

Definitions

Affordable Housing: Affordable housing is typically characterized as housing on which households spend no more than 30 percent of their gross income for housing expenses, including utilities.

At Risk of Homelessness: A household who:

- Is at or below 30% AMI
- Does not have sufficient resources or support networks, immediately available to prevent them from moving to an emergency shelter or another place not meant for human habitation.
- Meets one of the following conditions:
 - Has moved because of economic reasons two or more times during the previous 60 days.
 - Is living in the home of another because of economic hardship.
 - Has been notified in writing that their right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated within 21 days.
 - Lives in a hotel or motel and the cost is not paid by a charitable organization or Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income households
 - Lives in a single-room occupancy (SRO) apartment unit in which there reside more than two people or lives in a larger housing unit in which there reside more than 1.5 people per room
 - Is exiting a publicly funded institution or system of care

Chronic Homelessness: A household experiencing Literal Homelessness with a disability as defined in section 401 (9) of the McKinney-Vento Act (42 U.S.C. 11360(9)), who:

- Lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter, AND
- Has been homeless and living as described for at least 12 months consecutively or at least four separate occasions in the last three years, as long as the combined occasions equal at least 12 months and each break in homelessness separating the occasions included at least seven consecutive nights of not living as described.

Deeply Affordable Housing: Deeply affordable housing is specifically for those households with extremely low incomes, which is 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI) or below.

Homelessness Prevention (HP): Homelessness Prevention provides financial assistance and services to prevent households from becoming homeless and offer stability in their current housing units. HP services are intended to target households who would be homeless but for this assistance. HP provides a variety of assistance, including short-term or medium-term rental assistance and housing relocation and stabilization services, such as mediation, security or utility deposits, utility payments, moving cost assistance, and case management.

Housing First: Housing First is an approach to quickly and successfully connect households experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment, or service participation requirements. Supportive services and case management are offered to maximize housing stability and prevent returns to homelessness as opposed to addressing predetermined treatment goals prior to permanent housing entry.

Definitions continued

Imminent Risk of Homelessness: A household will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that:

- Residence will be lost within 14 days
- No subsequent residence has been identified
- Household lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing.

Literal Homelessness: Literal Homelessness is a household that lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence:

- Household has a primary nighttime residence that is not meant for human habitation **or**
- Household is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements **or**
- Household is exiting an institution where they had resided for less than 90 days and resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution

McKinney-Vento disability: Adult head of household has a diagnosable substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, post-traumatic stress disorder, cognitive impairments resulting from a brain injury, or chronic physical illness or disability, including the co-occurrence of two or more of those conditions.

Move On: A Moving On strategy is person-centered and enables households to move on from Permanent Supportive Housing by offering affordable housing, services, and resources. This strategy may include a physical move to a new home or a “transition in place” arrangement where the rental assistance and supportive services move on to another household.

Permanent Housing (PH): Permanent Housing is a community-based housing model that provides housing without a designated length of stay. The housing is long-term (24 months or more) but does not include supportive services like Permanent Supportive Housing does. Permanent Housing could come in the form of a long-term rental subsidy, like a Housing Choice Voucher, or deeply affordable housing units where the resident can maintain their monthly housing costs without a subsidy.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH): A housing intervention that combines affordable housing assistance with voluntary support services to address the needs of people experiencing chronic homelessness. Services are designed to build independent living and tenancy skills and connect people with community-based health care, treatment, employment services, and other meaningful daily activities. PSH helps decrease the number of people who are experiencing chronic homelessness, and research has demonstrated that PSH can increase housing stability and improve health. PSH is a cost-effective solution that lowers public costs associated with using crisis services such as shelters, hospitals, jails, and prisons.

Progressive Engagement (PE): Progressive Engagement is a person-centered approach to ending a household's homelessness by tailoring assistance to each household's unique need. Rather than assuming a one-size-fits-all solution or attempting to predict the level of intervention required, this approach meets the individuals and families where they are, focusing first on securing stable housing.

Definitions continued

By leveraging a household's strengths and specific circumstances, PE prioritizes the lightest-touch interventions necessary to resolve their immediate housing crisis. For those who face greater challenges in achieving stability, additional support is provided incrementally to ensure long-term success.

This approach ensures that limited resources are used efficiently, serving as many households as possible while helping those exit homelessness as quickly as possible, despite barriers, with only the essential financial assistance and supportive services needed for stabilization.

Rapid Re-Housing (RRH): Rapid Re-Housing is a housing intervention, informed by a Housing First approach that is a critical part of a community's effective homeless crisis response system. RRH rapidly connects households experiencing homelessness to permanent housing through a tailored package of assistance that may include the use of time-limited financial assistance and targeted supportive services. RRH can provide short-term rental assistance (up to three months) or medium-term rental assistance (4-24 months). Supportive services are offered with low intervention housing case management.

Transitional Housing (TH): Transitional Housing provides temporary housing with supportive services to households experiencing homelessness with the goal of interim stability and support to successfully move to and maintain permanent housing. Households can reside in TH for up to two years.

Safe Haven: A Safe Haven is a form of supportive housing that serves hard-to-reach homeless individuals with severe and persistent mental illness who primarily experience unsheltered homelessness and have been unable or unwilling to participate in housing or supportive service programs.

Shared Housing: Shared Housing is when two or more individuals live in one permanent rental housing unit, sharing the costs associated with maintaining housing such as rent and utilities.

Supportive Services: Person-centered interventions that proactively engage with people in a flexible and comprehensive array of services, without requiring participation as a condition of ongoing assistance. Services can include, but are not limited to, improving physical and mental health, increasing employment or income, increasing housing stability, and connecting individuals to community-based services and meaningful daily activities.

- Case Management services provide a single point of accountability for the coordination of services and are designed to offer households support in living independently and achieving and maintaining housing stability.
- Case Managers assist households in achieving their goals and meeting their needs by linking them to a variety of different services or service providers.
- Case Management services are comprehensive in nature to ensure a more impactful service delivery but are tailored to the specific needs of the household.
- Services should address the biological, psychological, and social needs of the household.
- All services should be accompanied by documentation and progress.
- Roles of Case Managers:
 - Assist households with identifying goals and next steps
 - Provide support in achieving goals and next steps
 - Offer educational or vocational opportunities
 - Offer referrals to counseling and/or SUD treatment