

Chronic Homelessness

Changes to the Definition

and

Community Impact

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Homeless Definitions - HUD

Category I Homelessness

No changes. . .

An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

- An individual or family 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 or camping ground;*
- An individual or family 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 programs for low-income individuals); or*
- 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.*

Chronic Homelessness

Final Rule effective January 15, 2016

1. An individual who:

- Is homeless and lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter, and*
- 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 1 year or on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 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 as a break in homelessness, but rather such stays are included in the cumulative total; and*
- Can be diagnosed with more 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 result from brain injury, or chronic physical illness or disability;*

2. An individual who 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), before entering the facility; or

3. A family with an adult head of household (or if there is no adult in the family, a minor head of household) who meets all the criteria in paragraph (1), including a family whose composition has fluctuated while the head of household has been homeless.

Prioritization for Chronicity Permanent Supportive Housing

With the clarification provided about the chronic definition, HUD updated their priorities to end chronic homelessness, providing communities with guidance to serve those who are chronic first when placing eligible individuals and households into Permanent Supportive Housing.



1. Chronic (Final Rule) with high service needs
2. Chronic (Final Rule) with low service needs
3. Not Chronic (Final Rule) but has 12 months cumulative total of homelessness of 12 months, but less than four occasions in three years, with high service needs.
4. Not Chronic (Final Rule) but has 12 months cumulative total of homelessness of 12 months, but less than four occasions in three years, with low service needs.
5. Not Chronic (Category I Homeless) – high service needs
6. Not Chronic (Category I Homeless) – low service needs

Prioritization for Chronicity Permanent Supportive Housing

Per HUD:

“. . . to the extent that there are no persons who meet the criteria of chronic homelessness . . . Continuum of Care Program-funded dedicated permanent supportive housing providers are not required to keep a unit vacant. Instead, the recipient may house non-chronically homeless individuals or families who are eligible for permanent supportive housing generally. . .”

HUD Notice CPD-14-012 July 28, 2014 and Federal Register Vol. 80, No. 233 December 4, 2015

- Move to the highest service need potential program participant that meets eligibility for specific unit.
- Non-Chronic Placement Disposition Form

Community Impact



- Reduction in chronic numbers
- Changes in HMIS with reporting of chronic:
 - Self Report vs. Verified Documentation
- Potential program participants who are “chronic” but limited capacity to serve:
 - Physical Disabilities