



**Community Alliance
for the
Homeless, Inc.**

www.cafth.org

CONSENT TO PRE-SCREENING ASSESSMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS BETWEEN **AGES 24 AND 18**

We are here to speak with you about your housing and service needs. If you will give us permission, we will ask you a few questions about your health and housing. The process should take only a few minutes of your time. During this interview, we will ask for your social security number.

By participating in this interview, you give permission for Community Alliance for the Homeless, Inc. to provide your information to authorized agencies for the purpose of furthering housing and services in our community. While some of your history and experiences may be uncomfortable or embarrassing to talk about, they are important to understand your situation and how we can best help you. It is also important that you provide accurate information.

This assessment is used to determine eligibility for Federal assistance. Knowingly providing false statements through this process may be considered fraud and could cause you to be subjected to fines or prevent you from getting the resources that you need.

The information that you provide will be stored in secured databases known as the Management Information System (HMIS). Only individuals who have been trained to use these systems and have signed confidentiality agreements may view your information. They will only share information if you provide consent and for the purpose of providing you with housing and services. Should you wish to have your information removed from the databases, you may request to do so at any time by providing a written request to Community Alliance for the Homeless, Inc., 44 North Second Street, Suite 302, Memphis, Tennessee 38103.

Your signature below indicates your consent to participate in the TAY-VI-SPDAT Prescreening and to enter your information into the database.

I, _____ am signing for _____, whose mailing address
is _____, birth date is ___ / ___ / ___ and social security number is
_____ - _____ - _____.

✂ _____ please tear here _____

Should you wish to have your information removed from the databases, you may request to do so at any time by providing a written request to Community Alliance for the Homeless, Inc., 44 North Second Street, Suite 302, Memphis, Tennessee 38103.

Administration

Interviewer's Name _____	Agency _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Team <input type="checkbox"/> Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer
Survey Date DD/MM/YYYY ___/___/____	Survey Time ___ : ___ AM/PM	Survey Location _____

Opening Script

Every assessor in your community regardless of organization completing the VI-SPDAT should use the same introductory script. In that script you should highlight the following information:

- the name of the assessor and their affiliation (organization that employs them, volunteer as part of a Point in Time Count, etc.)
- the purpose of the VI-SPDAT being completed
- that it usually takes less than 7 minutes to complete
- that only "Yes," "No," or one-word answers are being sought
- that any question can be skipped or refused
- where the information is going to be stored
- that if the participant does not understand a question that clarification can be provided
- the importance of relaying accurate information to the assessor and not feeling that there is a correct or preferred answer that they need to provide, nor information they need to conceal

Basic Information

First Name _____	Nickname _____	Last Name _____
In what language do you feel best able to express yourself? _____		
Date of Birth DD/MM/YYYY ___/___/____	Age _____	Social Security Number _____
		Consent to participate <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

IF THE PERSON IS 17 YEARS OF AGE OR LESS, THEN SCORE 1.

SCORE:

If the individual is under the age of 18, who gives consent for him/her to participate in this assessment? parent legal guardian other

Age of Parent/Guardian/Other _____ **Relationship** _____

A. History of Housing and Homelessness

1. Where do you sleep most frequently? (check one)

- Shelters **Couch surfing** **Other (specify):**
 Transitional Housing **Outdoors**
 Safe Haven **Refused** _____

IF THE PERSON ANSWERS ANYTHING OTHER THAN "SHELTER", "TRANSITIONAL HOUSING", OR "SAFE HAVEN", THEN SCORE 1. **SCORE:**

2. How long has it been since you lived in permanent stable housing? _____ Refused

3. In the last three years, how many times have you been homeless? _____ Refused

IF THE PERSON HAS EXPERIENCED 1 OR MORE CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF HOMELESSNESS, AND/OR 4+ EPISODES OF HOMELESSNESS, THEN SCORE 1. **SCORE:**

B. Risks

4. In the past six months, how many times have you...

- a) Received health care at an emergency department/room? _____ Refused
 b) Taken an ambulance to the hospital? _____ Refused
 c) Been hospitalized as an inpatient? _____ Refused
 d) Used a crisis service, including sexual assault crisis, mental health crisis, family/intimate violence, distress centers and suicide prevention hotlines? _____ Refused
 e) Talked to police because you witnessed a crime, were the victim of a crime, or the alleged perpetrator of a crime or because the police told you that you must move along? _____ Refused
 f) Stayed one or more nights in a holding cell, jail, prison or juvenile detention, whether it was a short-term stay like the drunk tank, a longer stay for a more serious offence, or anything in between? _____ Refused

IF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INTERACTIONS EQUALS 4 OR MORE, THEN SCORE 1 FOR EMERGENCY SERVICE USE. **SCORE:**

5. Have you been attacked or beaten up since you've become homeless? **Y** N Refused

6. Have you threatened to or tried to harm yourself or anyone else in the last year? **Y** N Refused

IF "YES" TO ANY OF THE ABOVE, THEN SCORE 1 FOR RISK OF HARM. **SCORE:**

7. Do you have any legal stuff going on right now that may result in you being locked up, having to pay fines, or that make it more difficult to rent a place to live? **Y** N Refused
8. Were you ever incarcerated when younger than age 18? **Y** N Refused

IF "YES" TO ANY OF THE ABOVE, THEN SCORE 1 FOR LEGAL ISSUES. **SCORE:**

9. Does anybody force or trick you to do things that you do not want to do? **Y** N Refused
10. Do you ever do things that may be considered to be risky like exchange sex for money, food, drugs, or a place to stay, run drugs for someone, have unprotected sex with someone you don't know, share a needle, or anything like that? **Y** N Refused

IF "YES" TO ANY OF THE ABOVE, THEN SCORE 1 FOR RISK OF EXPLOITATION. **SCORE:**

C. Socialization & Daily Functioning

11. Is there any person, past landlord, business, bookie, dealer, or government group like the IRS that thinks you owe them money? **Y** N Refused
12. Do you get any money from the government, an inheritance, an allowance, working under the table, a regular job, or anything like that? Y **N** Refused

IF "YES" TO QUESTION 11 OR "NO" TO QUESTION 12, THEN SCORE 1 FOR MONEY MANAGEMENT. **SCORE:**

13. Do you have planned activities, other than just surviving, that make you feel happy and fulfilled? Y **N** Refused

IF "NO," THEN SCORE 1 FOR MEANINGFUL DAILY ACTIVITY. **SCORE:**

14. Are you currently able to take care of basic needs like bathing, changing clothes, using a restroom, getting food and clean water and other things like that? Y **N** Refused

IF "NO," THEN SCORE 1 FOR SELF-CARE. **SCORE:**

15. Is your current lack of stable housing...

- a) Because you ran away from your family home, a group home or a foster home? **Y** N Refused
- b) Because of a difference in religious or cultural beliefs from your parents, guardians or caregivers? **Y** N Refused
- c) Because your family or friends caused you to become homeless? **Y** N Refused
- d) Because of conflicts around gender identity or sexual orientation? **Y** N Refused

IF "YES" TO ANY OF THE ABOVE, THEN SCORE 1 FOR **SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS**.

SCORE:

- e) Because of violence at home between family members? **Y** N Refused
- f) Because of an unhealthy or abusive relationship, either at home or elsewhere? **Y** N Refused

IF "YES" TO ANY OF THE ABOVE, THEN SCORE 1 FOR **ABUSE/TRAUMA**.

SCORE:

D. Wellness

- 16. Have you ever had to leave an apartment, shelter program, or other place you were staying because of your physical health? **Y** N Refused
- 17. Do you have any chronic health issues with your liver, kidneys, stomach, lungs or heart? **Y** N Refused
- 18. If there was space available in a program that specifically assists people that live with HIV or AIDS, would that be of interest to you? **Y** N Refused
- 19. Do you have any physical disabilities that would limit the type of housing you could access, or would make it hard to live independently because you'd need help? **Y** N Refused
- 20. When you are sick or not feeling well, do you avoid getting medical help? **Y** N Refused
- 21. Are you currently pregnant, have you ever been pregnant, or have you ever gotten someone pregnant? **Y** N Refused

IF "YES" TO ANY OF THE ABOVE, THEN SCORE 1 FOR **PHYSICAL HEALTH**.

SCORE:

NEXT STEP TOOL FOR HOMELESS YOUTH

SINGLE YOUTH

AMERICAN VERSION 1.0

22. Has your drinking or drug use led you to being kicked out of an apartment or program where you were staying in the past? **Y** N Refused
23. Will drinking or drug use make it difficult for you to stay housed or afford your housing? **Y** N Refused
24. If you've ever used marijuana, did you ever try it at age 12 or younger? **Y** N Refused

IF "YES" TO ANY OF THE ABOVE, THEN SCORE 1 FOR SUBSTANCE USE.

SCORE:

25. Have you ever had trouble maintaining your housing, or been kicked out of an apartment, shelter program or other place you were staying, because of:

- a) A mental health issue or concern? **Y** N Refused
- b) A past head injury? **Y** N Refused
- c) A learning disability, developmental disability, or other impairment? **Y** N Refused

26. Do you have any mental health or brain issues that would make it hard for you to live independently because you'd need help? **Y** N Refused

IF "YES" TO ANY OF THE ABOVE, THEN SCORE 1 FOR MENTAL HEALTH.

SCORE:

IF THE RESPONENT SCORED 1 FOR PHYSICAL HEALTH AND 1 FOR SUBSTANCE USE AND 1 FOR MENTAL HEALTH, SCORE 1 FOR TRI-MORBIDITY.

SCORE:

27. Are there any medications that a doctor said you should be taking that, for whatever reason, you are not taking? **Y** N Refused
28. Are there any medications like painkillers that you don't take the way the doctor prescribed or where you sell the medication? **Y** N Refused

IF "YES" TO ANY OF THE ABOVE, SCORE 1 FOR MEDICATIONS.

SCORE:

Scoring Summary

DOMAIN	SUBTOTAL	RESULTS
PRE-SURVEY	/1	Score: Recommendation: 0-3: no moderate or high intensity services be provided at this time 4-7: assessment for time-limited supports with moderate intensity 8+: assessment for long-term housing with high service intensity
A. HISTORY OF HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS	/2	
B. RISKS	/4	
C. SOCIALIZATION & DAILY FUNCTIONS	/4	
D. WELLNESS	/6	
GRAND TOTAL:	/17	

Follow-Up Questions

On a regular day, where is it easiest to find you and what time of day is easiest to do so?	place: _____ time: ___ : ___ or Morning/Afternoon/Evening/Night
Is there a phone number and/or email where someone can get in touch with you or leave you a message?	phone: (____) _____ - _____ email: _____
Ok, now I'd like to take your picture so that it is easier to find you and confirm your identity in the future. May I do so?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Refused

Communities are encouraged to think of additional questions that may be relevant to the programs being operated or your specific local context. This may include questions related to:

- military service and nature of discharge
- ageing out of care
- mobility issues
- legal status in country
- income and source of it
- current restrictions on where a person can legally reside
- children that may reside with the youth at some point in the future
- safety planning

Appendix A: About the TAY-VI-SPDAT

The HEARTH Act and federal regulations require communities to have an assessment tool for coordinated entry - and the VI-SPDAT and SPDAT meet these requirements. Many communities have struggled to comply with this requirement, which demands an investment of considerable time, resources and expertise. Others are making it up as they go along, using “gut instincts” in lieu of solid evidence. Communities need practical, evidence-informed tools that enhance their ability to satisfy federal regulations and quickly implement an effective approach to access and assessment. The VI-SPDAT is a first-of-its-kind tool designed to fill this need, helping communities end homelessness in a quick, strategic fashion.

The VI-SPDAT

The VI-SPDAT was initially created by combining the elements of the Vulnerability Index which was created and implemented by Community Solutions broadly in the 100,000 Homes Campaign, and the SPDAT Prescreen Instrument that was part of the Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool. The combination of these two instruments was performed through extensive research and development, and testing. The development process included the direct voice of hundreds of persons with lived experience.

The VI-SPDAT examines factors of current vulnerability and future housing stability. It follows the structure of the SPDAT assessment tool, and is informed by the same research backbone that supports the SPDAT - almost 300 peer reviewed published journal articles, government reports, clinical and quasi-clinical assessment tools, and large data sets. The SPDAT has been independently tested, as well as internally reviewed. The data overwhelmingly shows that when the SPDAT is used properly, housing outcomes are better than when no assessment tool is used.

The VI-SPDAT is a triage tool. It highlights areas of higher acuity, thereby helping to inform the type of support and housing intervention that may be most beneficial to improve long term housing outcomes. It also helps inform the order - or priority - in which people should be served. The VI-SPDAT does not make decisions; it informs decisions. The VI-SPDAT provides data that communities, service providers, and people experiencing homelessness can use to help determine the best course of action next.

The Youth – Transition Age Youth Tool from CSH

Released in May 2013, the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) partnered with Dr. Eric Rice, Assistant Professor at the University of Southern California (USC) School of Social Work, to develop a triage tool that targets homeless Transition Age Youth (TAY) for permanent supportive housing. It consists of six items associated with long-term homelessness (five or more years) among transition-aged youth (age 18-24).

Version 2 of the VI-SPDAT

Version 2 builds upon the success of Version 1 of the VI-SPDAT with some refinements. Starting in August 2014, a survey was launched of existing VI-SPDAT users to get their input on what should be amended, improved, or maintained in the tool.

Analysis was completed across all of these responses. Further research was conducted. Questions were tested and refined over several months, again including the direct voice of persons with lived experience and frontline practitioners. Input was also gathered from senior government officials that create policy and programs to help ensure alignment with guidelines and funding requirements.

The TAY-VI-SPDAT – The Next Step Tool for Homeless Youth

One piece of feedback was the growing concern that youth tended to score lower on the VI-SPDAT, since the Vulnerability Index assesses risk of mortality which is less prevalent among younger populations. So, in version 2 of the VI-SPDAT, OrgCode Consulting, Inc. and Community Solutions joined forces with CSH to combine the best parts of the TAY, the VI, and the SPDAT to create one streamlined triage tool designed specifically for youth aged 24 or younger.

If you are familiar with the VI-SPDAT, you will notice some differences in the TAY-VI-SPDAT compared to VI-SPDAT version 1. Namely:

- it is shorter, usually taking less than 7 minutes to complete;
- subjective elements through observation are now gone, which means the exact same instrument can be used over the phone or in-person;
- medical, substance use, and mental health questions are all refined;
- you can now explicitly see which component of the full SPDAT each VI-SPDAT question links to; and,
- the scoring range is slightly different (Don't worry, we can provide instructions on how these relate to results from Version 1).

