

Glossary

Affordable Housing – Any type of housing, including rental/home ownership, permanent/temporary, for-profit/non-profit, that costs less than 30% of a household’s pre-tax income.

At-Risk of Homelessness – people who are not experiencing homelessness, but whose current economic and/or housing situation is precarious or does not meet public health and safety standards.

Best practice – an intervention, method or technique that has consistently been proven effective through the most rigorous scientific research and has been replicated across several cases or examples. This term is often overused for programs that have been implementing the same approach over a length of times. Thus, some people prefer the term “evidence-based practice.”

By Name List (BNL) - A real-time up, up-to-date list of all people experiencing homelessness, which can be filtered by categories and shared across agencies. In essence, this provides a regular census of how many people have been identified as experiencing homelessness in Nashville. Our community is working on these lists constantly. We do not feel we have the capacity quite yet to produce quality lists for all populations.

Case Management – a collaborative and client-centered approach to service provision for persons experiencing homelessness. In this approach, a case worker assesses the needs of the client (and potentially their families) and when appropriate, arranges, coordinates and advocates for delivery and access to a range of programs and services to address the individual’s needs.

Chronic Homelessness – As defined by the federal government, people who are considered chronically homeless have a disabling condition such as a serious mental illness, substance use disorder or physical disability AND have experienced homelessness for at least a year. Or they have a disabling condition and have experienced at least four episodes of homelessness within the last three years with all of the episodes adding up to one year of homelessness.

Collaborative - is the term used to describe loosely affiliated networks as well as more formal partnerships between people working across departments, organizations, or sectors. Unlike integration, collaboration does not require formal infrastructure to merge work processes across organizational sites.

Collaborative Applicant - The organization that is designated by the CoC to collect and submit the CoC Registration, CoC Consolidated Application, and apply for CoC planning funds on behalf of the CoC during the CoC Program Competition. More information is available at hudexchange.info.

Community services - any programs delivered through non-profit or faith-based community organizations to assist people experiencing homelessness.

Continuum of Care (CoC) - A regional or local planning body that coordinates housing and services funding for individuals, families, and unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness. A CoC creates a collaborative community effort that provides a strategic systems approach that focuses on connecting people to housing and services to end their homelessness.

Coordinated assessment - a standardized approach to assessing a person's current situation, the acuity of their needs and the services they currently receive and may require in the future. It takes into account the background factors that contribute to risk and resilience, changes in acuity, and the role of friends, family, caregivers, community and environmental factors.

Cost burdened – when a household spends more than 30% of its pre-tax income on housing costs.

Critical Time Intervention (CTI) – a time-limited evidence-based practice that mobilizes support for society's most vulnerable individuals during periods of transition.

Demonstration projects - are large-scale studies focused on a theory or concept that has already gone through an initial testing process to sort out any logistical and/or core issues. The focus of the demonstration project is, as the name suggests, to demonstrate the value of the theory or concept by allowing as much relevant information as possible to be collected. This information is then evaluated by researchers and used to assess the effectiveness of the theory or concept.

Discharge planning - preparing someone to move from an institutional setting (child welfare system, criminal justice system, hospital, etc.) into a non-institutional setting either independently or with certain supports in place.

Early intervention strategies – refers to strategies designed to work quickly to support individuals and families to either retain their housing, or to use rapid rehousing strategies.

Emergency response – providing emergency supports like shelter, food and day programs while someone is experiencing homelessness.

Emergency Shelter – any facility, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary or transitional shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless.

Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) - A program to assist individuals and families quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis or homelessness. ESG provides grants by formula to states, metropolitan cities, urban counties, and U.S. Territories to support homelessness prevention, emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Rapid Re-Housing.

Episodically Homeless - Refers to those who move in and out of homelessness.

Extremely Low-Income – Those individuals who are attempting to live at 0 – 30% of the median income for the city of Nashville.

Harm Reduction – refers to policies, programs and practices aimed at reducing the risks and negative effects associated with substance use and addictive behaviors for the individual, the community and society as a whole.

HEARTH Act – The **Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing** (HEARTH) Act of 2009 was signed into law on May 20, 2009. The HEARTH Act amends and reauthorizes the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act with substantial changes, including: A consolidation of HUD's competitive grant programs.

Hidden homelessness – refers specifically to persons who live temporarily with others without the guarantee of continued residency or immediate prospects for accessing permanent housing.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) - an HMIS is a computerized data collection application designed to capture client-level information over time on the characteristics and service needs of men, women, and children experiencing homelessness, while also protecting client confidentiality. It is designed to aggregate client-level data to generate an unduplicated count of clients served within a community's system of homeless services. An HMIS may also cover a statewide or regional area, and include several CoCs. The HMIS can provide data on client characteristics and service utilization.

Homelessness – Homelessness describes the situation of an individual, family or community without stable, safe, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it. It is the result of systemic or societal barriers, a lack of affordable and appropriate housing, the individual/household's financial, mental, cognitive, behavioral or physical challenges, and/or racism and discrimination. Most people do not choose to be homeless, and the experience is generally negative, unpleasant, unhealthy, unsafe, stressful and distressing.

Homelessness Planning Council – a 25-member board that serves as the Continuum of Care's governance board. It was created in July 2018 to unify our community's efforts to build an effective Housing Crisis Resolution System (HCRS). The board's official name is the Nashville-Davidson County Continuum of Care Homelessness Planning Council and it is anchored within Metro government through BL2018-1199. Members consist of 8 mayoral appointees, 3 Council members appointed by the Vice Mayor, and 14 board members elected by the Continuum of Care general membership.

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM (also referred to as Section 8) – the federal government's major program for assisting very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market.

Housing Crisis Resolution System (HCRS) – A community system that includes all types of programs from prevention/diversion, emergency and temporary interventions to permanent housing solutions. An effective Housing Crisis Resolution System focuses on identifying people in a housing crisis as early as possible and connects them with housing and needed supports as quickly as possible. This term is referenced in the CoC's Strategic Plan.

Homeless Crisis Response System (HCRS) – The term used by HUD to refer to the system they want CoC's to create. It is interchangeable with the Housing Crisis Resolution System. Since 2022, Metro is reverting to using the HUD terminology.

Housing First – a recovery-oriented approach to ending homelessness that centers on quickly moving people experiencing homelessness into independent and permanent housing. It is followed by provision of additional supports and services as needed.

HUD Homeless Definition – an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; as well an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations, an institution that provides a

temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

HUD or federal Department of Housing and Urban Development – The federal agencies that oversees homelessness dollars. They monitor the CoC and ESG funding as well as other federal housing programs.

Integrated Case Management – a practice of planning for clients that encompasses a holistic approach to service delivery and includes the perspective and information from clients themselves, various Service Delivery Providers and professionals simultaneously.

LEA – Local Education Agency definition of homelessness – The school system’s definition of homelessness includes families in motels and in shared housing situations due to the loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason.

Long-Term Housing – Defined under federal law as housing that is “sustainable, accessible, affordable, and safe for the foreseeable future and is – (A) rented or owned by the individual; (B) subsidized by a voucher or other program which is not time-limited and is available for as long as the individual meets the eligibility requirements for the voucher or program; or (C) provided directly by a program, agency, or organization and is not time-limited and is available for as long as the individual meets the eligibility requirements for the program, agency, or organization.”

Mobile Housing Navigation Center (MHNC) – A temporary/interim housing program with the goal to follow the Housing First philosophy and offer people who are actively working on obtaining housing from outdoor settings a 24/7 bed. The concept was developed in Nashville as a COVID-19 pandemic response and based on housing navigation centers in California combined with the idea to be flexible and “mobile” to open them in geographic areas where PEH live. MHNCs utilize existing spaces, most often at churches, and offers a housing-focused alternative to emergency shelters. PEH are referred through the CoC’s CE process. The goal is to move people to housing quickly. *They are funded by Metro government, which resulted in Nashville utilizing them in a political manner to shut down large encampments, disregarding the Housing First philosophy and impacting outcomes negatively.*

Motivational interviewing – an evidence-based practice in working with clients that has proven to be successful. In this approach, the service provider allows the client to direct the change rather than telling the client what they need to do. This approach is about having a conversation about change.

NIMBY (Not In My Backyard) – describes when residents of a neighborhood designate a new development (e.g. shelter, affordable housing, group home) or change in occupancy of an existing development as inappropriate or unwanted for their local area.

Outreach programs – services and programs involved in bringing services directly to where people are rather than requiring someone to go into an agency.

Panhandling – a subsistence strategy that refers to begging for money, food and other items. The activity is considered to be part of informal economy and is commonly associated with homelessness.

PATH Providers / Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness – Local public or nonprofit organizations that receive federal PATH funds to service PEH with serious mental illness and to assist

their transition to permanent housing. In Nashville, the Mental Health Cooperative (MHC) receives PATH funding, which is a grant from SAMHSA.

PEH / People Experiencing Homelessness– Persons in a state of homelessness (often also described as “unhoused”). The acronym “PEH” is often used in place of the full phrase by officials and/or volunteers who work with homeless / unhoused persons or on homelessness issues.

Permanent supportive/Supported housing – affordable, subsidized, non-time limited housing with supportive services. It combines rental or housing assistance with individualized flexible and voluntary support services for people with high needs related to physical or mental health, development disabilities and substance use. It is an option to house chronically homeless individuals with high acuity.

Point In Time (PIT) Count – A one-night count conducted within the last 10 days of January of people meeting the Literal Homelessness definition (Category 1 definition of HUD). The PIT Count should be used as part of a data set including data from HMIS, the local school system, and other data sources to provide a full picture of homelessness in a community.

Program fidelity evaluation - extent to which delivery of an intervention adheres to the protocols and program model originally developed. *Many programs, nationwide and locally, claim to implement the Housing First philosophy (due to funding requirements), even though they do not meet the fidelity standards.*

Promising practice – an intervention for which there is sufficient evidence to claim that the practice is proven effective at achieving a specific aim or outcome consistent with the goal and objectives of the activity or program, but is not yet strongly documented enough to become a best practice.

Rapid Re-Housing - provides short-term rental assistance and wrap around support services. The goals are to help people obtain housing quickly, increase self- sufficiency, and stay housed. A Housing-First oriented RRH program 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 needs of the person.

Scattered site housing – housing that is provided at individual locations, usually in the private rental market, as opposed to an affordable housing building or project.

Section 8 Housing - Provides rental assistance to low-income families who are unable to afford market rents. Assistance may be in the form of vouchers or certificates.

Service coordination - describes inter- or intra-organizational efforts to support individuals across a range of services.

Severely cost burdened – when a household spends more than 50% of its pre-tax income on housing costs.

Severe mental illness - defined as a serious and persistent mental or emotional disorder (e.g. schizophrenia, mood-disorders, schizo-affective disorders) that interrupts people’s abilities to carry out a range of daily life activities such as self-care, interpersonal relationships, maintaining housing, employment or stay in school.

Shelter diversion – a strategy targeting individuals and families that refers to the provision of alternative temporary housing options, supports and interventions designed to reduce people’s reliance on emergency shelter system.

Social enterprise - revenue-generating businesses that focus on creating socially related good.

Social housing – any housing that is funded/subsidized by a level of government.

Street Outreach – incredibly important work that involves moving outside the walls of the agency to engage people experiencing homelessness who may be disconnected and alienated not only from mainstream services and supports, but from the services targeting homeless persons as well.

Structural factors – are economic and societal issues that affect opportunities and social environments for individuals.

Substance use - refers to all types of drug and alcohol use.

Substance use prevention - interventions that seek to delay the onset of substance use, or to avoid substance use problems before they occur.

System of care - strengths-based, culturally relevant, participatory framework for working with individuals, children and families.

System integration – formalized coordinated approach to planning, service delivery, and management. An integrated system is an intentional, coordinated, suite of services that is centrally funded and managed. Systems integration aims to align services to avoid duplication, improve information-sharing, increase efficiency (e.g., reduce wait-times), and provide a seamless care experience for individuals and families.

Systems failures – occur when other systems of care and support fail, requiring vulnerable people to turn to the homelessness sector, when other mainstream services could have prevented this need.

System prevention – refers to working with mainstream institutions to stop the flow of individuals from mental health care, child protection and corrections into homelessness.

Temporary Housing (also referred to as Interim Housing or Gap Housing) – any time-limited housing accommodation where people usually cannot stay long-term and do not hold their own lease. This includes emergency shelters and transitional housing.

Transitional housing – refers to supportive, yet temporary type of accommodation that is meant to bridge the gap from homelessness to permanent housing by offering structure, supervision, support, life skills, education, etc.

Trauma - an event outside the range of usual human experiences that would be markedly distressing to almost anyone and cause victimization.

Unsheltered – living on the streets or in places not intended for human habitation

VASH Vouchers, officially known as the HUD VETERANS AFFAIRS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (HUD-VASH) PROGRAM – a joint program between HUD and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). HUD provides housing choice vouchers and VA provides case management and outreach. This program targets veterans who are currently homeless.

VERY LOW-INCOME – Households whose incomes do not exceed 50 percent of the median area income for the area, as determined by HUD, with adjustments for smaller and larger families and for areas with unusually high or low incomes or where needed because of facility, college, or other training facility; prevailing levels of construction costs; or fair market rents.

VI-SPDAT (Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool) – is a triage tool in form of a self-reported survey to determine risk and prioritization when providing assistance to homeless and at-risk of homeless individuals, families, and youth. It allows to determine the appropriate housing intervention based on vulnerability determinants. In recent years, the founders of the VI-SPDAT discontinued this produce acknowledging that the tool is insufficient and invertedly perpetuates racial bias. Communities (including Nashville) are looking to implement other assessment tools.

Wrap-around – refers to a service delivery model that is a team-based, collaborative case management approach.

While this glossary was put together based on several sources, a comprehensive glossary of federal HUD terms is available online at https://archives.huduser.gov/portal/glossary/glossary_a.html