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## HMIS Definitions

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### **Housing Status:**

a. Persons who are **literally homeless** include people who at program entry or program exit are in one of the following:

- Places 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;
- A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including hotels and motels paid for by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable organizations, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for homeless persons);
- A hospital or other institution, if the person was sleeping in an emergency shelter or other place not meant for human habitation (cars, parks, streets, etc.) immediately prior to entry into the hospital or institution;
- Fleeing a domestic violence situation.

b. Persons who are **imminently losing their housing** include people who at program entry or program exit:

- Are currently housed and not literally homeless, per above definition;
- Are imminently losing their housing, whether permanent or temporary;
- Have no subsequent housing options identified; and
- Lack the resources or support networks needed to retain current housing or obtain temporary or permanent housing.

*Examples of imminent housing loss include:*

- Being evicted from a private dwelling unit (including housing they own, rent, or live in without paying rent, are sharing with others, and rooms in hotels or motels not paid for by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable organizations);
- Being discharged from a hospital or other institution;
- Living in housing that has been condemned by housing officials and is no longer considered meant for human habitation

c. Persons who are **unstably housed and at-risk of losing their housing** include people who at program entry or program exit:

- Are currently housed and not literally homeless or imminently losing their housing, per above definitions;
- Are experiencing housing instability, but may have one or more other temporary housing options; and
- Lack the resources or support networks to retain or obtain permanent housing.

*Housing instability may be evidenced by:*

- Frequent moves because of economic reasons;
- Living in the home of another because of economic hardship;
- Being evicted from a private dwelling unit (including housing they own, rent, or live in without paying rent, are sharing with others, and rooms in hotels or motels not paid for by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable organizations);
- Living in a hotel or motel not paid for by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable organizations;
- Living in severely overcrowded housing;
- Being discharged from a hospital or other institution; or
- Otherwise living in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness.

d. Persons who are **stably housed** are in a stable housing situation and not at risk of losing this housing (i.e., do not meet the criteria for any of the other housing response categories, per above definitions).

## Disability Definitions

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**Disabling condition:** (1) a disability as defined in Section 223 of the Social Security Act; (2) a physical, mental, or emotional impairment which is (a) expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration, (b) substantially impedes an individual's ability to live independently, and (c) of such a nature that such ability could be improved by more suitable housing conditions; (3) a developmental disability as defined in Section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act; (4) the disease of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome or any conditions arising from the etiological agency for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; or (5) a diagnosable substance abuse disorder.

**Disability documentation requirements:** Physical disabilities, mental health problems, developmental disabilities, and chronic health conditions all require documentation. Accepted forms of documentation include written verification from a state-licensed professional, such as a medical service provider or a health-care provider, the Social Security Administration, or the receipt of a disability check (i.e., SSDI check or VA disability benefit check). For mental health problems, a state-licensed social worker can provide documentation.

**Physical Disability:** A physical impairment which is (a) expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration, (b) substantially impedes an individual's ability to live independently, and (c) of such a nature that such ability could be improved by more suitable housing conditions. *Accepted forms of documentation* include written verification from a state-licensed professional, such as a medical service provider or a health-care provider, the Social Security Administration, or the receipt of a disability check (i.e., SSDI check or VA disability benefit check).

**Developmental Disability:** A severe, chronic disability that is attributed to a mental or physical impairment (or combination of physical and mental impairments) that occurs before 22 years of age and limits the capacity for independent living and economic self-sufficiency. *Accepted forms of documentation* include written verification from a state-licensed professional, such as a medical service provider or a health-care provider, the Social Security Administration, or the receipt of a disability check (i.e., SSDI check or VA disability benefit check).

**Chronic Health Condition:** A diagnosed condition that is more than three months in duration and is either not curable or has residual effects that limit daily living and require adaptation in function or special assistance. Examples of chronic health conditions include, but are not limited to, heart disease (including coronary heart disease, angina, heart attack and any other kind of heart condition or disease); severe asthma; diabetes; arthritis-related conditions (including arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, gout, lupus, or fibromyalgia); adult onset cognitive developments (including traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic distress syndrome, dementia, and other cognitive related conditions); severe headache/migraine; cancer; chronic bronchitis; liver condition; stroke; or emphysema. *Accepted forms of documentation* include written verification from a state-licensed professional, such as a medical service provider or a health-care provider, the Social Security Administration, or the receipt of a disability check (i.e., SSDI check or VA disability benefit check).

**Mental Health Problem:** May include serious depression, serious anxiety, hallucination, violent behavior or thoughts of suicide. A state-licensed social worker can provide documentation. *Other accepted forms of documentation* include written verification from a state-licensed professional, such as a medical service provider or a health-care provider, the Social Security Administration, or the receipt of a disability check (i.e., SSDI check or VA disability benefit check).

## Other Definitions

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**U.S. Military Veteran:** A veteran is someone who has served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States for 180 OR MORE days. This does not include inactive military reserves or the National Guard unless the person was called up to active duty.

**Extent of Homelessness by Minnesota's Definition:** The State of Minnesota defines as homeless "any individual, unaccompanied youth or family that is without a permanent place to live that is fit for human habitation." Doubling-up is considered homeless if that arrangement has persisted less than 1 year.

The State of Minnesota defines an individual, unaccompanied youth or family as "Long-Term Homeless" if they are without a home for a year or more OR have had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years. Any period of institutionalization or incarceration (including transitional housing, prison/jail, treatment, hospitals, foster care, or refugee camps) shall be excluded when determining the length of time the household has been homeless.

**HUD homeless definition:** The Federal definition of “homeless person” according to Section 103 of the McKinney Act (42 U.S.C. 11302) is: (1) An individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; **and** (2) An individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is:

- a) a supervised publicly 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 accommodation for human beings. [Note that this definition generally is interpreted not to include persons who are doubled-up, unless they can prove that the doubling up is a lease violation.]

**HUD chronic homelessness definition:** HUD defines “chronic homelessness” as an unaccompanied homeless individual (NOT a family) with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more OR has had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years.

### **Leave any of these in the Last 90 days?**

Definitions for some options:

**Drug or Alcohol Treatment Facility:** Includes inpatient treatment and detox.

**Foster Home:** This term applies to youth only; **Group Home:** Includes small facility for people with disabilities (cognitive or physical); may also be used for corrections clients. Includes adult foster care. Placement done through social services or corrections departments.

**Half-way House:** Includes placement for corrections clients after jail or prison OR for clients after chemical dependency treatment.

**Mental Health Treatment Facility or Hospital:** Includes regional treatment centers (state hospitals), Intensive Residential Treatment Services (IRTS), crisis residences, and psychiatric inpatient units at local hospitals.

**Residence for People with Physical Disabilities:** Includes nursing homes, long-term care facilities, and rehab hospitals.

**Permanent address:** A permanent address is an apartment, house, or room where the client last lived for 90 days or more. Shelters and time-limited housing are **not** permanent addresses.