

Script for VI- SPDAT

1. EXPLAIN ASSESSMENT

Now I am going to ask you questions regarding you and your experience with homelessness using the Vulnerability Index and Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT). These are personal questions about physical health, mental health, history of substance use, past trauma and abuse, and where you have lived. It is important for you to provide honest statements in order for us match you or your family with appropriate housing options. You have the right to refuse to answer any of the questions. If you do choose to refuse to answer, however, it may result in a referral that does not fully match you or your family's needs. The more accurate your responses, the better suited we are to match you with the most appropriate services. Understand that I respect your right to privacy and am committed to maintaining your privacy as I am allowed. Also, understand that as you discuss past trauma, you may experience some unintended consequences. If you experience discomfort during our interview, which is normal, we can take a break or not answer those questions.

2. EXPLAIN RELEASE OF INFORMATION

The consent form that you signed explains where we will be keeping information retrieved from the VI-SPDAT. As a reminder, however, all information will be kept in a secured data system called PAHMIS. If you have any questions about the use of your information, who can access it, or why it is being captured, we can review that consent form now.

3. COMPLETE THE ASSESSMENT

We will begin the VI-SPDAT now. The assessment typically takes about 10 minutes and is intended to help our providers best respond to your request for housing. The questions are specifically presented to allow short, one-word answers, such as "yes" or "no," so that we can get through all the questions quickly. While I am conducting the assessment, I may remind you that we are seeking short answers. If I do, that is not in disrespect to your answers, rather, it is in respect to your time. There will be a time later in the process for you to elaborate further on some of your responses. If you need to take a break, need more explanation or clarification on a specific question, or want to come back to a question, we can do that. Again, some of these questions are personal. It may be normal to experience discomfort during this process. We will take a break as you need.

4. THANK YOU

Thank you for your time to complete the VI-SPDAT assessment. Do you have any questions? It may be normal to have upsetting memories, feel on edge, or have trouble sleeping after disclosing your experiences. I can provide you with a referral and options for support. *Interviewer: Please assess the client for any discomfort or symptoms of trauma concluding the interview.*

5. NEXT STEPS

Now we will talk about some available community resources. *Interviewer: Describe agencies that may be able to assist with the interviewee based on their VI-SPDAT score and need(s). If possible, present the interviewee with a choice of agency options to address their immediate housing concern, and, as appropriate, offer to help contact those specific agencies and/or case managers to make sure the referral has been established.*