

# **GLOSSARY OF HOMELESS DEFINITIONS**

211 SYSTEM -A program of Utah 211 Partnership, Inc. that seeks to create a statewide telephone-based information and referral system in Utah through use of the “211” dialing code so that people in need of human services have quick referrals to those services and data is collected to assist communities in assessing needs and allocating resources.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING -Generally defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as housing and utilities that cost no more than 30 percent of a household's adjusted gross income.

AOG – Association of Governments, the state of Utah is divided into seven AOGs with some of the AOGs further sub-divided into council of governments.

AT RISK OF BECOMING HOMELESS -Being on the brink of homelessness, often because of having extremely low income and paying too high a percentage of that income (typically 50 percent or more) for housing.

BEDS -Typically used to describe overnight sleeping capacity in shelters.

BRIEF INTENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT -A service for homeless people who have temporary barriers to self-sufficiency and can live independently in community housing following a brief period of intensive services.

CARVE OUT -A special set-aside of funding for a specific population or service to assure that those most in need are prioritized for services and support.

CASE MANAGER -A person who develops a working alliance with individuals seeking services and engages them in identifying goals and developing a plan for attaining greater self-sufficiency through resource cultivation, linkages with service providers, advocacy for vital services, and providing direct services.

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS – A person who is “chronically homeless” is an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more, or has had a least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years. In order to be considered chronically homeless, a person must have been sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g., living on the streets) and /or in an emergency homeless shelter. A disabling condition is defined as a diagnosable substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, or chronic physical illness or disability including the co-occurrence of two or more of these conditions. A disabling condition limits an individual’s ability to work or perform one or more activities of daily living.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG) -A federal grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and by state and local governments. CDBG funds may be used in various ways to support community development, including acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, and operation of public facilities and housing.

**CONSOLIDATED PLAN** -A document written by a state or local government and submitted annually to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. It describes the housing needs of the low-and moderate- income residents of a jurisdiction, outlines strategies to meet these needs, and lists resources available to implement the strategies.

**CONTINUUM OF CARE** – HUD funding for homeless programs.

**CONTINUUM OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES** - The full range of employment services and opportunities provided to address the multiple needs of individuals seeking work.

**CONTINUUM OF SERVICES** -The full range of emergency, transition, and permanent housing and service resources typically used to serve homeless persons.

**COORDINATION (OF SERVICES)** -The effort to link persons to needed services, track progress of that linkage, and generally facilitate it.

**CORPORATION FOR SUPPORTIVE HOUSING** -A national financial and technical assistance intermediary dedicated to helping nonprofit organizations develop and operate service-enriched permanent housing for homeless and at-risk families and individuals with special needs, including mental illness, HIV/AIDS and substance abuse issues.

**DAY CENTERS** -Agencies that provide case management, hospitality, and a range of other services to aid homeless people during the day. Utah has one day center: the Weigand Resource Center in Salt Lake City.

**DISABILITY** -A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, such as caring for oneself (speaking, walking, seeing, hearing, or learning).

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** -Physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm between family or household members.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COALITION** – A partnership of community organizations committed to finding positive, creative solutions that prevent and respond to domestic violence. They advance these solutions through educational support, community collaborations, and public awareness projects and initiatives.

**EMERGENCY HOUSING ASSISTANCE** -One-time or very short-term assistance provided to address an immediate housing crisis. Often for people who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. This assistance usually consists of emergency rent, mortgage, or utility payments to prevent loss of residence, motel vouchers, or emergency shelter.

**EMERGENCY SHELTER** -Any facility with overnight sleeping accommodations, primarily to provide temporary shelter for homeless people.

**EXTREMELY LOW-INCOME** -Households with incomes no higher than 30 percent of the median income for the area, as determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

**FAIR MARKET RENT (FMR)** -An amount determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for a state, county, or urban area that defines maximum allowable rents for HUD-funded subsidy programs.

**FAMILY** -A legally defined group of people who may live together on a regular basis and who have a close, long- term, committed relationship and share responsibility for the common necessities of life. For the purposes of HUD's documentation of households and census data compilations, the term often refers to households of related individuals.

**FOOD STAMPS** -Federally funded, state-administered program to provide vouchers for the purchase of food for low-income households.

**FOSTER CARE** – Temporary, out-of-home care to a child who has been abused/neglected and cannot live safely in his/her own home. While children are in foster care, they are in the custody of the State and services are provided to children and their families in hopes of safely reuniting them with their parents.

**HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START** -Comprehensive child development programs that serve children from birth to age 5, pregnant women, and their families. They are child-focused programs and have the overall goal of increasing the school readiness of young children in low-income families.

**HOME** -A program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that provides grants for low-income housing through rental assistance, housing rehabilitation, and new construction.

**HOMELESS FAMILY WITH CHILDREN** -A family that includes at least one homeless parent or guardian and one child under the age of 18, a homeless pregnant woman, or a homeless person in the process of securing legal custody of a person under the age of 18.

**HOMELESS PERSON** -According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, a homeless person is an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence or has a primary night-time residence that is a) a publicly-supervised or privately-operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill); b) an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or c) a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping place for human beings.

**HOMELESS YOUTH** – Young people estranged from their families who live on the streets, have no stable housing and are not well served by current housing options for adult homeless people.

**HOMELESSNESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (HMIS)** -A computerized data collection system to collect information about homeless people. HUD requires that jurisdictions collect an array of data on homelessness, including unduplicated counts, use of services and the effectiveness of the local homeless assistance system. Utah has instituted MetSYS as its HMIS.

**HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION** -An effort to assist individuals at risk of becoming homeless to stabilize their housing situation and provide supports necessary to help them maintain their housing.

**HOUSEHOLD** -An entity that includes all the people who occupy a housing unit. A person living alone in a housing unit, or a group of unrelated people sharing a housing unit such as domestic partners or roomers, is also counted as a household.

**HOUSING FIRST** -An approach to aiding homeless people that emphasizes moving them into housing they can afford as quickly as possible.

**HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS (HOPWA)** -A U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development program which pays for housing and support services for people living with HIV/AIDS and their families.

**HOUSING PLUS** -A term used to describe supportive housing, the combination of affordable housing and appropriate case management, mental health, or other services needed to help a homeless or near-homeless person maintain housing and move toward the greatest independence possible.

**HOUSING SPECIALISTS** -People who work with case managers, landlords, shelters and day centers to seek out existing affordable housing units, including those accessible to persons with disabilities, and to match them with homeless people and persons likely to become homeless. This specialist also provides information and referral programs with information on available affordable housing.

**HOUSING SUBSIDY** -Funds typically paid from federal or other sources to help make a housing unit affordable to a low-income household.

**HOUSING UNIT** -An occupied or vacant house, apartment, or single room intended as separate living quarters.

**HUD** -U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the federal agency responsible for overseeing a variety of government-subsidized housing and related programs.

**HOUSING AGENCIES** -An entity that oversees a number of publicly subsidized housing programs, including public housing and the Section 8 program.

**HOUSING AUTHORITIES** - Entities authorized by state law and established through resolutions by counties or cities that provide affordable housing, primarily through the federally-funded Section 8 and Public Housing programs.

**INDIVIDUALS LEAVING INSTITUTIONAL SETTINGS** -Persons released from prison, mental hospitals, or other institutions. Some of these people are at high risk for becoming homeless if suitable housing is not readily available and accessible.

**INFORMATION AND REFERRAL** -Programs that provide a variety of information on available social services and related programs.

**INTEGRATION (OF SERVICES)** -An effort to provide social services in a manner that coordinates those services to meet each person's needs.

**INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS** -A process that allows the courts to place persons temporarily or permanently in a mental health facility without their consent because they are mentally ill and dangerous to themselves or others.

**JOB CLUB** -A means of encouraging people with various challenges to find jobs by getting together to share job leads and experiences related to seeking employment.

**LIFE SKILLS TRAINING** -Assistance provided to help people learn a variety of essential skills, such as money management, parenting and maintaining successful relationships.

**LONG-TERM HOMELESS PEOPLE** -People who have experienced multiple episodes of homelessness over several years and rely on emergency shelters and other temporary arrangements for housing.

**LONG-TERM INTENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT** -Case management services provided for months or even years to people who are homeless due to chronic illness, disability, or other permanent barriers to self-sufficiency. These people likely will need frequent contact and permanent supportive services to remain housed in the community.

**LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLD** -A household earning no more than 80 percent of a locality's median family income.

**LOW INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT PROGRAM** -A program that provides a formula allotment of federal income tax credits to states. These tax credits are distributed to nonprofit and for-profit developers of, and investors in, low-income rental housing. States are given general guidelines and are free to establish their own preferences, restrictions, and procedures. The Utah Housing Corporation allocates tax credits for the State of Utah.

**MCKINNEY -VENTO ACT** -The primary federal law that targets federal funds to homeless individuals and families. Programs eligible for the funds include outreach, emergency food and shelter, transitional and permanent housing, primary health care services, mental health, alcohol and drug abuse treatment, education, job training, and child care. There are nine titles under the McKinney-Vento Act that are administered by several different federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

**MEDICAID** -A program jointly funded by the states and the federal government that provides medical care to certain groups of poor people, including the elderly, children, welfare recipients and people with disabilities.

**MENTAL ILLNESS** – Mental illness is a psychiatric disorder that results in a serious impairment in psychological, social, and occupational functioning that may significantly limit a person’s ability to live independently.

**NEAR-HOMELESS** -A term that refers to a person or household in imminent danger of becoming homeless, often because they have low incomes and pay more than half of those incomes for housing.

**PEOPLE AT -RISK OF HOMELESSNESS** -See “near homeless.”

**PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING** – Permanent supportive housing is safe affordable rental housing with support services for low-income or homeless people with severe mental illness, substance abuse, or HIV/AIDS. Permanent supportive housing provides a permanent home at an affordable rent along with the help people need to live on their own.

**PERSON WITH A DISABILITY** -An individual who has a physical, mental, or emotional impairment that is expected to be of continued and indefinite duration and substantially impedes his or her ability to live independently.

**PREVENTIVE CASE MANAGEMENT** -Case management designed for people who are precariously housed and need brief support services to achieve housing stability.

**PROJECT BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE** -A housing unit where the subsidy is for the unit and cannot be taken by the renter to another unit of housing.

**PUBLIC HOUSING UNIT** -A housing unit built with federal funds but owned and operated by a local public housing authority.

**SECTION 8** -A federal program typically operated by local housing authorities that provides rental assistance to low-income persons. The Section 8 certificate program typically includes a maximum rent for a metropolitan area or county. Individuals receiving assistance under a certificate program must find a unit that complies with rent

guidelines, and they will pay 30 percent of their incomes for rent. Under the Section 8 voucher program, the local housing authority determines a standard amount of rental assistance an individual or family receives. Tenants pay the difference between the amount of assistance and the actual rent, which may require them to spend more than 30 percent of their incomes on rent. Both the Section 8 voucher and certificate programs are tenant-based programs, meaning the subsidy is specific to the tenant as opposed to the unit. Under the project-based assistance program, a public housing authority may target up to 15 percent of its Section 8 certificate allocation to specific housing projects, ensuring that the subsidy will remain with the properties.

**SHELTER PLUS CARE** -A national grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that provides rental assistance, linked with supportive services, to homeless individuals who have disabilities (primarily serious mental illness, chronic substance abuse, and disabilities resulting from HIV/AIDS) and their families.

**STREET HOMELESS ADULTS** -Single adults who currently live on the streets or in abandoned buildings and often are reluctant to accept current housing options such as emergency shelters or transitional housing programs.

**STREET OUTREACH** -Efforts designed to engage homeless people who live on the streets or similar settings unsuitable for habitation and to link them with housing, shelter or other essential services.

**STRENGTHS MODEL** -A model for providing services that focuses on persons' strengths rather than their weaknesses, relies on aggressive outreach, and attempts to build upon client preferences. In the strengths model, the community is viewed as an oasis of resources and the case manager-client relationship is considered crucial to accessing those resources.

**SUBSIDIZED HOUSING** -A housing unit that has a portion of its rent paid with public funds or, during its development, was financed with public funds that will help keep the rent affordable to low- income families. It is estimated that there is only one such unit in the U.S. for every five households that could qualify.

**SUPPORTED EDUCATION PROGRAMS** -Programs that provide support services to people with disabilities or other barriers to success to help them be successful in mainstream educational programs.

**SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENTPROGRAMS**-Programs that provide support services to people with disabilities or other challenges to help them succeed in the mainstream work force.

**SUPPORTIVE HOUSING** -A type of housing that is both affordable to its residents and linked to mental health, employment assistance, and other support services to help residents live as independently as possible.

**TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)** -The main federally funded welfare program for families with children. Many details of the program are left to state government, but there are great incentives to prepare people to work and to move heads of households into employment.

**TEMPORARY SHELTER** -See “Emergency Shelter.”

**TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES** -Local government officials who provide assistance to meet certain immediate needs that typically relate to utilities, food, household supplies, housing, clothing, burials and traveler's aid.

**TRANSITIONAL HOUSING** -Living units that provide temporary shelter (usually for two years) to persons making the transition from homelessness to permanent housing.

**UNITED STATES SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION** – A base of financial protection for working people and their families when earnings are lost because of retirement, disability, or death. Benefits are an earned right.

**UTAH DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION** -A state agency responsible for administering Utah’s prison system.

**UTAH DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES** – The state agency that oversees a variety of human services for the abused and/or neglected, the delinquent youth, the disabled, the elderly, the mentally ill and addicted.

**UTAH HOUSING CORPORATION** - “A state-operated bank that finances residential mortgages and the development of affordable housing.

**VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS** -Household paying too much for housing or experiencing other stressors that might be alleviated through rent subsidies or other assistance.

**YOUTH** -Young people under the age of 18.