



**HUD Chronic Homeless Definition
Quick Reference
Effective January 15, 2016**



<u>Applicant's Current Housing Situation</u>	<u>Is applicant considered Literally Homeless in this housing?</u>	<u>Does time in this housing count as homelessness for HUD CH purposes?</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Emergency Shelter	Yes	Yes	
Place not meant for human habitation	Yes	Yes	
Rapid Rehousing	Yes	Yes*	*Must have been chronically homeless prior to receiving RRH assistance.
Transitional Housing for formerly homeless individuals	Yes	No	
DMHAS Housing Assistance Fund (HAF/EHAF)			
Literally homeless prior to receiving assistance	Yes*	No	*Must have been literally homeless prior to receiving HAF/EHAF assistance.
Institution (Jail, hospital, inpatient treatment setting)			
Less than 90 days	Yes	Yes	Stays in institution of fewer than 90 days do not constitute as a break and count toward total time homeless. Applicants residing in an institution for fewer than 90 days who were literally homeless when they entered the institution retain their literal homeless status.
More than 90 days	No	No	Stays in institution of 90 days or more constitute a break in homelessness and do not count toward total time homeless.
Hotel/Motel			
Paid by an agency	Yes	Yes	If the hotel is paid for by an agency to divert indiv/family from shelter, they retain homeless status.
Paid by applicant, relatives, friends, or others (7+ consecutive nights)	No	No	If the hotel is paid for by the indiv/family, family member, friend, etc., then the indiv/family is not homeless.
Friends/Family			
Less than 7 consecutive days	Yes	Yes	A break in homelessness is considered to be any period of 7 or more consecutive nights where an individual or family is not living in a place not meant for human habitation or emergency shelter.
More than 7 consecutive days	No	No	
Other Housing			
Sober House	No	No	

NOTES:

- For full definition effective 1/15/2016, Please refer to:
<https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Defining-Chronically-Homeless-Final-Rule.pdf>
- Four occasions must total at least 12 months.
- Recordkeeping guidelines clarify that homeless service providers are not required to verify every *day* of homelessness in a given month but instead, that a single encounter with a homeless service provider in a given month would be sufficient third-party evidence that the individual or family has been homeless for the entire month, unless there is evidence that the individual or family had a break of at least 7 consecutive nights in their homeless occasion during that month (e.g., HMIS program enrollment of transitional housing or was housed with a friend or family member). Example: HMIS/Outreach is able to document a person was homeless on May 5th. This documentation can be applied to the entire month of May (May 1st to May 31st) unless there is evidence that there has been at least 7 consecutive nights not living in a place not meant for habitation or emergency shelter during the month.
- Occasion is defined by a break of at least **seven** nights not residing in an emergency shelter, safe haven, or residing in a place meant for human habitation (e.g., staying with a friend, in a hotel/motel paid for by applicant).
- Stays in institutions (jail, hospital, inpatient treatment) of fewer than 90 days do not constitute as a break and count toward total time homeless.
- A stay in an institution for more than 90 days is a break in homelessness. The applicant *may* be chronically homeless if the following conditions are met:
 - 1) Discharged to a place not meant for human habitation or emergency shelter.
 - 2) The person has 4 separate occasions of homelessness within 3 years that total at least 12 months.
- Once individuals/families receive a PSH certificate, they are able to stay temporarily with a friend/family or in a hotel. They maintain eligibility for PSH.