

Homeless Services & Housing Acronym Glossary

Acronym	Full Name	Definition
ABAWD	Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents	SNAP eligibility term referring to certain adults ages 18–54 who do not have dependents in their household and may be subject to work requirements and time limits unless an exemption applies.
AOT	Assisted Outpatient Treatment	Court-ordered outpatient behavioral health treatment for eligible individuals with serious mental illness who meet statutory criteria; often referenced in county behavioral health and encampment response work.
APR	Annual Progress Report	HUD-required report for Continuum of Care-funded projects that tracks project performance and outcomes during the reporting period. It is typically produced from HMIS/Sage reporting rather than being unique to one local agency.
BH-CONNECT	Behavioral Health Community-Based Organized Networks of Equitable Care and Treatment	California's behavioral health Section 1115 demonstration that includes Transitional Rent and other community-based behavioral health supports for eligible Medi-Cal members.
BHBH	Behavioral Health Bridge Housing	California program that funds bridge housing and related support for people experiencing homelessness who have behavioral health needs while they transition to longer-term housing or treatment.
CaIAIM	California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal	A long-term commitment to transform and strengthen Medi-Cal, offering Californians a more equitable, coordinated, and person-centered approach to maximizing their health and life trajectory.
CaSAWS	CA Statewide Automated Welfare System	California's integrated eligibility and case management system used by counties to administer public assistance programs such as CalFresh, CalWORKs, Medi-Cal, and General Assistance/Relief.
CAS	Coordinated Access System	Local term commonly used in Sacramento for the coordinated process that connects people experiencing homelessness to shelter, problem-solving, and housing resources.
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant	A program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that provides funding to local community development activities such as affordable housing, anti-poverty programs, and infrastructure development.
CES	Coordinated Entry System	A community-wide process used to ensure people experiencing a housing crisis have fair and equal access to housing and homeless assistance resources, and are assessed, prioritized, and referred based on their strengths and needs.
CoC	Continuum of Care	An organization of service providers established by HUD to oversee community planning around homelessness. Continua work together to define needs, plan strategies, and prioritize funding for supportive housing services.
CoS	Chiefs of Staff	—
CSEC	Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Referring to a range of crimes and activities involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of a child for financial benefit.
DGS	Department of General Services	—
DHA	Department of Human Assistance	—
DHS	Department of Health Services	—
DOT	Department of Transportation	—
DWM	Department of Waste Management	—
DWR	Department of Water Resources	—
ECM	Enhanced Care Management	A statewide Medi-Cal managed care benefit that provides high-touch, person-centered, community-based care management for members with complex needs, including people experiencing homelessness.
EPY	Expectant and Parenting Youth	Current or former foster youth who are expecting or already parenting child(ren).

Acronym	Full Name	Definition
ERF	Encampment Resolution Funding	California competitive grant program that funds local efforts to resolve encampments and connect people to safe and stable housing and supportive services.
ESG	Emergency Solutions Grants	A federal grant program designed to help improve the quality of existing emergency shelters for the homeless, to make available additional shelters, to meet the costs of operating shelters, to provide essential social services to homeless individuals, and to help prevent homelessness.
ESP	Emergency Shelter Programs	Any facility whose primary purpose is to provide temporary shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless.
FFA	Foster Family Agency	—
FFACH	Foster Family Agency (County Home)	—
FSS	Family Self Sufficiency Program	SHRA program that allows for a 2-year extension on FYI Voucher.
FUP	Family Unification Program	HUD-issued Housing Choice Vouchers provided to two different populations as defined on the FUP Fact Sheet.
FYI	Foster Youth to Independence	A HUD initiative making housing assistance available for youth ages 18–24 who left foster care or will leave foster care within 90 days. FYI vouchers can provide up to 3 years of housing assistance.
HCD	California Department of Housing and Community Development	California state department is responsible for housing policy, community development programs, and administration of major housing and homelessness funding programs, including HomeKey and ERF.
HCV	Housing Choice Voucher Program	The federal government program for providing housing assistance.
HDX	Homelessness Data Exchange	HUD's online data submission system is used for reporting PIT, HIC, System Performance Measures, and other Continuum of Care data.
HHAP	Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Grant Program	California block grant program provides flexible funding to local jurisdictions and Continuums of Care to prevent and reduce homelessness and improve local homeless response systems.
HHIP	Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program	DHCS incentive program that allows Medi-Cal managed care plans to earn funding for investments and progress in addressing homelessness and housing instability.
HIC	Housing Inventory Chart	Consists of three housing inventory charts for emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing.
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996	U.S. law designed to provide privacy standards to protect patients' medical records and other health information.
HMIS	Homeless Management Information System	Computerized data collection tool designed to capture client-level information over time on the characteristics and service needs of people experiencing homelessness.
HOPWA	Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS	HUD program that addresses the housing needs of people living with HIV/AIDS and their families.
HOT	Homeless Outreach Team	Multi-disciplinary team that directly engages with individuals experiencing homelessness.
HRAP	Housing Resource Access Points	—
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Federal agency responsible for national housing policy and programs.
JPA	Joint Powers Authority	—
LHAP	Local Homeless Action Plan	Sacramento's plan initiated in 2022 to create a cross-jurisdictional approach to homelessness across Sacramento County.
LOCUS	Level of Care Utilization Scale	—
LoS	Length of Stay	The amount of time a person or household remains in a shelter, housing program, institution, or other placement.
LSA	Longitudinal Systems Analysis	Annual HUD/HMIS reporting process producing system-level homelessness data over time.

Acronym	Full Name	Definition
MCP	Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan	A health plan that contracts with DHCS to provide Medi-Cal covered services.
MH	Mental Health	State of emotional and psychological well-being enabling an individual to function in society and meet everyday demands.
NAEH	National Alliance to End Homelessness	National nonprofit organizations provide policy analysis, research, and technical assistance focused on ending homelessness.
NIMBY	Not In My Backyard	Opposition by residents to new developments or housing/services in their area.
NMD	Non-minor Dependent	Foster youth between the ages of 18–21.
NOFA	Notice of Funding Availability	A notice announcing funding availability for a particular program or activity.
NOFO	Notice of Funding Opportunity	An announcement of funding available for a particular program or activity through HUD.
NPLH	No Place Like Home	California program financing permanent supportive housing for people living with serious mental illness who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of chronic homelessness.
OCE	Office of the County Executive	Responsible for planning, organizing, directing, controlling, and coordinating county activities.
PBID	Property Based Improvement District	—
PIO	Public Information Officer	Public information officers create communication between government agencies, media outlets, and the public.
PIT	Point in Time Count	A snapshot of the homeless population taken on a given day as required by HUD.
PPI	Personal Protected Information	Information that can be used to identify, contact, or locate a single person.
PRK	Project Room Key	Non-congregate shelter program was created to provide safe shelter options and reduce strain on health care systems.
PSAP	Problem Solving Access Points	Once-in-a-lifetime financial assistance dollars up to \$5,000.
PSH	Permanent Supportive Housing	Long-term housing with supportive services for homeless people with disabilities.
RAPS	Rapid Access to Problem Solving	—
RFA	Request for Application	—
RFP	Request for Proposal	—
RFQ	Request for Qualifications	—
RFTA	Request for Tenancy Approval	Formal documentation completed to begin the lease-up process with the HCV program.
RHNA	Regional Housing Needs Allocation	—
RRH	Rapid Re-Housing	Approach focused on moving individuals and families experiencing homelessness into housing as quickly as possible.
S+C	Shelter Plus Care (McKinney-Vento Program)	Grant program providing rental assistance for homeless persons with disabilities.
S-HIE	Social Health Information Exchange	—
SA	Substance Abuse	Use of alcohol or drugs resulting in impairment in social or occupational functioning.
SERA	Sacramento Emergency Rental Assistance	—
SHP	Supportive Housing Program	Permanent affordable housing with attached supportive services designed to maintain housing stability.
SHRA	Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency	Sacramento’s public housing authority administering Housing Choice Vouchers and affordable housing resources.

Acronym	Full Name	Definition
SILP	Supervised Independent Living Placement	Foster care placement for non-minor dependents ages 18–21 prepared to live independently.
SMI	Seriously Mentally Ill	Serious and persistent mental or emotional disorders affect daily functioning.
SO	Street Outreach	Services engaging people experiencing homelessness who may be disconnected from mainstream services.
SPM	System Performance Measures	HUD system-level measures used to assess effectiveness of homeless response systems.
SRO	Single Room Occupancy	Residential property containing multiple single room dwelling units.
SSDI	Social Security Disability Insurance	Federal insurance program provides income supplements to people with disabilities.
SSF	Sacramento Steps Forward	Lead Sacramento Continuum of Care organization coordinating homelessness response efforts.
SSI	Supplemental Security Income	Monthly stipend provided to aged, blind, or disabled persons based on need.
SSO	Supportive Services Only	Projects addressing service needs of homeless people without directly providing housing.
SSVF	Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program	VA-funded supportive services program for very low-income Veteran families.
SUPT	Substance Use Prevention & Treatment	—
TANF	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	Federal assistance program provides cash assistance to eligible families with dependent children.
THP	Transitional Housing Program	Program facilitating movement of homeless individuals and families to permanent housing.
UPR	Union Pacific Railroad	—
USICH	United States Interagency Council on Homelessness	Federal interagency body coordinating the national response to homelessness.
VA	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	Government agency administering benefits and services for veterans and their families.
VAWA	Violence Against Women Act	Federal legislation supporting victim services, prevention programs, and prosecution of abusers.