



Navigating Homelessness and Housing Needs Data: Tailoring and Driving Local Solutions



Introduction

No single source of data tells the whole story of homelessness and other housing needs in our country. There are a variety of different data sources that can and should be used at the community level to both end people's homelessness and to address broader housing needs. By centering comprehensive data to help inform collaborative decision-making processes, communities can stretch the resources they have further, address a wider range of needs, understand where new resources are needed, and get better results.

This document provides an overview of some key data sources, describes what they measure, and highlights how communities can use that range of information to strengthen their efforts to address homelessness, housing instability, and other housing needs. Originally released in March 2019, we have updated this document with the most recent publicly available reports and data from each of the following sources:

- [Part 1 of HUD's 2019 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report to Congress \(AHAR\)](#)
- [Part 2 of HUD's 2017 AHAR](#)
- [Federal Data Summary School Years 2015-16 to 2017-18: Education for Homeless Children and Youth](#)
- [Worst Case Housing Needs 2017 Report to Congress](#)

This data was collected prior to the start of the coronavirus pandemic, and does not reflect how COVID-19 is affecting housing and homelessness. However, when considered comprehensively and used proactively, the data within these reports can help support communities as they respond with the right solutions at the right scale to address homelessness and housing crises among their residents.

Federal Definitions of Homelessness and Other Housing Needs

Homelessness Definitions and Data Sources

There are different definitions of homelessness within federal statutes and programs (see pages 12-13). While recognizing that it can, at times, be confusing to navigate these differences, we encourage communities not to think of them as competing definitions. Rather, these differentiated definitions allow us to recognize meaningful distinctions among the individuals and families experiencing housing needs and crises in our communities, making it possible to more effectively tailor our responses, use our resources most efficiently, and engage the larger array of systems and services to best address current and projected needs.

The biggest difference in the definitions revolves around people who are paying for their own temporary stays in hotels/motels (or trailer parks or camping grounds) due to lack of an adequate alternative or who are sharing the housing of other people due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (often referred to as living in "doubled-up" arrangements or "couch-surfing").

For example, in order to inform planning for its statutory programs, HUD prepares its Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress to estimate: the number of people who are unsheltered or are sheltered in emergency shelters or transitional housing at a given point in time; and the number and demographics of people who seek help from HUD-funded emergency shelters and transitional housing programs over the course of the year. There are no currently feasible methodologies for including within these data sets accurate estimates of the number of people who are sharing the housing of others or paying for their own stays in hotels/motels, due to lacking fixed, regular, and adequate housing.

In order to address their programming mandate of ensuring that every child and youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, and of making sure students are receiving the supports they need to succeed in school, State educational agencies (SEAs) gather and report data that includes children and youth who are identified as being unsheltered or sheltered, but also those who are sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason, or who are living in a motel or hotel due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations, regardless of who is paying for the hotel/motel room. (For distinctions between HUD and public school data, please see the box at right.)

It also needs to be recognized that the living situations of people experiencing homelessness are not static, and that, for instance, a household that is unsheltered one day may be in shelter or sharing the housing of others another day.

State Educational Agency Data, HMIS Data, and Point-in-Time Data

The homeless education data reported by the U.S. Department of Education differ from the HMIS and PIT data reported to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in several ways. These different data sources can be used in combination for planning and policymaking to determine the appropriate scale and range of programs needed to best respond to populations experiencing different forms of homelessness, as defined by federal housing and education statutes.

- SEA data are reported by school and district personnel and generally verified by school district homeless education liaisons and State Coordinators for Homeless Education. HMIS data are reported by homeless service provider staff. PIT count data are reported by communities based on counts of people in shelter programs and unsheltered locations.
- SEA data cover a July 1 to June 30 period; the availability of data on school children during the summer may be limited. HMIS data used in the AHAR cover a period from October 1 through September 30. PIT count data are for a single night in January.
- SEA data include children staying in hotels or motels due to the lack of alternative, adequate accommodations. HMIS data include people staying in hotels or motels only if those accommodations are subsidized through a homeless assistance program.
- SEA data include children and youth sharing the housing of other people due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (often referred to as living in “doubled-up” arrangements or “couch-surfing”.) The HUD definition of *homeless* does not include people in doubled-up or couch-surfing arrangements; as such, this population is not represented in HMIS data.
- SEA data reflect information on children and youth from age 3 through grade 13 enrolled in public school. HMIS and PIT count data include children under age 3. SEA data include some youth over the age of 18 who are still enrolled in public school. HMIS and PIT count data include all people age 18 and over in a separate category from those under age 18. The PIT count data report all youth who are ages 18 to 24 in a separate category.

Other Housing Needs Definitions

In addition to the differentiated data on homelessness, there are other categories of housing status that we use to assess housing needs, such as:

- **Rent burdened:** Households that are paying more than 30% of household income for housing
- **Severely rent burdened:** Households that are paying more than 50% of household income for housing
- **Living in worst-case housing:** Very low income renters who don't receive government housing assistance and who pay more than half their income in rent, live in severely inadequate conditions, or both

We should use all this data to develop the fullest possible understanding of the range of housing needs in our communities, to most strategically respond to that range of needs, and to assess the impact of our efforts. That understanding can also inform decisions about how many affordable housing opportunities are needed, how much capacity is required within homelessness crisis response systems, and at what scale other programs and resources must be engaged to provide households with services and opportunities that can help address their needs.

Understanding Point-in-Time and Annual Data

In order to analyze the data effectively, it is important to understand—and to communicate to stakeholders and officials—the differences between point-in-time and annual data.

Point-in-Time Data

HUD's PIT Count: Through HUD's annual PIT count, communities count how many people are experiencing unsheltered or sheltered homelessness on one night in late January. That data, which is reported by Continuums of Care (CoCs) to HUD and analyzed in [Part I of the Annual Homeless Assessment Report](#), helps us to estimate the number of people experiencing homelessness within a community or geographic region, the scale of the need for homelessness services and housing on any given day, and how that need is changing from year to year. It is important to note that PIT count data is not sufficient in and of itself for these purposes and should be augmented with other sources of data and methodologies that can help project risks and needs, and that can help account for potential undercounts within the PIT count data. PIT count data also provides estimates that helps us assess progress toward reducing and ending homelessness (see table 1 below). PIT count data by CoC and by state is available at HUD's [2019 AHAR: Part 1 - PIT Estimates of Homelessness in the U.S.](#)

Inclusion in Data Is Not the Same as Eligibility

It is essential to remember that methodologies and living situation categories used to gather and report data **do not determine** whether an individual or family is eligible to access a variety of federally funded housing and services programs.

For example, people who are being sexually exploited or abused or are fleeing violence or trafficking while living in hotels/motels or sharing the housing of others are immediately eligible for HUD-funded emergency shelter. (Please see federal definitions of homelessness in the Appendix.)

Other people included within the data reported by school systems or experiencing worst case housing needs may also be eligible for HUD's homelessness assistance programs and/or for other federally funded housing and services programs.

For example, see pages 38-39 of ED's [Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program Non-Regulatory Guidance](#) and [HUD's Definition of Homelessness: Resources and Guidance](#) and [Determining Homeless Status of Youth](#).

Racial inequities within the PIT count data are pronounced and stark: an estimated 40% of people counted as experiencing homelessness in January 2019 were African American, while African Americans make up approximately 13% of the general population. Communities can use [HUD’s CoC Analysis Tool: Race and Ethnicity](#) to estimate and assess disparities by comparing their data with American Community Survey data regarding populations within their local areas.

Table 1: Nationally Aggregated Point-in-Time Data for 2019

Population	Total	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Percentage Change 2018-2019	Percentage Change 2010-2019
All People	567,715	356,422 (63%)	211,293 (37%)	2.7%	-11%
Individuals*	396,045	199,531 (50.3%)	196,514 (49.6%)	6.3%	0.2%
Veterans	37,085	22,740 (61%)	14,345 (39%)	-2.1%	-50%
Chronically Homeless People	96,141	35,200 (37%)	60,941 (63%)	8.5%	-9.4%
Family Households	53,692	49,344 (92%)	4,348 (8%)	-4.7%	-32.4%
Unaccompanied Youth**	35,038	17,708 (51%)	17,330 (49%)	-3.6%	

* “Individual” refers to a person who is not part of a family with children during an episode of homelessness. Individuals may be experiencing homelessness as single adults, as unaccompanied youth (ages 18-24), or in multiple-adult or multiple-child households.

** HUD and its federal partners selected the PIT counts from January 2017 as the baseline measure of homelessness among unaccompanied youth. Data on this population are new and potentially still stabilizing, as communities gain experience with reporting.

Worst-Case Housing. HUD’s [Worst Case Housing Needs 2019 Report to Congress](#), based upon the American Housing Survey conducted by the Census Bureau in 2017, provides an estimate of how many renters there are at any given time with worst-case housing needs, indicating that they: 1) have very low incomes, lack housing assistance, and have severe rent burdens (in approximately 94.9% of cases); 2) live in severely inadequate housing (in approximately 2.5% of cases); or 3) are experiencing both problems (in approximately 2.6% of cases). As the report notes: “Among very low-income renters in 2017, 29% of households avoided worst case needs because they had rental assistance. Another 29% were able to avoid severe housing problems in the unassisted private rental market. The remaining 43%, however, were left with worst case needs for assisted or other affordable housing.”

The survey found that there were 7.7 million renter households with worst case needs in 2017, a 7% decline from [an estimated 8.30 million renters with worst-case housing needs in 2015](#). Over the long term, the number of households with worst case needs have increased by 54% since 2001, with historic increases occurring between 2007 and 2011, when the combination of mortgage foreclosures, widespread unemployment, and shrinking renter incomes dramatically expanded severe housing problems. The reduction between 2015 and 2017 is largely attributed to economic growth impacted by increased incomes, lower unemployment and higher labor force participation rates but high rents in proportion to renter incomes remain dominant among households with worst case needs.

When compared to representation in the general public, the data also indicates significant over-representation of: non-Hispanic Black persons, who represent approximately 13% of the total population, but 20.5% of renters experiencing worst-case housing needs; and Hispanic persons, who represent approximately 16% of the total population, but 24.4% of renters experiencing worst-case housing needs.

HUD's 2019 report provides local estimates of worst case housing needs for 25 select metropolitan areas, representing the 15 largest metropolitan areas and an additional 10 that are a subset of the 16th to 50th largest metropolitan areas, which can help inform analysis of needs within those communities.

Annual Data

Sources of annual data help us understand and estimate the number and characteristics of people who experience housing instability or homelessness over the course of a year. Such data are critical to projecting the level of need in our communities and the resources necessary on an annual basis to provide every individual and family with an appropriate and effective level of housing assistance and connections to services to address those needs.

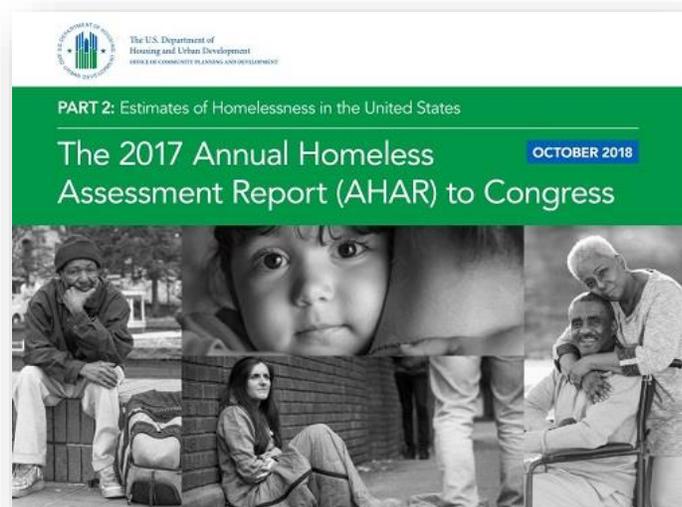
Homeless Management Information Systems: In [Part 2 of the 2017 Annual Homeless Assessment Report](#), HUD reports on data that is gathered through local homeless management information systems (HMIS). This data estimates the number and demographics of people who use emergency shelters and transitional housing projects during a 12-month period.

The most recent report estimated that 1.42 million people experienced homelessness in shelters at some point during 2017, a 0.3% decline between 2016 and 2017 and an 11% decrease since 2010. Local data should be available through the organization that manages [your local CoC's](#) HMIS data.

Some notable disparities in the data include:

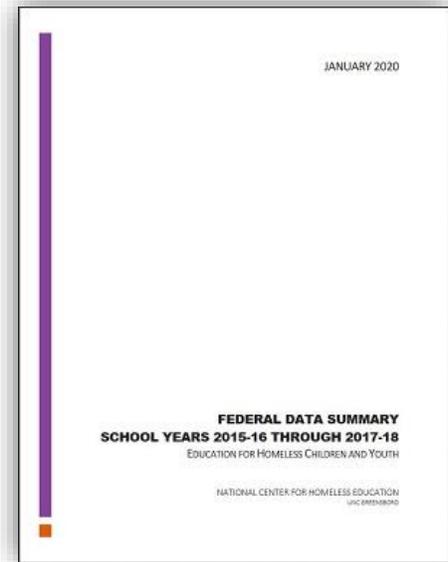
- African Americans were present in the sheltered homeless population at roughly 3.4 times the rate of the total U.S. population (43% vs. 12.7%).
- Men outnumbered women (62.4% to 37.6%) among all adults experiencing sheltered homelessness, in contrast to the U.S. adult population, where the proportion of men to women is roughly equal.
- Adults with disabilities account for 44.4% of all adults experiencing homelessness in shelter over the course of a year, while they make up only 15.9% of the total U.S. adult population.

System Performance Measures Data: CoCs are required to collect and report annual data on [system performance measures](#) that help communities assess their progress in meeting the needs of people



experiencing homelessness. By viewing the local homeless response as a coordinated system of assistance options rather than programs and funding sources that operate independently in a community, stakeholders can use system performance measures to assess their progress in preventing and ending homelessness and develop a more complete picture of how well their community is achieving this goal.

State and Local Educational Agency Public School Data: For understanding the scope and scale of homelessness among youth and families with children, we also closely consider [data gathered by schools for the U.S. Department of Education](#). This data from the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program documents the number of children and youth enrolled in public schools who are identified as experiencing homelessness at some point during the school year, including students who were identified as: unsheltered; in shelters, transitional housing, or awaiting foster care placement¹; sharing the housing of others (“doubled-up”) due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; or living in hotels/motels due to the lack of alternative, adequate accommodations.



As documented in table 2, during the 2017-2018 school year:

- A little more than 74% of the students identified as experiencing homelessness were sharing the housing of other people due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
- A little more than 12% were in shelters, transitional housing, or awaiting foster care placement;
- Nearly 7% were in hotels/motels; and nearly 7% were unsheltered.
- The largest numeric increase was in the category of students who were sharing the housing of other people, with an increase of more than 129,000 students (a 13% increase) since the 2015-2016 school year.
- The largest percentage increase was in the category of students who were unsheltered, with an increase of more than 59,282 students (a 137% increase).

The EHCY data doesn't include young children who are not enrolled in preschool programs administered by LEAs, youth beyond high-school age, youth receiving an education outside of the public school system, or those who are disconnected from school entirely. It does, however, help us understand the challenges facing families, children, and young people in our communities and speaks to the significant need for access to a range of affordable housing options, including both options that are provided through the private market and also through publicly subsidized programs.

¹ "Awaiting foster care placement" was removed from the definition of *homeless children and youths* when the McKinney-Vento Act was amended in 2015. For covered states (i.e., states that have a statutory law that defines or describes the phrase awaiting foster care placement for the purposes of a program under the McKinney-Vento Act) the effective date for this change was December 10, 2017. For uncovered states, the effective date for this change was December 10, 2016. As a result, all states reported students as homeless due to awaiting foster care placement in SY 2015-16, while only a small number of states did so in SYs 2016-17 and 2017-18.

For the 2019-20 school year, the Department of Education has proposed new data collection requirements regarding race and ethnicity for students identified as experiencing homelessness, providing communities with increased understanding of the impact of homelessness among different sub-groups of students, including those who may be disproportionately impacted.

In addition to the federal data summary, [state-level data](#) and [local educational agency data](#) are also available.

Table 2: Number of Enrolled Homeless Students: Total and By Primary Nighttime Residence

Residence at Time Initially Identified as Experiencing Homelessness	School Year 2015-2016	School Year 2016-2017	School Year 2017-2018	% Change Over Last 3 School Years
Total*	1,303,207	1,355,435	1,507,904	15.7%
Shelters, transitional housing, awaiting foster care placement	187,137 (14.4%)	187,879 (13.9%)	182,659 (12.1%)	-2.4%
Unsheltered	43,245 (3.3%)	50,187 (3.7%)	102,527 (6.8%)	137.1%
Hotels/Motels, due to lack of alternative, adequate accommodations	85,026 (6.5%)	90,087 (6.6%)	105,574 (7.0%)	24.2%
Doubled-up/Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason	987,799 (75.8%)	1,027,282 (75.8%)	1,117,144 (74.1%)	13.1%

* When comparing the total # of children and youth experiencing homelessness enrolled by grade level with the total # of children and youth experiencing homelessness enrolled by primary nighttime residence for any given school year, readers may note a small difference. Each school year, a small number of enrolled children and youth were missing a primary nighttime residence category.

Importance of Gathering Real-Time Data

In addition to being able to analyze and use the sources of data described above to develop estimates and projections, to drive resource decisions, and to measure progress, in order to provide specific housing and services interventions to households on a day-to-day basis, however, communities also need to develop real-time information regarding everyone experiencing homelessness. Real-time data is critically important to have the most current, actionable information possible and also because people’s living situations and services needs are not static but, rather, can change over time and even from day to day.

Communities are using “by-name lists” or “active lists” to ensure that on any given day, they have full and reliable information about everyone experiencing homelessness within their communities, sometimes beginning with specific subpopulations, such as Veterans or people who are chronically homeless, but with intent to develop capacity to have such real-time information for everyone. In some communities, those “by-name lists” are embedded within their HMIS and other data systems, and communities are also enhancing their capacity to use HMIS data and reporting to strengthen performance measurement, streamline referral processes, and strengthen the implementation of coordinated entry systems.

Responding to the Data at the Local Level

Individuals and families across the United States need the foundation of safe and stable housing to achieve their educational, professional, and personal goals. All these sources of data are critical to understanding and responding to homelessness and housing needs in our communities. When looked at comprehensively, the data helps to ensure that we respond with the right solutions, at the right scale, to address current and projected housing needs and crises.

Communities should use this full range of data on the different experiences of individuals and families to respond with a full array of service and housing interventions and opportunities— prevention and diversion, crisis services, emergency shelter, affordable housing, rapid re-housing, supportive housing, and other tailored solutions and services—that can help households attain and sustain housing and help set them on a path to lasting success.

As described within table 3 below, there is no one-size-fits-all solution, and it is important to remember that the living situations of households experiencing homelessness are not static. But the data can help drive conversations about your community’s current resources and efforts to end homelessness and to address a broad range of housing and other service needs. For instance, around the country there have been local partnerships to more closely integrate housing and education supports for transition-aged youth as well as housing and early care and education supports for parenting heads of household. You can find other [Tools for Action](#) on our website to help your community implement strategies described below.

Table 3: Key Questions in Response to Your Community’s Data

If your data indicates ...	Discuss the following key questions ...
<p>A large or increasing unsheltered population</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="506 951 1999 1052">☐ Can your community deploy additional strategies to strengthen and coordinate outreach and engagement to ensure all people experiencing unsheltered homelessness are being identified, are known by name, regularly contacted, and understand the shelter, services, and housing opportunities available to them? <li data-bbox="506 1073 1999 1174">☐ Can your community assess whether there are subpopulations among the unsheltered population that are increasing, such as youth under 25 or survivors of domestic violence, in order to develop targeted outreach and engagement strategies? <li data-bbox="506 1195 1999 1300">☐ Have you obtained aggregate LEA or county-level counts of students identified as experiencing unsheltered homelessness? Student Primary Nighttime Residence (PNR) counts by CoC are also included in a crosswalk of CoC, LEA, and RHY contacts. <li data-bbox="506 1321 1999 1422">☐ As you consider shelter utilization rates, can your community assess the current shelter model and identify opportunities to increase shelter utilization, such as through removing or lowering barriers that prevent people from seeking, accessing, or being eligible for shelter, or through implementation of age- and culturally appropriate practices?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Can your community implement efforts to reduce lengths of stay in emergency shelter and improve housing placement rates through a variety of strategies and resources, including problem-solving services, rapid re-housing opportunities, and connections to other affordable housing opportunities, therefore maximizing the number of households that can be assisted each year through the existing supply of shelter? <input type="checkbox"/> Can your community prioritize and target people who are long-term stayers in shelter for specialized service and housing interventions, like supportive housing, in order to reduce the number of people who are using a significant number of bed nights and maximize the number of people that can be assisted? <input type="checkbox"/> Can your community also maximize shelter capacity by strengthening diversion efforts, assisting people experiencing housing crises to not have to enter emergency shelter to access assistance by helping them retain or identify immediate safe alternate housing arrangements and, if necessary, connecting them with other services and financial assistance to help them access or sustain permanent housing? <input type="checkbox"/> Can your community strengthen prevention and in-reach efforts to prevent unsheltered homelessness through stronger discharge planning practices in coordination with public systems, including but not limited to state institutions, county facilities, hospitals, and foster care and child welfare agencies? <input type="checkbox"/> Can your community strengthen efforts to link people who are unsheltered to permanent housing opportunities even if they do not enter shelter? <input type="checkbox"/> If you have a growing population of unsheltered people within specific population groups, such as youth under 25, families with children, survivors of domestic violence, people with disabilities, or others, can your community expand the scope and scale of available population-specific housing and services interventions? <input type="checkbox"/> Can your community prioritize people in such circumstances for access to employment and job placement services, and other mainstream resources and programs, to help increase their incomes and to access other housing opportunities and ensure their successful stabilization in that housing? <input type="checkbox"/> Can your community assess factors influencing demand for shelter, such as seasonal variations, eviction rates, and/or changes in housing market, and determine whether, even if all the strategies above are implemented, additional low-barrier temporary shelter opportunities are necessary in order both to protect people’s health and safety and to provide rapid exits from homelessness to permanent housing?
<p>A large or increasing sheltered population</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Can your community implement efforts to reduce lengths of stay in emergency shelter and improve housing placement rates through a variety of strategies and resources, including problem-solving services, rapid re-housing opportunities, and connections to other affordable housing opportunities, therefore maximizing the number of households that can be assisted each year through the existing supply of shelter?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Can your community prioritize and target any people who are long-term stayers in shelter for specialized service and housing interventions, like supportive housing, in order to reduce the number of people who are using a significant number of bed nights and maximize the number of people that can be assisted? <input type="checkbox"/> If you have a growing population of sheltered people within specific population groups, such as youth under 25, families with children, survivors of domestic violence, people with disabilities, or others, can your community expand the scope and scale of available population-specific housing and services interventions? <input type="checkbox"/> Have you obtained aggregate LEA or county-level counts of students identified as experiencing sheltered homelessness? Student Primary Nighttime Residence (PNR) counts by CoC are also included in a crosswalk of CoC, LEA, and RHY contacts. <input type="checkbox"/> Can your community maximize shelter capacity by strengthening diversion efforts, assisting people experiencing housing crises to not have to enter emergency shelter to access assistance by helping them retain or identify immediate safe alternate housing arrangements and, if necessary, connecting them with other services and financial assistance to help them access or sustain permanent housing? <input type="checkbox"/> Can your community prioritize people staying in shelter for access to employment and job placement services and other supportive services, including child care and transportation, to help ensure their successful stabilization in permanent housing? <input type="checkbox"/> Can your community assess factors influencing demand for shelter, such as seasonal variations, eviction rates, and/or changes in housing market, and determine whether, even if all the strategies above are implemented, additional low-barrier temporary shelter opportunities are necessary in order both to protect people’s health and safety and to provide rapid exits from homelessness to permanent housing? <input type="checkbox"/> Can your community strengthen efforts to link people who are unsheltered to permanent housing opportunities, reducing potential demand for shelter?
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<p>A large or increasing number of people paying for their own temporary stays in hotels/motels due to lack of stable housing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Can your community partner with owners/operators of hotels/motels to regularly identify and engage people who are staying in such temporary living arrangements to assess their risks and safety and to make sure they understand any services and housing opportunities available to them or for which they may be prioritized? <input type="checkbox"/> Have you obtained aggregate LEA or county-level counts of students identified as living in motels/hotels? Student Primary Nighttime Residence (PNR) counts by CoC are also included in a crosswalk of CoC, LEA, and RHY contacts. <input type="checkbox"/> Can your community provide people who are living in hotels/motels at their own expense with improved access to permanent housing options for which they are eligible, or assist them to find other safe, temporary living arrangements while they obtain permanent housing?
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Can your community prioritize people staying in hotels/motels for access to employment and job placement services, and other mainstream resources and programs, to help them increase their incomes and access other housing opportunities and to ensure their successful stabilization in permanent housing? <input type="checkbox"/> Can your community identify resources to assist households to exit these living arrangements through a variety of strategies and resources, including problem-solving services, rapid re-housing opportunities, and connections to other affordable housing opportunities? <input type="checkbox"/> Can your community increase access to units in the private rental market through partnerships with owners and landlords, assistance to reduce screening barriers, flexible financial assistance, and other landlord incentives? <input type="checkbox"/> Can your community assess whether the pipeline of affordable housing meets the projected needs within the community for all populations and, if needed, seek strategies to expand affordable housing opportunities, including through changes to regulations regarding land use and zoning requirements and through funding the development of dedicated affordable units, to provide appropriate and affordable alternatives?
<p>A large or increasing number of people sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Can your community improve efforts and strengthen partnerships to identify those sharing the housing of others to assess their risks and safety and to make sure they understand any services and housing opportunities available to them or for which they may be prioritized? <input type="checkbox"/> Have you obtained aggregate LEA or county-level counts of students identified as doubled-up? Student Primary Nighttime Residence (PNR) counts by CoC are also included in a crosswalk of CoC, LEA, and RHY contacts. <input type="checkbox"/> Can your community provide people who are temporarily sharing the housing of others with improved access to other permanent housing options for which they are eligible, or assist them to find other safe, temporary living arrangements while they obtain permanent housing? <input type="checkbox"/> Can your community prioritize people in such circumstances for access to employment and job placement services, and other mainstream resources and programs, to help increase their incomes and to access other housing opportunities and ensure their successful stabilization in that housing? <input type="checkbox"/> Can your community identify resources to assist households to exit these living arrangements through a variety of strategies and resources, including problem-solving services, rapid re-housing opportunities, and connections to other affordable housing opportunities? <input type="checkbox"/> Can your community increase access to units in the private rental market through partnerships with owners and landlords, assistance to reduce screening barriers, flexible financial assistance, and other landlord incentives? <input type="checkbox"/> Can your community assess whether the pipeline of affordable housing meets the projected needs within the community for all populations and, if needed, seek strategies to expand affordable housing opportunities, including

	<p>through changes to regulations regarding land use and zoning requirements and through funding the development of dedicated affordable units, to provide appropriate and affordable alternatives?</p>
<p>A large or increasing number of people experiencing worst-case housing needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Can your community improve efforts and strengthen partnerships to identify those experiencing worst case housing needs to assess their risks and safety and to make sure they understand any services and housing opportunities available to them or for which they may be prioritized? <input type="checkbox"/> Can your community identify those living in severely inadequate conditions and prioritize them for crisis services or assist them to find alternate safe temporary or permanent living arrangements, and connect them with other services and financial assistance to help them access or sustain permanent housing? <input type="checkbox"/> Have you obtained aggregate LEA or county-level counts of students identified as experiencing homelessness? Primary Nighttime Residence (PNR) counts by CoC are also included in a crosswalk of CoC, LEA, and RHY contacts. <input type="checkbox"/> Can your community provide people who are experiencing worst case housing needs with improved access to other permanent housing options for which they are eligible, or assist them to find other safe, temporary living arrangements while they obtain permanent housing? <input type="checkbox"/> Can your community prioritize people experiencing worst case housing needs for access to employment and job placement services, and other mainstream resources and programs, to help increase their incomes, to reduce their housing cost burdens, and/or to help them access other housing opportunities and ensure their successful stabilization in that housing? <input type="checkbox"/> Can your community identify resources to assist households to exit these living arrangements through a variety of strategies and resources, including problem-solving services, rapid re-housing opportunities, and connections to other affordable housing opportunities? <input type="checkbox"/> Can your community increase access to more affordable units in the private rental market through partnerships with owners and landlords, assistance to reduce screening barriers, flexible financial assistance, and other landlord incentives? <input type="checkbox"/> Can your community assess whether the pipeline of affordable housing meets the projected needs within the community for all populations and, if needed, seek strategies to expand affordable housing opportunities, including through changes to regulations regarding land use and zoning requirements and through funding the development of dedicated affordable units, to provide appropriate and affordable alternatives?

Appendix: Federal Definitions of Homelessness

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

HUD [defines homelessness](#) for their programming into four categories. The categories are:

Category 1: Literally Homeless

Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

- (i) Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation;
- (ii) Is living in a 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, and local government programs); or
- (iii) Is exiting an institution where (s)he has 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

Category 2: Imminent Risk of Homelessness

Individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that:

- (i) Residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance;
- (ii) No subsequent residence has been identified; and
- (iii) The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing

Category 3: Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes

Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who:

- (i) Are defined as homeless under the other listed federal statutes;
- (ii) Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing during the 60 days prior to the homeless assistance application;
- (iii) Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during in the preceding 60 days; and
- (iv) Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time due to special needs or barriers

Category 4: Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence

Any individual or family who:

- (i) Is fleeing or attempting to flee their housing or the place they are staying because of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions related to violence that has taken place in the house or has made them afraid to return to the house, including:
 - Trading sex for housing
 - Trafficking
 - Physical abuse
 - Violence (or perceived threat of violence) because of the youth's sexual orientation;
- (ii) Has no other residence; and
- (iii) Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

Department of Education (ED)

Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. § 11434a(2)) [defines homeless children and youth](#) as: A) individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (within the meaning of section 11302(a)(1) of this title); and B) includes

- i. children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;
- ii. children and youths who have 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 (within the meaning of section 11302(a)(2)(C) of this title);
- iii. children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- iv. migratory children (as such term is defined in section 6399 of title 20) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act defines ‘unaccompanied youth’ as a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian (42 U.S.C. § 11434a(6)).

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) (42 U.S.C. §5732a) [defines homeless youth](#) as individuals who are “less than 21 years of age ... for whom it is not possible to live in a safe environment with a relative and who have no other safe alternative living arrangement.” This definition, used for the Basic Center and Transitional Living programs, includes only those youth who are unaccompanied by families or caregivers. Additionally,

- For the **Basic Center Program**, a homeless youth is an individual who is less than 18 years of age, or is less than a higher maximum age if the state where the center is located has an applicable state or local law (including a regulation) that permits such higher maximum age in compliance with licensure requirements for child-and youth-serving facilities.
- For the **Transitional Living Program**, the age is defined as 16-21 years of age, or 22 years of age if previously in care under certain circumstances.

In addition, the **Basic Center Program** serves:

- **Runaway Youth:** An individual who is less than 18 years of age and who absents himself or herself from home or a place of legal residence without the permission of a parent or legal guardian, and
- **Youth at Risk of Separation from the Family:** An individual— (A) who is less than 18 years of age; and (B) (i) who has a history of running away from the family of such individual; (ii) whose parent, guardian, or custodian is not willing to provide for the basic needs of such individual; or (iii) who is at risk of entering the child welfare system or juvenile justice system as a result of the lack of services available to the family to meet such needs.

The **Street Outreach Program** also uses the following definition of ‘street youth’: An individual who— (A) is— (i) a runaway youth; or (ii) indefinitely or intermittently a homeless youth; and (B) spends a significant amount of time

on the street or in other areas that increase the risk to such youth for sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, prostitution, or drug abuse.

Public Health Services Act

Section 254(b) of the Public Health Services Act established requirements for health centers. Part of these requirements include serving people experiencing homelessness, who [meet the following definitions](#):

Homeless individual: The term "homeless individual" means an individual who lacks housing (without regard to whether the individual is a member of a family), including an individual whose primary residence during the night is a supervised public or private facility that provides temporary living accommodations and an individual who is a resident in transitional housing.

The Act allows health centers to continue providing care to formerly homeless individuals in permanent housing for up to 12 additional months.