

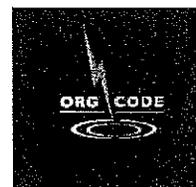
**Vulnerability Index -  
Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool  
(VI-SPDAT)**

**Prescreen Triage Tool for Families**

**AMERICAN VERSION 2.0**

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**COMMUNITY  
SOLUTIONS**



## Administration

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

## 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

<b>PARENT 1</b>	<b>First Name</b> _____	<b>Nickname</b> _____	<b>Last Name</b> _____
	<b>In what language do you feel best able to express yourself?</b> _____		
	<b>Date of Birth</b> DD/MM/YYYY ___/___/____	<b>Age</b> _____	<b>Social Security Number</b> _____
			<b>Consent to participate</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>PARENT 2</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> No second parent currently part of the household		
	<b>First Name</b> _____	<b>Nickname</b> _____	<b>Last Name</b> _____
	<b>In what language do you feel best able to express yourself?</b> _____		
	<b>Date of Birth</b> DD/MM/YYYY ___/___/____	<b>Age</b> _____	<b>Social Security Number</b> _____
<b>IF EITHER HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD IS 60 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER, THEN SCORE 1.</b>			<b>SCORE:</b> [ ]

## Children

1. How many children under the age of 18 are currently with you? \_\_\_\_\_  Refused
2. How many children under the age of 18 are not currently with your family, but you have reason to believe they will be joining you when you get housed? \_\_\_\_\_  Refused
3. IF HOUSEHOLD INCLUDES A FEMALE: Is any member of the family currently pregnant?  Y  N  Refused
4. Please provide a list of children's names and ages:

First Name	Last Name	Age	Date of Birth
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

IF THERE IS A SINGLE PARENT WITH 2+ CHILDREN, AND/OR A CHILD AGED 11 OR YOUNGER, AND/OR A CURRENT PREGNANCY, THEN SCORE 1 FOR FAMILY SIZE. **SCORE:**

IF THERE ARE TWO PARENTS WITH 3+ CHILDREN, AND/OR A CHILD AGED 6 OR YOUNGER, AND/OR A CURRENT PREGNANCY, THEN SCORE 1 FOR FAMILY SIZE.

## A. History of Housing and Homelessness

5. Where do you and your family sleep most frequently? (check one)
  - Shelters
  - Transitional Housing
  - Safe Haven
  - Outdoors**
  - Other (specify):** \_\_\_\_\_
  - Refused

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

6. How long has it been since you and your family lived in permanent stable housing? \_\_\_\_\_  Refused
7. In the last three years, how many times have you and your family been homeless? \_\_\_\_\_  Refused

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

## B. Risks

8. In the past six months, how many times have you or anyone in your family...

- 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 they witnessed a crime, were the victim of a crime, or the alleged perpetrator of a crime or because the police told them that they must move along?  Refused
- f) Stayed one or more nights in a holding cell, jail or prison, whether that 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:**

- 9. Have you or anyone in your family been attacked or beaten up since they've become homeless?  Y  N  Refused
- 10. Have you or anyone in your family threatened to or tried to harm themselves 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:**

- 11. Do you or anyone in your family have any legal stuff going on right now that may result in them being locked up, having to pay fines, or that make it more difficult to rent a place to live?  Y  N  Refused

**IF "YES," THEN SCORE 1 FOR LEGAL ISSUES.**

**SCORE:**

- 12. Does anybody force or trick you or anyone in your family to do things that you do not want to do?  Y  N  Refused
- 13. Do you or anyone in your family ever do things that may be considered to be risky like exchange sex for money, run drugs for someone, have unprotected sex with someone they 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

14. Is there any person, past landlord, business, bookie, dealer, or government group like the IRS that thinks you or anyone in your family owe them money?  Y  N  Refused

15. Do you or anyone in your family get any money from the government, a pension, an inheritance, working under the table, a regular job, or anything like that?  Y  N  Refused

**IF "YES" TO QUESTION 14 OR "NO" TO QUESTION 15, THEN SCORE 1 FOR MONEY MANAGEMENT.** **SCORE:**

16. Does everyone in your family have planned activities, other than just surviving, that make them feel happy and fulfilled?  Y  N  Refused

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

17. Is everyone in your family 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:**

18. Is your family's current homelessness in any way caused by a relationship that broke down, an unhealthy or abusive relationship, or because other family or friends caused your family to become evicted?  Y  N  Refused

**IF "YES," THEN SCORE 1 FOR SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS.** **SCORE:**

### D. Wellness

19. Has your family ever had to leave an apartment, shelter program, or other place you were staying because of the physical health of you or anyone in your family?  Y  N  Refused

20. Do you or anyone in your family have any chronic health issues with your liver, kidneys, stomach, lungs or heart?  Y  N  Refused

21. 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 or anyone in your family?  Y  N  Refused

22. Does anyone in your family 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

23. When someone in your family is sick or not feeling well, does your family avoid getting medical help?  Y  N  Refused

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

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24. Has drinking or drug use by you or anyone in your family led your family to being kicked out of an apartment or program where you were staying in the past?  Y  N  Refused

25. Will drinking or drug use make it difficult for your family to stay housed or afford your housing?  Y  N  Refused

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

26. Has your family 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

27. Do you or anyone in your family have any mental health or brain issues that would make it hard for your family to live independently because help would be needed?  Y  N  Refused

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

28. IF THE FAMILY SCORED 1 EACH FOR PHYSICAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE USE, AND MENTAL HEALTH: Does any single member of your household have a medical condition, mental health concerns, and experience with problematic substance use?  Y  N  N/A or Refused

**IF "YES", SCORE 1 FOR TRI-MORBIDITY.** **SCORE:**  
[ ]

29. Are there any medications that a doctor said you or anyone in your family should be taking that, for whatever reason, they are not taking?  Y  N  Refused

30. Are there any medications like painkillers that you or anyone in your family don't take the way the doctor prescribed or where they sell the medication?  Y  N  Refused

**IF "YES" TO ANY OF THE ABOVE, SCORE 1 FOR MEDICATIONS.** **SCORE:**  
[ ]

31. YES OR NO: Has your family's current period of homelessness been caused by an experience of emotional, physical, psychological, sexual, or other type of abuse, or by any other trauma you or anyone in your family have experienced?  Y  N  Refused

**IF "YES", SCORE 1 FOR ABUSE AND TRAUMA.** **SCORE:**  
[ ]

### E. Family Unit

32. Are there any children that have been removed from the family by a child protection service within the last 180 days?  Y  N  Refused

33. Do you have any family legal issues that are being resolved in court or need to be resolved in court that would impact your housing or who may live within your housing?  Y  N  Refused

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

34. In the last 180 days have any children lived with family or friends because of your homelessness or housing situation?  Y  N  Refused

35. Has any child in the family experienced abuse or trauma in the last 180 days?  Y  N  Refused

36. IF THERE ARE SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN: Do your children attend school more often than not each week?  Y  N  N/A or Refused

**IF "YES" TO ANY OF QUESTIONS 34 OR 35, OR "NO" TO QUESTION 36, SCORE 1 FOR NEEDS OF CHILDREN.** **SCORE:**

37. Have the members of your family changed in the last 180 days, due to things like divorce, your kids coming back to live with you, someone leaving for military service or incarceration, a relative moving in, or anything like that?  Y  N  Refused

38. Do you anticipate any other adults or children coming to live with you within the first 180 days of being housed?  Y  N  Refused

**IF "YES" TO ANY OF THE ABOVE, SCORE 1 FOR FAMILY STABILITY.** **SCORE:**

39. Do you have two or more planned activities each week as a family such as outings to the park, going to the library, visiting other family, watching a family movie, or anything like that?  Y  N  Refused

40. After school, or on weekends or days when there isn't school, is the total time children spend each day where there is no interaction with you or another responsible adult...

a) 3 or more hours per day for children aged 13 or older?  Y  N  Refused

b) 2 or more hours per day for children aged 12 or younger?  Y  N  Refused

41. IF THERE ARE CHILDREN BOTH 12 AND UNDER & 13 AND OVER: Do your older kids spend 2 or more hours on a typical day helping their younger sibling(s) with things like getting ready for school, helping with homework, making them dinner, bathing them, or anything like that?  Y  N  N/A or Refused

**IF "NO" TO QUESTION 39, OR "YES" TO ANY OF QUESTIONS 40 OR 41, SCORE 1 FOR PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT.** **SCORE:**

## Scoring Summary

DOMAIN	SUBTOTAL	RESULTS
PRE-SURVEY	/2	<b>Score: Recommendation:</b> 0-3 no housing intervention 4-8 an assessment for Rapid Re-Housing 9+ an assessment for Permanent Supportive Housing/Housing First
A. HISTORY OF HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS	/2	
B. RISKS	/4	
C. SOCIALIZATION & DAILY FUNCTIONS	/4	
D. WELLNESS	/6	
E. FAMILY UNIT	/4	
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>/22</b>	

## Follow-Up Questions

<b>On a regular day, where is it easiest to find you and what time of day is easiest to do so?</b>	place: _____ time: ____ : ____ or Morning/Afternoon/Evening/Night
<b>Is there a phone number and/or email where someone can safely get in touch with you or leave you a message?</b>	phone: (____) _____ - _____ email: _____
<b>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?</b>	<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 adult at some point in the future
- safety planning

## Appendix A: About the 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 a practical, evidence-informed way to satisfy federal regulations while quickly implementing 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.

### Version 2

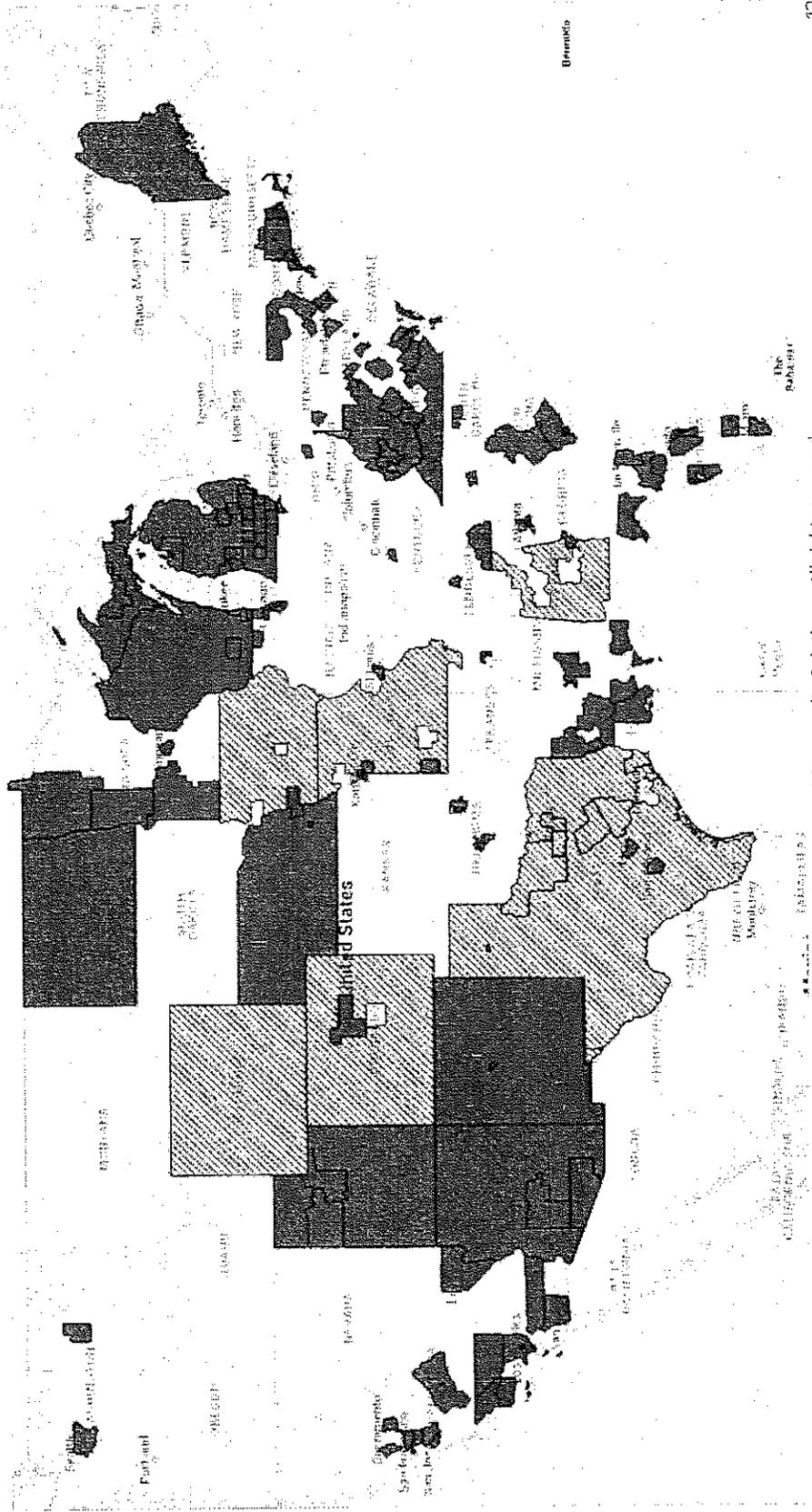
Version 2 builds upon the success of Version 1 of the VI-SPDAT with some refinements. Starting in August 2014, a survey was launched of existing VI-SPDAT users to get their input on what should be amended, improved, or maintained in the tool. Analysis was completed across all of these responses. Further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

You will notice some differences in Version 2 compared to 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).

## Appendix B: Where the VI-SPDAT is being used in the United States

Since the VI-SPDAT is provided completely free of charge, and no training is required, any community is able to use the VI-SPDAT without the explicit permission of Community Solutions or OrgCode Consulting, Inc. As a result, the VI-SPDAT is being used in more communities than we know of. It is also being used in Canada and Australia.



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A partial list of continua of care (CoCs) in the US where we know the VI-SPDAT is being used includes:

- Alabama**
  - Parts of Alabama Balance of State
- Arizona**
  - Statewide
- California**
  - San Jose/Santa Clara City & County
  - San Francisco
  - Oakland/Alameda County
  - Sacramento City & County
  - Richmond/Contra Costa County
  - Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County
  - Fresno/Madera County
  - Napa City & County
  - Los Angeles City & County
  - San Diego
  - Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County
  - Bakersfield/Kern County
  - Pasadena
  - Riverside City & County
  - Glendale
  - San Luis Obispo County
- Colorado**
  - Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative
  - Parts of Colorado Balance of State
- Connecticut**
  - Hartford
  - Bridgeport/Stratford/Fairfield
  - Connecticut Balance of State
  - Norwalk/Fairfield County
  - Stamford/Greenwich
  - City of Waterbury

- District of Columbia**
  - District of Columbia
- Florida**
  - Sarasota/Bradenton/Manatee/Sarasota Counties
  - Tampa/Hillsborough County
  - St. Petersburg/Clearwater/Largo/Pineellas County
  - Tallahassee/Leon County
  - Orlando/Orange, Osceola, Seminole Counties
  - Gainesville/Alachua, Putnam Counties
  - Jacksonville-Duval, Clay Counties
  - Palm Bay/Meibourne/Brevard County
  - Ocala/Marion County
  - Miami/Dade County
  - West Palm Beach/Palm Beach County
- Georgia**
  - Atlanta County
  - Fulton County
  - Columbus-Muscogee/Russell County
  - Marietta/Cobb County
  - Dekalb County
- Hawaii**
  - Honolulu
- Illinois**
  - Rockford/Winnebago, Boone Counties
  - Waukegan/North Chicago/Lake County
  - Chicago
  - Cook County
- Iowa**
  - Parts of Iowa Balance of State
- Kansas**
  - Kansas City/Wyandotte County
- Kentucky**
  - Louisville/Jefferson County
- Louisiana**
  - Lafayette/Acadiana
  - Shreveport/Bossier/Northwest
  - New Orleans/Jefferson Parish
  - Baton Rouge
  - Alexandria/Central Louisiana CoC
- Massachusetts**
  - Cape Cod Islands
  - Springfield/Holyoke/Chicopee/Westfield/Hampden County
- Maryland**
  - Baltimore City
  - Montgomery County
- Maine**
  - Statewide
- Michigan**
  - Statewide
- Minnesota**
  - Minneapolis/Hennepin County
  - Northwest Minnesota
  - Moorhead/West Central Minnesota
  - Southwest Minnesota
- Missouri**
  - St. Louis County
  - St. Louis City
  - Joplin/Jasper, Newton Counties
  - Kansas City/Independence/Lee's Summit/Jackson County
  - Parts of Missouri Balance of State
- Mississippi**
  - Jackson/Rankin, Madison Counties
  - Gulf Port/Gulf Coast Regional
- North Carolina**
  - Winston Salem/Forsyth County
  - Asheville/Buncombe County
  - Greensboro/High Point
- North Dakota**
  - Statewide
- Nebraska**
  - Statewide
- New Mexico**
  - Statewide
- Nevada**
  - Las Vegas/Clark County
- New York**
  - New York City
  - Yonkers/Mount Vernon/New Rochelle/Westchester County
- Ohio**
  - Toledo/Lucas County
  - Canton/Massillon/Alliance/Stark County
- Oklahoma**
  - Tulsa City & County/Broken Arrow
  - Oklahoma City
  - Norman/Cleveland County
- Pennsylvania**
  - Philadelphia
  - Lower Merion/Norristown/Abington/Montgomery County
  - Allentown/Northeast Pennsylvania
  - Lancaster City & County
  - Bristol/Bensalem/Bucks County
  - Pittsburgh/McKeesport/Penn Hills/Allegheny County
- Rhode Island**
  - Statewide
- South Carolina**
  - Charleston/Low Country
  - Columbia/Midlands
- Tennessee**
  - Chattanooga/Southeast Tennessee
  - Memphis/Shelby County
  - Nashville/Davidson County
- Texas**
  - San Antonio/Bexar County
  - Austin/Travis County
  - Dallas City & County/Irving
  - Fort Worth/Arlington/Tarrant County
  - El Paso City and County
  - Waco/McLennan County
  - Texas Balance of State
  - Amarillo
  - Wichita Falls/Wise, Palo Pinto, Wichita, Archer Counties
  - Bryan/College Station/Brazos Valley
  - Beaumont/Port Arthur/South East Texas
- Utah**
  - Statewide
- Virginia**
  - Richmond/Henrico, Chesterfield, Hanover Counties
  - Roanoke City & County/Salem
  - Virginia Beach
  - Portsmouth
  - Virginia Balance of State
  - Arlington County
- Washington**
  - Seattle/King County
  - Spokane City & County
- Wisconsin**
  - Statewide
- West Virginia**
  - Statewide
- Wyoming**
  - Wyoming Statewide is in the process of implementing

