

**"Homeless" Definition:**

A person or family who is considered homeless must meet the following definition:

- 1) An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:
  - i. 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;
  - ii. 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
  - iii. 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;
  
- 2) An individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that:
  - i. The primary nighttime residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance;
  - ii. No subsequent residence has been identified; and
  - iii. The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, faith-based or other social networks needed to obtain other permanent housing;
  
- 3) Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who:
  - i. Are defined as homeless under section 387 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5732a), section 637 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9832), section 41403 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e-2), section 330(h) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(h)), section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012), section 17(b) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(b)), or section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a);
  - ii. Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing at any time during the 60 days immediately preceding the date of application for homeless assistance;
  - iii. Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during the 60-day period immediately preceding the date of applying for homeless assistance; and
  - iv. Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time because of chronic disabilities, chronic physical health or mental health conditions, substance addiction, histories of domestic violence or childhood abuse (including neglect), the presence of a child or youth with a disability, or two or more barriers to employment, which include the lack of a high school degree or General Education Development (GED), illiteracy, low English proficiency, a history of incarceration or detention for criminal activity, and a history of unstable employment; or

- 4) Any individual or family who:
  - i. Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member, including a child, that has either taken place within the individual's or family's primary nighttime residence or has made the individual or family afraid to return to their primary nighttime residence;
  - ii. Has no other residence; and
  - iii. Lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, faith-based or other social networks, to obtain other permanent housing.

The full definition may be found at 24 CFR Part 91, available at <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/1928/hearth-defining-homeless-final-rule/>

"Chronically Homeless" Definition:

A person or family who is considered chronically homeless must meet the following definition:

- 1) A "homeless individual with a disability," as defined in the HEARTH Act (24 CFR parts 91, 582 & 583), 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) for at least 12 months or on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years where the combined occasions must total at least 12 months
    - Occasions separated by a break of at least seven nights
    - Stays in institutions of fewer than 90 days do not constitute a break
- 2) A individual who has been residing in an institutional care facility for fewer than 90 days and met all of the criteria in paragraph (1) of this definition, before entering that 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 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.

The full definition may be found at <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/4847/hearth-defining-chronically-homeless-final-rule/>.