

Homeless and Housing Terms

Term	Definition
Affordable Housing	Housing, either ownership or rental, for which a household will pay no more than 30% of its gross annual income.
At-Risk of Homelessness	People who are not homeless, but whose current economic and/or housing situation is precarious or does not meet public health and safety standards.
Bed Utilization	An indicator of whether shelter beds are occupied on a particular night or over a period of time.
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.
Bridge Housing	Short-term housing intended to provide safety and stabilization while a person transitions to permanent housing, treatment, or another longer-term placement.
By-Name List	A dynamic, person-specific list of people experiencing homelessness that is used for active case conferencing, prioritization, and system coordination.
Capacity	refers to the ability of individual organizations, or the collective system to provide services to in response to the needs of those experiencing homeless.
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, coordinates and advocates for delivery and access to a range of programs and services to address the individual's needs.
Chronic Homelessness	Description of an unaccompanied individual who has been continuously homeless for a year or more, or has had at least four episodes of homelessness (totally 12 months) in the past three years and has a disabling condition.
Client Intake	The process of collecting client information upon entrance into a program.
Community Queue	Local Sacramento term for the active list of known people experiencing homelessness who are seeking housing resources through the coordinated access/entry process.
Community Supports	Optional or required Medi-Cal services delivered through managed care plans to address health-related social needs, including housing-related supports such as housing transition navigation, housing deposits, housing tenancy supports, and Transitional Rent for eligible populations.
Consumer	An individual or family who has or is currently is experiencing homelessness and is enrolled and using services.
Coordinated assessment	A standardized process used within coordinated entry to assess a household's situation, strengths, risks, and housing needs so the household can be prioritized and referred appropriately.
Coordinated Entry	A process developed to ensure that all people experiencing a housing crisis have fair and equal access to housing and homeless assistance resources and are quickly identified, assessed, prioritized, and connected to appropriate interventions.
Data Quality	the reliability and validity of client-level data collected. It is measured by the extent to which the client data in the system reflects actual information in the real world. With good data quality, the CoC can "tell the story" of the population experiencing homelessness.
Disabling Condition	A disabling condition in reference to chronic homelessness is defined by HUD 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.
Diversion	A housing problem-solving strategy that helps people avoid entering shelter or the homeless response system when safe alternatives to homelessness can be identified and supported.
Domestic Abuse	Occurs when a family member, partner or ex-partner attempts to physically or psychologically dominate another. Includes physical violence, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, intimidation, economic deprivation, and threats of violence. Violence can be criminal and includes physical assault (hitting, pushing, shoving, etc.), sexual abuse (unwanted or forced sexual activity), and stalking. Although emotional, psychological and financial abuse are not criminal behaviors, they are forms of abuse and can lead to criminal violence. There are a number of dimensions of domestic abuse. Including: mode - physical, psychological, sexual and/or social; frequency - on/off, occasional, chronic; and severity – in terms of both psychological or physical harm and the need for treatment, including transitory or permanent injury, mild, moderate, and severe up to homicide.
Enforcement	interventions that seek to strengthen community safety by responding to the crimes and community disorder issues and is associated with the compliance of a law, rule, or obligation set forth by the City of Sacramento.
Engagement	initial and subsequent continual connection of a homeless household with the homeless service delivery system regardless of the number of individual touchpoints.
Fleeing or Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence	HUD eligibility category used when an individual or family is fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions related to violence, and has no other residence and lacks the resources or support networks to obtain housing.
General Population	refers to census data on total residents of the City of Sacramento as reported by the United States Census Bureau.
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.
High-Utilizer	is used to describe individuals with complex behavioral, physical, and/or social needs who are frequent users of a broad range of social services and may have a high number of contacts with emergency medical technicians and law enforcement.
Homeless	An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning: (i) 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; OR (ii) 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 (iii) 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.
Homelessness	the situation experienced by an individual or family who is without stable, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it
Household	A unit of measurement which describes households with or without a shelter that would form within the scope of living quarters and may consist of 1 or more individuals.
Housing First	A model that moves homeless consumers from the streets immediately into permanent housing with the provision of supportive treatment services to the extent of need.
Housing policy	refers to the actions of government, including legislation and program delivery, which have a direct or indirect impact on housing supply and availability, housing standards and urban planning.
Housing Problem-Solving	A person-centered, housing-focused approach to quickly resolve a housing crisis and avoid or shorten experiences of homelessness. It commonly includes prevention, diversion, and rapid exit strategies.
Imminent Risk of Homelessness	HUD eligibility term for people who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence within a short period and lack the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing.
Interim Housing	Temporary housing intended to stabilize a person or household while a permanent housing solution is identified and secured.
LGBTQIA+	The acronym stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual.
Literally Homeless	HUD eligibility term generally referring to people who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including those living in places not meant for human habitation, emergency shelters, or certain institutions after coming from such places.
McKinney-Vento Act	Funds numerous programs providing a range of services to homeless people, including the Continuum of Care programs: the Supportive Housing Program, the Shelter Plus Care Program, and the Single Room Occupancy Program, as well as the Emergency Shelter Grant Program.
Non-Congregate Shelter	A shelter model in which individuals or households stay in separate rooms or units, rather than in shared sleeping space.

Homeless and Housing Terms

Term	Definition
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.
Point in Time Inventory	Housing Inventory Count (HIC): the inventory of beds, units, and vouchers dedicated to people experiencing homelessness within a Continuum of Care on the night of the Point-in-Time count.
Rapid Exit	A housing problem-solving strategy focused on helping people leave homelessness as quickly as possible using light-touch assistance, flexible problem-solving, and connection to safe housing options.
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.
Shelter Diversion	a strategy targeting homeless that refers to the provision of alternative temporary housing options, supports and interventions designed to reduce the reliance on emergency shelter system.
Supportive Services	Services that may assist homeless participants in the transition from the streets or shelters into permanent or permanent supportive housing, and that assist persons with living successfully in housing.
Transitional Rent	A Medi-Cal Community Support that can provide up to six months of rental assistance in interim or permanent housing for eligible members who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and meet additional criteria.
Unaccompanied Youth	Minors not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian, including those living in inadequate housing such as shelters, cars, or on the streets. Also includes those who have been denied housing by their families and school-age unwed mothers who have no housing of their own.
Unduplicated Count	The number of people who are homeless within a specified location and time period. An unduplicated count ensures that individuals are counted only once regardless of the number of times they entered or exited the homeless system or the number of programs in which they participated.
Unsheltered	living on the streets or in places not intended for human habitation.
Unsheltered Homelessness	Homelessness experienced in places not meant for human habitation, such as streets, vehicles, encampments, parks, abandoned buildings, or similar locations.
Whole Person Care Program	Five-year program authorized under Medi-Cal 2020 Section 1115 Waiver to test locally-based initiatives that will coordinate physical health, behavioral health, and social services for beneficiaries who are high users of multiple health care systems and continue to have poor health outcomes.
Whole Person Care Program Client	Homeless individual or those at risk of homelessness contacted via outreach, able to locate through outreach efforts, who elected to participate in the WPC Program and meet the WPC eligibility requirements.
Wrap-around	refers to a service delivery model that is a team-based, collaborative case management approach.