-Aside (30%) and Referral Flow**

To preserve capacity for higher-need households, Tier 1 Light RRH will be capped at 30% of RRH placements. Operationally, how this looks is this; SNAP has 76 openings for RRH. 3 will be designated for Traditional RRH (Tier 8) and 9 will be designated for Light RRH (Tier 7).

In its role as Collaborative Applicant for the Spokane Regional CoC, CHHS will closely monitor the financial effects of the 30% set-aside. If Traditional RRH funding decreases at a pace that undermines the CoC's ability to serve a reasonable number of Tier 2 households, the CoC will re-evaluate the established cap.

### **Universe Approach (SALA ordered referral pools)**



The CoC will operate two SALA ordered RRH Referral universes per household type: Light RRH (Tier 1) and Traditional RRH (Tier 2). Within each universe, households are prioritized by SALA score from highest to lowest. The Tier 1 set-aside (30%) is a capacity allocation rule and does not permit the bypass of higher-needs households within the Traditional RRH universe.

Initial Universe assignment thresholds:

Household Type	Light RRH	Traditional RRH	Max SALA Score
Singles	1-11	12-28	28
Youth and Young Adult	1-14	15-32	32
Families	1-13	14-30	30

**\*\*Updated threshold adjustment:** In April of 2026, analysis of average SALA scores identified a need to recalibrate the existing threshold structure. Based on recent system data, the City of Spokane, acting as the Collaborative Applicant in coordination with the Coordinated Entry Leads and HMIS, approved the following threshold adjustments:

**Light RRH Households for Singles:**

SALA Scores of 4-7 may comprise up to 15% of the total 30% RRH Light Allocation capacity. No individual SALA score within this range may exceed 5% of the overall 15% allocation.

SALA scores of 8-11 may comprise up to 15% of the total 30% RRH Light Allocation capacity. No individual SALA score within this range may exceed 5% of the overall 15% allocation.

**Light RRH Households for Families:**



SALA Scores of 4-8 may comprise up to 15% of the total 30% RRH Light Allocation capacity. No individual SALA score within this range may exceed 5% of the overall 15% allocation.

SALA Scores of 9-13 may comprise up to 15% of the total 30% RRH Light Allocation capacity. No individual SALA score within this range may exceed 5% of the overall 15% allocation.

We opted to not include the YYA system since they do not see the same level of concentration of scores as the Single and Family Systems. YYA's tend to score lower on the SALA and therefore do not require the same policy applicability as this pilot envisions.

These adjustments are intended to better align RRH Light interventions with households demonstrating moderate housing barriers while prioritizing lower acuity households for Diversion focused resolutions.