Panelists

- **Jasmine Hayes**, Policy Director, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

- **Brett Gagnon**, Senior Program Specialist, Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs, United States Department of Housing & Urban Development

- **Chris Holloway**, Program Manager, Family & Youth Services Bureau, Administration for Children & Families
Webinar Format

- Webinar will last 90 minutes

- Approximately 30 minutes have been reserved at the end of the webinar for Q&A

- Audience members who would like to pose a question can do so at any time through the “Question” function found in the “GoToWebinar” toolbar

- Webinar attendees are muted due to the high number of participants

- Call will be recorded and then posted to usich.gov
Ask a Question

Please submit your questions via the *Questions* function found in your GoToWebinar toolbar.
Webinar Objectives

Upon completing this webinar, you will:

- Understand basic differences between HUD’s and HHS/FYSB’s definitions of homelessness
- Apply HUD’s definition of homelessness to common living situations of youth in crisis
- Accurately implement HUD’s recordkeeping requirements related to its definition of homelessness
- Communicate basic eligibility requirements for HUD’s Continuum of Care and Emergency Solution Grant Program
Webinar Agenda

I. Introduction

I. HUD’s “Determining Homeless Status of Youth” Guidance

II. Overview of the Definition of Homeless Used by FYSB

III. Detailed Overview of the Definition of Homeless Used by HUD

IV. Detailed Overview of the Recordkeeping Requirements Used by HUD to Establish Homeless Status and Eligibility

V. Brief Overview of Eligibility for HUD’s Homeless Assistance Programs

VI. Q & A
Opening Doors, as amended in 2015

- Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in 2015
- Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness in 2017
- Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children in 2020
- Set a path to ending all types of homelessness in 2020
What It Means to End Homelessness

An end to homelessness does not mean that no one will ever experience a housing crisis again. Changing economic realities, the unpredictability of life and unsafe or unwelcoming family environments may create situations where individuals, families, or youth could experience or be at-risk of homelessness.

An end to homelessness means that every community will have a systematic response in place that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible or is otherwise a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience.
Preventing and Ending Youth Homelessness

A Coordinated Community Response
Federal Strategic Area #1: Build the foundation for a coordinated and comprehensive community response

Federal Strategic Area #2: Build the capacity of local communities to implement the components of a coordinated and comprehensive community response
Different Federal Definitions of Youth Homelessness

- The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act
- The U.S. Department of Education
- The U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs

- **Street Outreach Program (SOP)** - Provides street-based aid and prevention services to street youth who have been subjected to or are at risk of sexual exploitation and abuse.

- **Basic Center Program (BCP)** - Addresses the immediate needs of runaway and homeless youth under age 18 by providing an array of services including prevention of youth homelessness and reunification with families (if appropriate), as well as shelter, food, medical care, and counseling.

- **Transitional Living Program & Maternity Group Homes (TLP/MGH)** - Provides longer-term residential services to homeless youth ages 16 through 21, including shelter, life skills, educational opportunities, and career counseling.
HHS/FYSB’s Definition of Runaway

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act §387(a)(4)

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.
HHS/FYSB’s Definition of Homeless

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act §387(a)(3)

HOMLESS YOUTH ...an individual...

(A) who is

(i) less than 21 years of age, or, in the case of a youth seeking shelter in a center under part A (Basic Center Program), 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; and

(ii) for the purposes of part B (Transitional Living Program), not less than 16 years of age and either

(I) less than 22 years of age; or

(II) not less than 22 years of age, as the expiration of the maximum period of stay permitted under section 322(a)(2) if such individual commences such stay before reaching 22 years of age;

(B) for whom it is not possible to live in a safe environment with a relative; and

(C) who has no other safe alternative living arrangement.
HUD’s Recently Released Guidance

HUD released, “Determining Homeless Status of Youth” in October, 2015

The purpose is to assist intake workers determine and document homeless status for youth using HUD’s Definition of Homeless

The resource uses hypothetical scenarios
HUD’s Definition of Homeless has 4 Categories:

1. Literally Homeless Individuals/Families
2. Individuals/Families who will *imminently* lose their primary nighttime residence
3. Unaccompanied youth and families with children and youth who are homeless under another Federal statute
4. Individuals/Families fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence
HUD’s Definition of Homeless - Category 1

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

- Sleeping in a place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation, including:
  - A car
  - A park
  - An abandoned building
  - A bus or train station
  - An airport
  - A camping ground
HUD’s Definition of Homeless - Category 1

An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning (cont.):

- Living in a shelter designed to provide temporary living arrangements, including:
  - Emergency shelters
  - Transitional Housing
  - Hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or federal/state/local government programs
HUD’s Definition of Homeless - Category 1

An individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning (cont.):

- Exiting an institution (e.g., jail, hospital)
  - Where (s)he resided for 90 days or less AND
  - Were residing in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering institution
HUD’s Definition of Homeless - Category 2

Individuals and families who will imminently lose (within 14 days) their primary nighttime residence who also:

- Have no subsequent residence identified, AND
- Lack the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing
HUD’s Definition of Homeless - Category 4

Individuals and families that are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life threatening conditions (survival sex, human trafficking) that relate to violence that make the individual or family afraid to return to their primary nighttime residence, who also:

- Have no subsequent residence identified, AND
- Lack the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing
HUD’s Definition of Homeless - Category 3

Unaccompanied youth (under 25) or families with children and youth who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under HUD’s definition, but who:

- Meet the definition of homeless under another Federal Statute, and
- Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing in the last 60 days, and
- Have experienced two or more moves in the last 60 days, and
- Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time because of special needs or two or more barriers to employment
HUD’s Definition of Homeless - Case Studies

- Alexis
- David
- Jordan
Documenting Homeless Status for HUD: HUD’s Preferred Order

1. Third Party
   - Written, including HMIS and other already available documents
   - Oral

2. Intake Staff Observations

3. Self-Certification

Lack of third party documentation should NOT prevent a youth from accessing emergency, life saving, shelter and services
1. Intake workers are responsible for obtaining the evidence of homeless status

2. An intake worker should NOT contact anyone for documentation that the youth feels would jeopardize his or her health or safety

3. Self-certification from the youth that (s)he meets the criteria of a category can be accepted in most instances

4. When documenting homeless status using Category 4, the intake worker needs to ask only enough questions to understand what is happening
Eligibility for HUD Programs

- Eligibility for the Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) Program is determined by:
  - The [ESG Program regulation](#)
  - The ESG recipient’s, or sub-recipients’, written standards for prioritizing assistance

- [The Homeless Definition and Eligibility for Supportive Housing Program (SHP), Shelter Plus Care (SPC), and ESG](#) provides eligibility for the ESG Program according to the ESG Program interim rule
Eligibility for the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program is determined by:

- The CoC Program regulation
- The FY CoC Program Competition Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) under which the project was funded
- The CoC’s written standards for prioritizing assistance
Eligibility for HUD Programs

Here are some questions to consider to help you determine whether a youth might be eligible for a CoC- or ESG-Program funded project:

1. What Category of homelessness did the youth qualify under?
2. Which program is the project funded under?
3. What type of assistance (e.g., ES, TH, PSH) does the project provide?
4. Are there any additional eligibility limitations for the type of assistance from:
   - The regulation?
   - The local written standards?
   - The CoC Program NOFA?
   - The project?
Other Resources

- **USICH’s Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness**

- **USICH’s Preventing and Ending Youth Homelessness: A Coordinated Community Response**

- **HUD’s One Stop Spot for Resources for Homeless Youth**

- **HUD’s Homeless Definition as it Relates to Children and Youth**

- **Criteria and Recordkeeping Requirements for Definition of Homelessness**

- **Homeless Status: Recordkeeping Requirements Webinar**

- **Determining Homeless and At-Risk Status, Income, and Disability Webinar**

- **HHS/FYSB’s Definition of Runaway Under RHYA (2008)**
Questions?

- Review Questions that have been submitted through the chat function

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