

Glossary/Key Terms Definitions

These definitions do not fully correspond to the program requirements of HUD funding streams and must only be used for the purposes of the HIC and PIT.

Adults – Persons age 18 and older.

Child – Persons under age 18.

Person Experiencing Chronic Homelessness - A person who:

- A. Is homeless and lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and
- B. Has been homeless and living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter continuously for at least 1 year or on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years where the combined length of time homeless in those occasions is at least 12 months; and
- C. Has a disability.

Note: For purposes of PIT reporting: (1) When a household with one or more members includes an adult or minor head of household who qualifies as chronically homeless, then all members of that household should be counted as a person experiencing chronic homelessness in the applicable household type table. For example, if one adult in a two adult household is identified as chronically homeless, both adults should be counted as a person experiencing chronic homelessness in the households without children category of the PIT count.

Disability – An individual with one or more of the following conditions:

- A. A physical, mental, or emotional impairment, including an impairment caused by alcohol or drug abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, or brain injury that:
- B. Is expected to be long-continuing or of indefinite duration;
- C. Substantially impedes the individual's ability to live independently; and
- D. Could be improved by the provision of more suitable housing conditions.
- E. A developmental disability, as defined in section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15002); or
- F. The disease of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) or any condition arising from the etiologic agency for Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome.

Adults with HIV/AIDS – This population category of the PIT includes adults who have been diagnosed with AIDS and/or have tested positive for HIV. Please note that a different definition of disability applies for purposes of compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Fair Housing Act. See 28 C.F.R. 35.108 for additional information.

Adults with a Serious Mental Illness (SMI) – This population category of the PIT includes adults with a severe and persistent mental illness or emotional impairment that seriously limits a person's ability to live independently. Adults with SMI must also meet the qualifications identified in the term for “disability” (e.g., “is expected to be long-continuing or indefinite duration”).

Adults with a Substance Use Disorder – This population category of the PIT includes adults with a substance abuse problem (alcohol abuse, drug abuse, or both). Adults with a substance use disorder must also meet the qualifications identified in the term for “disability” (e.g., “is expected to be long, continuing or indefinite duration”).

Survivors of Domestic Violence – This population category of the PIT includes adults who are currently experiencing homelessness because they are fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Veteran – This population category of the PIT includes adults who have served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States. This does not include inactive military reserves or the National Guard unless the person was called up to active duty.

Victim Service Provider – A private nonprofit organization whose primary mission is to provide services to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. This term includes rape crisis centers, battered women’s shelters, domestic violence transitional housing programs, and other programs.

Youth – Persons under age 25. HUD collects and reports youth data based on persons under 18 and persons between ages 18 and 24.

Parenting Youth – A youth who identifies as the parent or legal guardian of one or more children who are present with or sleeping in the same place as that youth parent, where there is no person age 25 or older in the household. Unaccompanied Youth – Unaccompanied youth are persons under age 25 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian or any other household member age 25 or older, and who are not a parent presenting with or sleeping in the same place as his/her child(ren). Unaccompanied youth are single youth, youth couples, and groups of youth presenting together as a household.