

## Homelessness Santa Barbara County 101

### COMMON TERMS

#### COORDINATED ENTRY SYSTEM

Home For Good Santa Barbara County supports a Coordinated Entry System, a no-wrong door, countywide system that engages and connects individuals and families experiencing homelessness to the optimal resources for their needs. **We believe that everyone deserves a safe place to call home for good.**

#### WHO IS HOMELESS OR AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS<sup>1</sup>

- **Risk of Homelessness:** Annual income below 30% of median family income for the area and does not have sufficient resources or support networks immediately available to prevent them from becoming literally homeless. And there are other characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness.
- **Imminent Risk of Homelessness:** Will imminently lose their primary night time residence, provided that residence will be lost within 14 days; no subsequent residence has been identified; and lacks resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent supportive housing.
- **Literally Homeless:** Lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence.
  - Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation;
  - 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
  - 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.
- **Homeless Under Other Federal Statute.<sup>2</sup>**
- **Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence:** Any individual or family who is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, has no other residence; and lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.<sup>3</sup>
- **Chronically Homeless:** Homeless individual with a disability who lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and has been homeless continuously for at least 12 months or on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years where the combined occasions must total at least 12 months.

<sup>1</sup> HUD Exchange Record Keeping Requirements

<sup>2</sup> Youth who do not qualify as homeless under the categories of "Imminent Risk", "Literally Homeless" or "Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence" but who: • Are homeless under other federal statutes including the Runaway & Homeless Youth Act • Have not had their own place with a lease, ownership interest or occupancy agreement in the last 60 days • Have moved two or more times in the last 60 days • Can be expected to have continued housing instability because of a disability, substance use addiction, history of domestic violence or child abuse, or two or more barriers to employment. Source: HUD Determining Homeless Status of Youth Quick Guide

<sup>3</sup> 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 sexual orientation. Additionally, must have no safe, alternative housing, resources or support networks to maintain or obtain permanent housing

## WHAT INTERVENTIONS

- **The Housing First Model:** An evidence based best practice designed to end homelessness and support recovery by housing individuals as quickly as possible and then wrapping services around them as needed. This housing model has proven effective in housing a wide variety of homeless population subsets including chronically homeless households and families and the general homeless population. Within this model, housing is not contingent upon participation in services or eligibility screening and services provided are designed to promote housing stability. Source: USICH
- **Prevention:** The practice of providing short to medium-term supportive services and rent assistance to households at-risk or at imminent risk of homelessness. Prevention connects people with the care and support needed to maintain their housing and achieve a better quality of life. All prevention programs will provide targeted prevention, an approach where households are strategically prioritized to receive homeless prevention assistance based on a standardized, evidence-based assessment that identifies households who are at highest risk of becoming homeless. Successful targeted prevention reduces the number of households who actually become homeless. The length of assistance 4-6 months on average, but can extend to 24 months. Source: HUD Performance Training
- **Diversión:** A strategy that prevents homelessness for people seeking shelter by helping them identify immediate alternate housing arrangements and, if necessary, connecting them with services and financial assistance to help them return to permanent housing. Source: USICH
- **Outreach:** Essential Services related to reaching out to unsheltered homeless individuals and families, connecting them with emergency shelter, housing, or critical services, and providing them with urgent, non-facility-based care. Eligible costs include engagement, case management, emergency health and mental health services, transportation, and services for special populations. Source: ESG Requirements
- **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. Source: Glossary of HUD Terms
- **Transitional Housing:** Designed to provide homeless individuals and families with the interim stability and support to successfully move to and maintain permanent housing. Transitional housing may be used to cover the costs of up to 24 months of housing with accompanying supportive services. Program participants must have a lease (or sublease) or occupancy agreement in place when residing in transitional housing.<sup>4</sup> Source: CoC Program Eligibility Requirements
- **Rapid Re-Housing:** Help those who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized. Rapid re-housing is an intervention designed to help individuals and families that don't need intensive and ongoing supports to quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing. While enrolled individuals and families maintain their homeless status. Source: USICH
- **Permanent Supportive Housing:** Permanent housing with indefinite leasing or rental assistance paired with supportive services to assist homeless persons with a disability or families with an adult or child member with a disability achieve housing stability. Source: CoC Program Eligibility Requirements

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<sup>4</sup> Persons coming from transitional housing are not considered chronically homeless. Source: HUD Exchange.