

## DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this policy and procedure manual, for those definitions identified in this section as a HUD Definition, the actual definition provided by HUD shall supersede those enumerated in this document.

### **Chronically Homeless (HUD Definition)**

A person who:

1. Is homeless and lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and
  - a. Has been homeless and living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter continuously for at least one year or on at least four separate occasions in the last three years, where the cumulative total of the four occasions is at least one year. Stays in institutions of 90 days or less will not constitute a break in homelessness, but rather such stays are included in the cumulative total; and
  - b. Can be diagnosed with one or more of the following conditions: substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability (as defined in section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15002)), post-traumatic stress disorder, cognitive impairments resulting from brain injury, or chronic physical illness or disability;
2. Has been residing in an institutional care facility, including a jail, substance abuse or mental health treatment facility, hospital, or other similar facility, for fewer than 90 days and met all the criteria in paragraph (1) of this definition, before entering that facility; or
3. Who meets all of the criteria in paragraph (1) of this definition.

***Chronically Homeless Summary:*** A person who's lived in a safe haven, an emergency shelter or some other location not fit for human habitation for at least a year. This person might have a substance abuse or mental health issue (or more than one issue), and he or she might have even lived for 90 days or less – on several occasions – in a rehabilitation facility a jail or another institutional setting.

### **Literally Homeless (HUD Homeless Definition Category 1)**

A person who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence

1. An individual with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, camping ground; or
2. An individual living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government program for low-income individual); or
3. An individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution.

***Literally Homeless Summary:*** A person who's lived in a public or private place that's not typically used as a place for people to sleep, such as a car, a park or a bus station. This term might also describe a person who's living in a public or private shelter. A person who lived in such a place and then entered an institution (jail, substance abuse or mental health facility) for 90 days or less would also be considered "literally homeless" when he or she exited that institution.

**At imminent risk of homelessness (HUD Homeless Definition Category 2)**

A person who will imminently lose their housing (within 14 days) and become literally homeless

**Homeless under other Federal statutes (HUD Homeless Definition Category 3)**

A person defined as “homeless” by other federal statute (e.g., Dept. of HHS, Dept. of Ed.)

**Homeless because fleeing domestic abuse or violence (HUD Homeless Definition Category 4)**

A person fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, stalking, dating violence, or sexual assault

**At Risk of Homelessness**

*Category 1:* A person who:

- a. Has an annual income below 30% of median income for the area; AND
- b. Does not have sufficient resources or support networks immediately available to prevent them from moving to an emergency shelter or another place defined in Category 1 of the “homeless” definition; AND Meets one of the following conditions:
  - i. Has moved because of economic reasons 2 or more times during the 60 days immediately preceding the application for assistance; OR
  - ii. Is living in the home of another because of economic hardship; OR
  - iii. Has been notified that their right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated within 21 days after the date of application for assistance; OR
  - iv. 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 people with low-income; OR
  - v. Lives in an SRO or efficiency apartment unit 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; OR
  - vi. Is exiting a publicly funded institution or system of care; OR
  - vii. Otherwise lives in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness, as identified in the recipient’s approved consolidated plan.

*Category 2:* A child or youth who does not qualify as homeless under the homeless definition, but qualifies as homeless under another Federal statute

*Category 3:* An unaccompanied youth who does not qualify as homeless under the homeless definition but qualifies as homeless under section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, and the parent(s) or guardian(s) or that child or youth if living with him or her.

**At Risk of Homelessness Summary:** *According to HUD, there are three different ways to define whether a person is considered “at risk of homelessness.” In Category 1, a person is at risk of homelessness if his or her income is 30% below the community’s median income and if that person doesn’t have in the community a network of support – such as family, close friends or faith community – who might help house them to prevent them from going to a shelter. Coupled with these two circumstances must be at least one more factor from among the seven described in the HUD definition of Category 1, these factors include whether the person has moved 2 or more times in the last 60 days, whether they are currently living with friends and whether they are 21 days or less from losing the right to stay where they live. Categories 2 and 3 help define under what circumstances children or youth can be defined as “at risk of*

*homelessness”, offering them additional access to services if they don’t qualify through protection from other laws.*

**1. Disability (HUD Definition)** - HUD defines a person with disabilities as a person who:

1. Has a disability as defined in Section 223 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.423), or
2. Is determined by HUD regulations to have a physical, mental, or emotional impairment that:
  - a. is expected to be of long, continued, and indefinite duration;
  - b. substantially impedes his or her ability to live independently; and
  - c. is of such a nature that more suitable housing conditions could improve such ability,or
3. Has a developmental disability as defined in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (42 U.S.C. 15002(8)), or
4. Has the disease acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or any conditions arising from the etiologic agent for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV).

To qualify for low income housing under HUD public housing and Section 8 programs, the definition does not include a person whose disability is based solely on any drug or alcohol dependence.

**2. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)** - A Homeless Management Information System is an electronic web-based data collection and reporting tool designed to record and store person-level information on the characteristics and service needs of people experiencing homelessness throughout a Continuum of Care (CoC) jurisdiction. Usage of the HMIS is mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for any program receiving CoC or ESG funds.

**3. Homelessness Prevention** - Recipients and subrecipients located in HUD-designated High Performing Communities (HPCs) may use CoC Program funds for homelessness prevention assistance for individuals and families at risk of homelessness. The services under this component may include housing relocation and stabilization services as well as short- and medium-term rental assistance to prevent an individual or family from becoming homeless. Through this component, recipients and subrecipients may help individuals and families at-risk of homelessness to maintain their existing housing or transition to new permanent housing. Homelessness prevention must be administered in accordance with 24 CFR part 576. *Agencies in Orange County do not yet have funding to provide homelessness prevention.*

**4. Housing First** – Housing First is not a “program” but a system-wide orientation that follows a basic principle that supports the fundamental importance of transitioning people experiencing homelessness back to permanent housing as quickly as possible and helping people maintain housing. Orange County’s responses to homelessness reflect this “Housing First” principle.

**5. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)** –

Long-term rental assistance and services designed for people who are chronically homeless, or for people with serious mental illnesses or other disabilities who need support to live stably in their communities. These services can include case management, substance abuse or mental health counseling, advocacy, and assistance in locating and maintaining employment. PSH uses the Housing First model to move people into permanent housing as quickly as possible and aims to help people retain their housing. Best practice PSH incorporates client choice and a varying level of services that can ramp up or down depending on client needs.

**6. Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) –**

Short-term rental assistance and services that helps people obtain housing quickly, increase self-sufficiency, and remain housed. The core components of RRH are housing identification, rent and move-in assistance, and case management and services. RRH programs are generally designed to serve people with low to moderate services needs and generally provide 3-6 months assistance for households.

**7. Shelter / Emergency Shelter -**

Facility that provides temporary sleeping places for people experiencing homelessness. Best practice shelters are accessible, i.e. have low barriers to entry, appealing, and housing-focused.

**8. SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) –** a program funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to connect people who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness with SSI/SSDI disability benefits.

**9. Street Outreach –**

Street Outreach programs connect people experiencing homelessness with housing and services using a relationship-based model. Street outreach programs provide services directly or by collaborating with other agencies

*Agencies in Orange County do not yet have funding to provide homelessness prevention.*

**10. Transitional Housing (TH) –**

Long term temporary housing and supportive services, usually lasting 6- 24 months, that uses the Housing Ready model of skill building prior to permanent housing placement.

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

Tool used by trained staff to determine vulnerability (also called acuity or service need) for people experiencing homelessness. The tool asks very personal questions about housing, health, social needs, family situation and safety and produces a score that indicates the level of service need for a household. Staff are trained to administer the VI-SPDAT and understand its context through OC Connect.