

FY 2022 – 2023 Homeless Services Common Acronyms & Definitions

Joint Funding Acronyms

CDBG: Community Development Block Grant Program is funded through the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and is provided annually to eligible jurisdictions to complete a wide variety of community development projects such as public facilities, infrastructure, disaster recovery, affordable housing, and other projects. Locally, 15% of CDBG funds can be used for public services which include activities to end homelessness. The County of Lancaster and the City of Lancaster both receive annual allocations of CDBG funds.

CHART: Community Homeless Assessment and Referral Team. This is the name of the coordinated entry effort in Lancaster County and City currently managed by Tenfold with services provided by Tenfold, ECHOS, CrossNet Ministries and The Factory Ministries. See definition of coordinated entry below.

CFR: Code of Federal Regulations.

CoC: Continuum of Care. See definition below.

DUNS: The U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requires that all applicants for government funds have a unique Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number. DUNS or D-U-N-S is a proprietary system developed and regulated by Dun & Bradstreet (D&B). A DUNS identifier can be obtained from <https://www.dnb.com/duns-number/get-a-duns.html>

EFSP: Emergency Food and Shelter Program is administered through the United Way of Lancaster County and provides funding to all organizations in Lancaster County helping people that are hungry and/or experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. Eligible expenses include one month of rent/mortgage, served meals, utilities, mass shelter, and food. (EFSP funds are not available through this funding application, but some of our funds follow the EFSP guidelines) EFSP are awarded in alignment with the Lanc Co MyHome Strategic Plan.

HAP: Homeless Assistance Program are funds provided through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to counties for services to prevent and end homelessness. Eligible activities include: case management, rental assistance, bridge housing, emergency shelter, innovative supportive housing services.

HEARTH: The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009 that includes Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and Continuum of Care (CoC) grants.

HMIS: Homeless Management Information System. See definition below.

HUD: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Lanc Co MyHome: Lancaster County Homelessness Coalition. See definition below.

PIT: Point in Time Count. See definition below.

PSH: Permanent Supportive Housing. See definition below

Definitions

At-Risk of Homelessness

1. An individual or family who:
 - a. Has an annual income below 30 percent of median family income for the area, as determined by HUD;
 - b. Does not have sufficient resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, faith-based or other social networks, immediately available to prevent them from moving to an emergency shelter or another place described in paragraph (1) of the “Homeless” definition in this section; and
 - c. Meets one of the following conditions:
 - i. Has moved because of economic reasons two or more times during the 60 days immediately preceding the application for homelessness prevention assistance;
 - ii. Is living in the home of another because of economic hardship
 - iii. Has been notified in writing that their right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated within 21 days after the date of application for assistance;
 - iv. Lives in a single-room occupancy or efficiency apartment unit in which there reside more than two persons or lives in a larger housing unit in which there reside more than 1.5 people per room, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau;
 - v. Lives in a hotel or motel and the cost of the hotel or motel stay is not paid by charitable organizations or by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals;
 - vi. Is exiting a publicly funded institution, or system of care (such as a health-care facility, a mental health facility, foster care or other youth facility, or correction program or institution); or

- vii. Otherwise lives in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness, as identified in the recipient's approved consolidated plan.
- 2. A child or youth who does not qualify as "homeless" under this section, but qualifies as "homeless" under section 387(3) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5732a(3)), section 637(11) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9832(11)), section 41403(6) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e– 2(6)), section 330(h)(5)(A) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(h)(5)(A)), section 3(m) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7U.S.C. 2012(m)), or section 17(b)(15) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(b)(15)); or
- 3. A child or youth who does not qualify as "homeless" under this section, but qualifies as "homeless" under section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2)), and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of that child or youth if living with her or him.

Coordinated Entry

A coordinated process designed to coordinate program participant intake assessment and provision of referrals. It must be well advertised and include a standardized assessment tool. The definition is found at 24CFR-578.3 (check link)

Chronically Homeless

- 1. A "homeless individual with a disability," as defined in section 401(9) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360(9)), who:
 - a. Lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and
 - b. Has been homeless and living as described in paragraph (1)(i) of this definition 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 and each break in homelessness separating the occasions included at least 7 consecutive nights of not living as described in paragraph (1)(i).
 - c. Stays in institutional care facilities for fewer than 90 days will not constitute as a break in homelessness, but rather such stays 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; 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 paragraph (1) or (2) of this definition, including a family whose composition has fluctuated while the head of household has been homeless.

Continuum of Care

The Continuum of Care, as defined in 24 CFR 576.2, a group composed of representatives of relevant organizations to plan for and provide, as necessary, a system of outreach, engagement, and assessment; emergency shelter; rapid re-housing; transitional housing; permanent housing; and prevention strategies to address the various needs of homeless persons for Lancaster County and City. In Lancaster County and City that group is Lanc Co MyHome. [ESG and Consolidated Plan Conforming Amendments Overview Changes.pdf](#)

Disability

As defined in the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009, Section 401. [McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Amended by HEARTH of 2009 pdf](#)

- 1. HOMELESS INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY IN GENERAL. —The term 'homeless individual with a disability' means an individual who is homeless, as defined in section 103, and has a disability that –
 - a. is expected to be long-continuing or of indefinite duration;
 - b. substantially impedes the individual's ability to live independently;
 - c. could be improved by the provision of more suitable housing conditions; and
 - d. is a physical, mental, or emotional impairment, including an impairment caused by alcohol or drug abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, or brain injury;

- e. is a developmental disability, as defined in section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15002); or
- f. is the disease of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome or any condition arising from the etiologic agency for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome.

Diversion (or Rapid Resolution)

A strategy that prevents homelessness for people seeking shelter by helping them identify immediate alternate housing arrangements and, if necessary, connecting them with services and financial assistance to help them return to permanent housing.

Emergency shelter

Any facility, as defined in 24 CFR 576.2, whose primary purpose is to provide a temporary shelter for the homeless in general or for a specific population of the homeless and which does not require occupants to sign leases or occupancy agreements. [ESG and Consolidated Plan Conforming Amendments Overview Changes.pdf](#) Under the EFSP, emergency shelter is referred to as “mass shelter” and includes any location providing five or more beds in one location.

Fair Market Rents

Published annually by HUD for each jurisdiction. They are required to be used in the ESG program as described at 24 CFR 576.106(d). [ESG and Consolidated Plan Conforming Amendments Overview Changes.pdf](#)

Financial Assistance

Defined by HUD as funds that may be used to pay housing owners, utility companies, and other third parties for rental application fees, security deposits, last month’s rent, utility deposits, utility payments and moving costs.

Homeless defined by HUD at 24 CFR 576.2 as:

1. An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:
 - a. 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;
 - b. 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
 - c. 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:
 - a. The primary nighttime residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance;
 - b. No subsequent residence has been identified; and
 - c. 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:
 - a. 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 (42U.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);
 - b. 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;
 - c. 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

- d. 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:
 - a. 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;
 - b. Has no other residence; and
 - c. Lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, faith based or other social networks, to obtain other permanent housing.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

HMIS is the information system designated by the CoC to comply with the HUD's data standards and used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and persons at risk of homelessness. (Reference 24 CFR 576.400(f) for more details) Lanc Co MyHome uses the Empower Lancaster database as our HMIS.

Housing First

An approach to quickly and successfully connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as income, sobriety, treatment or service participation requirements. Supportive services are offered (not required) to maximize housing stability and prevent returns to homelessness.

Housing Stability Case Management

The costs of assessing, arranging, coordinating, and monitoring the delivery of individualized services to facilitate housing stability for a program participant who resides in permanent housing or to assist a program participant in overcoming immediate barriers to obtaining housing.

Housing Standards

As defined at 24 CFR 576.403(c) are the minimum standards for permanent housing. ESG funds cannot be used to help a program participant remain or move into housing that does not meet the minimum habitability standards. These standards relate to structure and materials, space and security, interior air quality, water supply, sanitary facilities, thermal environment, illumination and electricity, food preparation, sanitary conditions and fire safety.

Lanc Co MyHome

Also referred to as the Lancaster County Homelessness Coalition is the CoC or Continuum of Care for Lancaster County. Lanc Co MyHome was created to coordinate the efforts to reduce homelessness and the causes of homelessness through advocacy, planning, coordinating activities, public education, and community organizing. More information can be found at www.lanccomyhome.org

Lead Based Paint

Requirements are listed at 24 CFR 576.403(a). The Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. 4821-4846), the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 4851-4856), and implementing regulations in 24 CFR part 35, subparts A, B, H, J, K, M, and R apply to all shelters assisted under ESG program and all housing occupied by program participants.

Legal Services

Costs involving landlord/tenant matters, and the services must be necessary to resolve a legal problem that prohibits the program participant from obtaining permanent housing or will likely result in the program participant losing the permanent housing in which the program participant currently resides.

Leverage

The total amount of non-governmental resources (both cash and non-cash) committed from all sources to the project.

Mainstream Benefits

Generally, refers to resources such as Medicaid, the State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP), food stamps, Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), the Substance Abuse Block Grant, the Mental Health Block Grant, the Social Services Block Grant, and Welfare-to-Work.

Permanent Housing

Community-based housing without a designated length of stay and includes both permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing.

Point-in-time Count

A count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons carried out on one night in the last 10 calendar days of January or at such other time as required by HUD. Programs funded through this process are required to provide volunteers for the annual PIT Count.

Rapid Re-housing

Involves providing temporary financial assistance and services to return people experiencing homelessness to permanent housing. Rapid re-housing assistance is offered without preconditions (such as employment, income, absence of criminal record, or sobriety) and the resources and services provided are typically tailored to the unique needs of the household. The three core components of rapid rehousing are: Housing identification, rent and move-in assistance, rapid rehousing case management and services. Lanc Co MyHome requires that all organizations applying for Rapid Re-housing programs agree to follow the Critical Time Intervention model currently in use, and to use the name of Pathways to MyHome as the program name.

Recipient

Under the CDBG and ESG programs, recipients are local governments that receive funds directly from HUD. They are also known as grantees. Lanc Co MyHome is the recipient for all CoC funds available through this RFP.

Rent Reasonableness

Rent reasonableness is required at 24 CFR 576.106(d) and is defined at 24 CDF Part 888. Rent reasonableness is a requirement of CoC and ESG funds. The purpose of rent reasonableness is to ensure that the rents paid with federal funds are reasonable in relation to rents being charged for comparable unassisted units in the same market.

Rental Assistance Agreement

This is defined at 24 CFR 576.106. The recipient or subrecipient may make rental assistance payments only to an owner with whom the recipient or subrecipient has entered into a rental assistance agreement. The rental assistance agreement must set forth the terms under which rental assistance will be provided, including the requirements that apply under this section. The rental assistance agreement must provide that, during the term of the agreement, the owner must give the recipient or subrecipient a copy of any notice to the program participant to vacate the housing unit, or any complaint used under state or local law to commence an eviction action against the program participant.

Subrecipient

A term used in the CDBG, ESG and CoC programs for a public or private nonprofit agency, authority or organization, or an entity described in 24 CFR 570.204(c), receiving the aforementioned funds from the recipient to undertake eligible activities. The definition of a subrecipient can be found at 24 CFR 570.500(c). Subrecipients are sometimes called subgrantees.

Victim Service Provider

A private nonprofit organization whose primary mission is to provide services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. This term includes rape crisis centers, battered women's shelters, domestic violence transitional housing program and other programs.