System Modeling and Stella M Glossary

Term	Definition
Authentic Engagement	Authentic engagement with individuals with lived expertise means going beyond inviting them to the table to also address any barriers to their full participation as equal partners in the system modeling process.
Average length of assistance expected	The average number of days that households are expected to be in each project in the pathway, including days assisted in the project while experiencing homelessness and days assisted in the project once housed.
Baseline Year	The year representing the current state of the homeless response system. Stella M includes optional baseline inputs for the number of households experiencing homelessness (baseline households), the number and type of shelter and housing units currently available (baseline inventory), and the current cost of each project type (baseline cost). In multi-year models, baseline information is an input used to calculate target year estimates.
Cohort	A group of households with similar characteristics, resources, and housing and service needs.
Comparable Database	A comparable database is a relational database that meets all HMIS Data Standards and does so in a method that protects the safety and privacy of the survivor.
Days Homeless	The sum of the average number of days that households are expected to experience homelessness while enrolled in the projects included in the pathway.
Days Housed	The time that a household is assisted in a project after they have moved into permanent housing.
Exits to Permanent Destinations	Households who exited the homeless response system to permanent destinations.
Facilitator	An individual who supports a group working through a process (often via a series of meetings) designed to make decisions or achieve goals.
First-time Homeless	Inflow households who were not active in the homeless response system within the 24 months prior to their entry.
Geography	Optional text field to identify the target geographic area for a system model.
Global Annual Change	Expected percent change in first-time homeless inflow from one year to the next, applied within each year in a multi-year model.
HMIS	Homeless Management Information System.

Term	Definition
Homeless Response System	The set of housing, shelter, and services dedicated to people experiencing homelessness in a specific geography.
Household	A household is a single individual or a group of persons who want to be assisted together to obtain housing.
Ideal system	A vision of the interventions needed to meet households' housing and service needs and of the performance of these interventions in combination to create a system that effectively and equitably ends homelessness.
Inflow	Households expected to enter the homeless response system each year. Inflow has two parts - the number of households experiencing homelessness for the first time and the number of households returning to homelessness after exiting the system in a prior period.
Inventory	The number of shelter and housing beds and units available in a CoC at a point in time that are dedicated to serve persons who are homeless. Inventory is delineated by project type, household type, and sub-populations.
Inventory	Number of units of each project type needed within a specific geography. Baseline inventory reflects the number of units of each project type that already exist.
Key partners	Persons with experience of homelessness and the homeless response system, individuals or representatives of organizations who are part of the homeless response system, and individuals and institutions who are in positions to influence policies and funding decisions for the homeless response system.
Leadership Group	The group of people in positions to influence policies and funding decisions for the homeless responses system that are the audience for the system modeling results and recommendations.
Long-term Homeless	Households that were "unserved" in the prior year, meaning they were experiencing homelessness in the prior year and were not enrolled in a pathway to housing ("served").
LSA	The Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA) is a report produced from a CoC's Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS) and submitted annually to HUD via the HDX 2.0, providing HUD and Continuums of Care (CoCs) with critical information about how people experiencing homelessness use their system of care.
Model of Ideal System	A set of data-informed assumptions about the needs of households experiencing homelessness within a specified geography and the assistance (type and duration) that would efficiently, effectively, and equitably address those needs.

Term	Definition
Model Year	An interim or target year within a model. Each model year has a set of assumptions associated with the assistance that will be provided by the homeless response system. The Target Year is the final year of the model, representing the "end state" of the homeless response system once the system is built out. A multi-year model can have Interim Years to plan incremental changes in the assistance offered by the system between baseline and the Model Year.
Multi-Year Model	A multi-year model may assume incremental changes in the assistance offered from year-to-year to recognize that building an optimal response may require a phased implementation approach.
Other partners	Individuals or representatives of organizations that have additional expertise related to the needs people experiencing homelessness or specific subpopulations, such as service providers, advocates, or researchers.
Partner Outreach	The process of identifying, engaging with, and inviting potential partners to participate in, provide feedback on, or implement recommendations of the system modeling process.
Pathway	The distinct combination of project types that a household is provided while involved in the homeless response system with the goal of helping the household obtain permanent housing. Also referred to as a Pathway to housing.
People with Lived Expertise	People that have had direct, personal experience of homelessness.
Planning group	This is the group of people that are determining the initial purpose, goals, and scope of the system modeling process and provide direction to the facilitator during the modeling and implementation planning process.
Project Type	A way to categorize projects into similar groups, typically based on a project's purpose, service and housing components, and target population (if that group has distinct housing and service needs). Stella M includes default project types from the LSA and user-generated custom project types. Stella M generates inventory projections by project type.
Projected Performance	Expectations about the average number of days homeless, percent of exits to permanent housing, and percent of returns to homelessness for households served in a model. Projected performance will be calculated at a number of levels within the model (e.g., pathways, universe, years).
Returners	Inflow households were active in the homeless response system within the 24 months prior to their re-entry.
Returns	Out of the households exiting the homeless response system in a year, the percent of households expected to return to homelessness the following year.

Term	Definition
Served	Households who are offered assistance in a pathway to housing within a model. Everyone "served" in a model year is assumed to exit the homeless response system at the conclusion of their pathway, though not all are assumed to exit to permanent housing.
Starting Year	The calendar year of the first year of a multi-year model.
System Modeling	System Modeling is a structured, data-informed process to develop estimates of the size and needs of a population of people experiencing homelessness and assumptions about the type and amount of assistance that would effectively and equitably meet those needs. Using these inputs, Stella M will produce a system model that calculates the projected inventory by project type and performance results associated with the modeling assumptions.
Target Year	The "end state" envisioned for the homeless response system in the year designated for the model, which represents the final year of a multi-year model.
Unit	The amount of housing and/or service assistance designed to serve a single household at a point-in-time. Depending on the project type and the type of household being served, a unit may represent a rental subsidy, a room or bed in a congregate setting, a motel room, a supportive services slot, etc.
Universe	The group of households experiencing homelessness that is the focus of the model. Stella M allows users to model separately for the inflow universe and the long-term universe and can present results for each universe separately or for the two combined.
Universe Targeted	The universe being targeted to be served within a specific pathway. When a pathway is added to a model, the user needs to specify whether the pathway is being designated to serve the inflow or long-term homeless universe. Similar pathways can be added for both universes, but they must be set up separately within a model (with unique pathway names), since the service assumptions (% served, days housed and assisted, performance expectations) are expected to differ when targeting an inflow vs long-term universe.
Unserved	Households who are not expected to be offered or do not enroll in a pathway to housing within the model year. Any households who are unserved within one model year are assumed to NOT exit the homeless system, and therefore will be added to the long-term homeless universe for the following model year.
Workgroup	The group of stakeholders that collaborate to develop the assumptions and inputs for the system model.