

HANDOUT - DEFINITIONS¹

ACES: Adverse Childhood Events. Ten-question test. Children with an ACES score of over 4 are predisposed toward multiple challenges in childhood and adulthood, including homelessness.

Chronic Homelessness: (HUD Definition [CoC and ESG Homeless Eligibility - Definition of Chronic Homelessness - HUD Exchange](#))

- A homeless individual with a disability as defined in section 401(9) of the McKinney-Vento Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360(9)), who:
 - o Lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter, and
 - o Has been homeless and living as described for at least 12 months* or on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years, as long as the combined occasions equal at least 12 months and each break in homelessness separating the occasions included at least 7 consecutive nights of not living as described.
- An individual who has been residing in an institutional care facility for less, including jail, substance abuse or mental health treatment facility, hospital, or other similar facility, for fewer than 90 days and met all of the criteria of this definition before entering that facility**:
- A family with an adult head of household (or, if there is no adult in the family, a minor head of household) who meets all of the criteria of this definition, including a family whose composition has fluctuated while the head of household has been homeless.

Continuums of Care: (CoC)- local planning bodies responsible for coordinating the full range of homelessness services in a geographic area, which may cover a city, county, metropolitan area, or an entire state. In order to be eligible for housing restricted to chronically homeless individuals or families under the CoC program, participants must meet the HUD definition of chronically homeless.

Explicit bias: Conscious and deliberate, the person is fully aware they hold a positive or negative view of a group or person.

Houseless: A term being used to describe people who are homeless because the word homeless has taken on a pejorative meaning and automatically disconnects and ostracizes individuals. "Houseless" describes individuals as having a connection, a place in society even though they do not have a physical space, a house, to live in.

Implicit bias: Occurs automatically and unintentionally. Affects judgements, decisions, and behaviors.

Permanent Supportive Housing: (PSH)- a housing model designed to provide housing assistance (project- and tenant-based) and supportive services on a long-term basis to people who formerly

¹ Excerpted from APSWI Homelessness in Older Adults: Examining the Layers Participant Manual (2021). San Diego State University School of Social Work, Academy for Professional Excellence.

experienced homelessness. HUD's Continuum of Care program, authorized by the McKinney-Vento Act, funds PSH and requires that the client have a disability for eligibility.

Precarious Housing: currently housed, but likely to become homeless, generally because the housing is unaffordable.

Rapid Rehousing: a housing model designed to provide temporary housing assistance to people experiencing homelessness, moving them quickly out of homelessness and into permanent housing. Continue

Safe Havens: Supportive Housing Programs which serves hard-to-reach homeless persons with severe mental illness who come primarily from the streets and have been unable or unwilling to participate in housing or supportive services. This is *temporary shelter* and services for to hard-to-serve individuals.

Severe Housing Burden: 50% or more of income going to housing payment.

Severe Mental Health Issues: a mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder resulting in serious functional impairment, which substantially interferes with, or limits, one or more major life activities.

Sheltered Homelessness: refers to people who are staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or safe havens. (Opposite of unsheltered homelessness which refers to people living directly on the streets).

Societal bias- can be positive or negative and refers to being in favor, or against individuals or groups based on their social identities, race, gender, etc. It includes stereotyping (thoughts), prejudice (feelings) and discrimination (behaviors).

Systemic bias: also called **institutional bias**, and related to **structural bias**, is the inherent tendency of a process to support particular outcomes, such as racial profiling.

Transitional Housing Programs: provide people experiencing homelessness a place to stay combined with supportive services for up to 24 months.

Unsheltered Homelessness- refers to people whose primary nighttime location is a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for people (for example, the streets, vehicles, or parks).