

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS STATUS

RESOURCES

CONSULT THE CoC RULE

CoC Program Interim Rule

– 578.3 Definitions:

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2017-title24-vol3/xml/CFR-2017-title24-vol3-part578.xml#seqnum578>

RESOURCES ON THE HUD EXCHANGE

Chronic Homelessness Resources Page, with links to Flowchart, webinars, rules, and guidance:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/resources-for-chronic-homelessness/>

Defining Chronic Homelessness

Final Rule:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/1715/mckinney-vento-homeless-assistance-act-amended-by-hearth-act-of-2009/>

Notice CPD-16-11 Prioritizing Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5108/notice-cpd-16-11-prioritizing-persons-experiencing-chronic-homelessness-and-other-vulnerable-homeless-persons-in-psh/>

This resource is prepared by technical assistance providers and intended only to provide guidance. The contents of this document, except when based on statutory or regulatory authority or law, do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

SUMMARY

Recipients and subrecipients need to be familiar with the chronic homelessness definition and documentation requirements when implementing CoC-funded projects. CoC Program NOFAs in recent years have encouraged recipients and subrecipients to dedicate 100 percent of their Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) project beds to individuals and families experiencing chronic homelessness.

PSH projects could also be classified as DedicatedPLUS. DedicatedPLUS projects are defined as permanent supportive housing (PH-PSH) projects where the entire project will serve individuals and families that meet one of the following criteria at project entry:

1. **Experiencing chronic homelessness** as defined in 24 CFR 578.3;
2. **Residing in a transitional housing project** that will be eliminated and meets the definition of chronically homeless in effect at the time in which the individual or family entered the transitional housing project;
3. **Residing in a place not meant for human habitation**, emergency shelter, or safe haven; but the individuals or families experiencing chronic homelessness as defined at 24 CFR 578.3 had been admitted and enrolled in a permanent housing project within the last year and were unable to maintain a housing placement;
4. **Residing in transitional housing** funded by a Joint transitional housing (TH) and rapid re-housing (PH-RRH) component project and who were experiencing chronic homelessness as defined in 24 CFR 578.3 prior to entering the project;
5. **Residing and has resided in a place not meant for human habitation**, a safe haven, or emergency shelter for at least 12 months in the last three years, but has not done so on four separate occasions; or
6. **Receiving assistance through a Department of Veterans Affairs** (VA)-funded homeless assistance program and met one of the above criteria at initial intake to the VA's homeless assistance system.

Other CoC-funded projects may also target persons experiencing chronic homelessness.

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS DEFINITION

Chronically homeless means:

1. A “homeless individual with a disability,” who:
 - i. Lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and
 - ii. Has been homeless, as described above, continuously for at least 12 months or on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years, as long as the combined occasions equal at least 12 months

- Occasions must be separated by a break of at least 7 consecutive nights of not living as described above
 - Stays in institutional care facilities for fewer than 90 days will not constitute as a break in homelessness
 - Stays in institutional care facilities, for fewer than 90 days, are included in the 12-month total, as long as the individual was living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or an emergency shelter immediately before entering the institutional care facility.
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 of the criteria in paragraph (1) of this definition, before entering that facility.
 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 of the criteria in paragraphs (1) or (2) of this definition, including a family whose composition has fluctuated while the head of household has been homeless.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- Transitional Housing (TH): In general participants in TH do not meet the chronically homeless definition, unless:
 - They were accepted into a PSH program, but a unit was not immediately available; they may be temporarily housed in TH until a PSH unit is identified.
 - The veteran or veteran household qualified as chronically homeless at the time of entry into VA homeless services and were served in a VA-funded TH program such as GPD. They would be eligible for both HUD-VASH and PSH.
- Rapid Re-Housing (RRH): Participants assisted with RRH through such sources as CoC, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), or Veterans Homelessness Prevention Demonstration Program (VHPD) maintain their chronic homeless status, and therefore could be enrolled from RRH into PSH.
- PSH Transfers: Once an eligible household is placed in PSH, they do not retain their homeless or chronically homeless status. However, CoC PSH projects may serve individuals and families from other PSH projects as long as the participants originally met the eligibility requirements for PSH. They may transfer from one PSH program to another CoC Program.

DOCUMENTATION STANDARDS

Consult the [Defining Chronic Homelessness final rule](#) and see the chart below.

Documentation Type	Documentation Requirements	Documentation Examples
Homeless Status	<p>See one pager on homeless documentation standards.</p> <p>Document at least 9 of the 12 months of homelessness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMIS record(s) showing at least one night in a shelter per month; OR • Written statement(s) from an outreach worker on respective agency letterhead detailing observations by month; OR • If third-party documentation is not available, a written statement from the prospective participant about their current and past homelessness and documentation of intake worker due diligence efforts and intake worker's documentation of living situation(s)
Breaks Between Occasions of Homelessness (at least 7 consecutive nights)	<p>HUD's preferred order of documentation when possible</p> <p>Note: 100% of breaks can be self-certified</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMIS records showing breaks in living in places not meant for human habitation, safe haven, or emergency shelter; OR • Self-certification stating the details, date, and location of breaks in homelessness
Disability Documentation	Third-Party Documentation only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written verification from a professional who is licensed by the state to diagnose and treat the identified condition; OR • Written verification from the Social Security Administration (SSA); OR • Receipt of a disability check such as Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Veteran Disability Compensation

FOR EACH CoC PROGRAM-FUNDED PROJECT:

- At least 75% of households served in an operating year need third-party documentation of 9 of 12 months. May self-certify the remaining months.
- Up to 25% of households served in an operating year may self-certify up to 12 months as long as:
 - Attempts to obtain third-party documentation are documented; AND
 - The reason(s) that documentation was not obtained are documented.