



## **Glossary of Terms, Acronyms and Phrases Commonly Used in the Homeless System of Care**

There are many terms, acronyms and phrases used in discussing homelessness and homeless systems of care which many people – both new and seasoned homeless providers and advocates – lack even a general knowledge.

This Glossary is intended to help bridge this communication gap by providing a *basic understanding* of common terminology. It by no means claims to be inclusive of every term used.

These terms and definitions are compiled from a multitude of sources including HUD, NAEH, NILCH, Florida Statue, NAHRO, and others.

**Revised October 2007**

**ACCESS Florida – Automated Community Connection to Economic Self-Sufficiency**

A modernized public assistance service delivery operated by the Department of Children and Families. ACCESS Florida strives to streamline the application process and allow people to directly apply for mainstream assistance programs – food stamps, temporary cash assistance and Medicaid – on-line at <http://www.myflorida.com/accessflorida>.

**Agency for Health Care Administration – AHCA**

**AHCA – Agency for Health Care Administration**

**Assertive Community Treatment Teams – ACT Teams**

An approach that features the use of a team, rather than individual case managers, to provide continuous, ongoing service to clients who need high levels of support, especially those living with a disability.

**Affordable Housing**

Housing is considered affordable when a person/household spends 30 percent or less of their annual income on housing costs. For renters, this includes rent and utility cost; for homeowners it includes mortgage, interest, insurance and utilities.

**AMI – Area Median Income**

The income level of a geographical area for which 50 percent of the area’s households make more this amount and 50 percent make less than this amount. AMI is the income standard by which levels of poverty are established.

Florida’s 2006 AMI = \$56,131  
30 percent of AMI = \$16,839

Hillsborough County’s 2006 AMI = \$54,400  
30 percent of AMI = \$16,320

**Annual Progress Report – APR**

A report produced annually, that tracks program progress and accomplishments including progress in moving homeless persons to self-sufficiency, services rendered, project goals and beds created. This report is required by HUD for all programs that receive McKinney-Vento funding.

**APR – Annual Progress Report**

**Area Median Income – AMI**

**Battered Women Shelters and Services Program**

A program administered by the US Department of Health and Human Services; funds are distributed by formula to support community-based groups operating shelters that provide critical emergency services to women and children fleeing violence in their own homes.

**Blue Book**

A “go-to” compilation of demographic and economic data for Hillsborough County published by the Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission. It can be viewed and downloaded from the Planning Commission Website, [www.theplanningcommission.org](http://www.theplanningcommission.org), under Data and

Publications. The book can be purchased for \$5 or on CD for \$15. Contact the Planning Commission at (813) 273 – 3774 ext. 349.

## **CDBG – Community Development Block Grant**

### **Challenge Grant**

The Challenge Grant program is a funding program of the state of Florida. Challenge Grants shall be used to assist the local homeless continuum of care lead agency and local providers implement their written plan for addressing the needs of their homeless populations. These funds may be used for an array of programs, facilities, and services that are identified in the local continuum of care plan. This may include, but not limited to, the following types of activities or projects (see section 420.624, FS, for a complete description of the Continuum):

- Homelessness Prevention
- Outreach
- Emergency Shelter
- Supportive Services
- Transitional Housing
- Permanent Housing

### **Chronic Homeless**

Defined by HUD, an “unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more OR has had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years.” To be considered chronically homeless, a person must have been on the streets or in an emergency shelter (i.e. not transitional housing) during these stays.

### **Cold Weather Shelters**

In Hillsborough County, cold weather shelters are emergency shelters that open when temperatures are expected to be below 40 degrees F. The decision is made by the Hillsborough County Emergency Operations Center.

Cold Weather Shelters in Hillsborough County are:

Salvation Army – 1514 N. Florida Ave., Tampa – For single men and women

Metropolitan Ministries – 2002 N. Florida Ave., Tampa – For Families

Bethune Park – 5809 Edina Street, Wimauma

### **Community Atlas**

The Hillsborough Community Atlas is a dynamic tool that allows you to view data and information about the neighborhoods, communities and municipalities throughout Hillsborough County. You can find statistics, graphs, maps and links to related information. [www.hillsborough.communityatlas.usf.edu](http://www.hillsborough.communityatlas.usf.edu)

### **Community Development Block Grant – CDBG**

A HUD program which provides annual grants on a formula basis to entitled cities, urban counties and states to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons. The CDBG program works to ensure decent affordable housing, to

provide services to the most vulnerable in our communities, and to create jobs through the expansion and retention of businesses.

Over a 1, 2, or 3-year period, as selected by the grantee, not less than 70 percent of CDBG funds must be used for activities that benefit low- and moderate-income persons. In addition, each activity must meet *one* of the following national objectives for the program: benefit low- and moderate-income persons, prevention or elimination of slums or blight, or address community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community for which other funding is not available.

Beginning in 1974, the CDBG program is one of the longest continuously run programs at HUD.

### **Community Partnership to End Homelessness Act – CPHEA**

The Community Partnership to End Homelessness Act of 2007 (CPEHA) would reauthorize and amend the housing titles of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987. The legislation aims to realign the incentives behind the Department of Housing and Urban Development's homeless assistance programs to accomplish the goals of preventing and ending homelessness. The bill would make HUD's homeless assistance more flexible, performance-based, and accountable. Some key elements of CPEHA are:

#### Consolidate Competitive Grant Programs

The bill consolidates HUD's three main competitive homelessness programs (Supportive Housing Program, Shelter Plus Care, Moderate Rehabilitation/Single Room Occupancy) into one—the Community Homeless Assistance Program.

#### Provide Flexibility Tailored to Rural Communities

The bill would create a more flexible set of requirements for rural communities by modifying HUD's long-dormant Rural Homelessness Grant Program.

#### Prevention Program

Communities could apply for the Community Homelessness Prevention and Housing Stability Program to serve people who have moved frequently for economic reasons, are doubled up, are about to be evicted, live in severely overcrowded housing, or otherwise live in an unstable situation that puts them at risk of homelessness.

#### Include Families in Chronic Homelessness

The definition of chronic homelessness would be modified to include families with children where the family meets all the other requirements of the definition (homeless in a place not meant for human habitation or in an emergency shelter for one year continuously or for four times in the past three years and having a head of household with a disabling condition).

#### More Responsibility for Communities

Collaborative Applicants, similar to existing Continuums of Care, would be established. The Collaborative Applicants would have greater responsibility for overseeing homeless assistance programs and would be eligible for up to 3 percent of total funding for administrative costs.

#### Timeliness of Awards and Expenditures

NOFA must be released within three months of appropriations enactment; Funding awards must be announced within four months of application due date; Project sponsors must meet

requirements for obligation within nine months of award announcement (15 months for acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation); Funds must be obligated within 45 days of project sponsor meeting requirements; Funds must be expended in a timely fashion.

This act is being supported by the National Alliance to End Homelessness

### **Community Services Block Grant – CSBG**

A grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families' Office of Community Services. CSBG is a formula grant that provides funds to States, Territories, and federally and State-recognized Indian tribes/tribal organizations so that they may provide supportive services and activities to assist low-income individuals and families to become self-sufficient. Typically, States fund these services by making sub-grants to locally based Community Action Agencies and other eligible entities that provide services to low-income individuals and families.

The amended legislation for CSBG includes **Charitable Choice**, a legislative provision designed to remove unnecessary barriers to the receipt of certain federal funds by faith-based organizations. The provision prohibits States from discriminating against religious organizations when choosing providers under CSBG, as long as the programs are implemented in a manner that is consistent with the First Amendment. In 2003, HHS issued a final rule implementing the Charitable Choice statutory provisions in the Community Services Block Grant Act. See [http://www.hhs.gov/fbci/finalCSBG\\_ccregs.html](http://www.hhs.gov/fbci/finalCSBG_ccregs.html) for a copy of the final rule.

#### How Funds May Be Used

Grantees use the funds to support a variety of services that help low-income people. Services typically assist with childcare, employment, education, emergency services, health care, housing, nutrition, transportation, youth development, and coordination of resources and community participation. [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fbci/progs/fbci\\_csb.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fbci/progs/fbci_csb.html)

### **Community Workforce Housing Initiative Pilot – CWHIP**

CWHIP was created by the Florida Legislature in 2006 and is administered by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation. CWHIP promotes the creation of public-private partnerships to finance, build and manage workforce housing and requires the coordinated efforts of all levels of government as well as private sector developers, financiers, business interests and service providers.

At least 50 percent of the affordable housing units built using CWHIP funds should be set aside for essential services personnel. Essential services personnel will be defined by local governments in their State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) program plans, however, they could include teachers, educators, police and fire personnel, health care workers, skilled building trades personnel, and others.

80 percent of the units built using CWHIP funds should be available to households earning incomes up to 140 percent of area median income (AMI). This program may serve a broad range of incomes up to 140 percent of AMI.

### **CoC – Continuum of Care**

#### **Continuum of Care - CoC**

A “framework for a comprehensive and seamless array of emergency, transitional and permanent housing, and services” to address the needs of persons who are homeless in a

specified geographic area. A continuum of Care plan is intended to reflect the community's vision for solutions to its homeless needs. The continuum spans from prevention services to assisting homeless persons with securing and maintaining permanent housing.

Continuum of Care Agencies: All agencies that are providing services to help homeless/near homeless families and individuals.

Continuum of Care Grant: is a set of three competitive programs based on the law of the McKinney - Vento Homeless Assistance Act to address the problems of homelessness in a comprehensive manner in concert with other federal agencies. This is a federal grant through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The grant application is coordinated by a community's lead agency, which is the Homeless Coalition of Hillsborough County in Tampa/Hillsborough County.

Continuum of Care Funded Programs/Agencies: Programs/Agencies that receive funding through the CoC grant.

### **"Cost-Burdened" Households**

Households that pay more than 30% of income for rent or mortgage costs. In 2005, 120,708 Hillsborough County households (28%) pay more than 30% of income for housing. By comparison, (28%) of households statewide are cost-burdened.

### **CPHEA – Community Partnership to End Homelessness Act**

### **CSBG – Community Services Block Grant**

### **CWHIP – Community Workforce Housing Innovation Pilot**

### **Disabling Condition**

HUD defines “disabling condition” as “a diagnosable substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability or chronic physical illness or disability, including the co-occurrence of two or more of these conditions. A disabling condition limits an individual's ability to work or perform one or more activities of daily living.”

### **Domestic Violence**

Domestic violence can be defined as a pattern of behavior in any relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner. In Florida, the legal definition of domestic violence is defined in Florida Statue 741.28 as "any assault . . . or any criminal offense resulting in the physical injury or death of one family or household member by another family or household member" When a person commits an illegal act of domestic violence, law enforcement can become involved.

Often there is domestic violence that does not meet the legal definition, but this can be just as devastating for the victim and their family.

Abuse is physical, sexual, emotional, economic or psychological actions or threats which include any behaviors that frighten, intimidate, terrorize, manipulate, hurt, humiliate, blame, injure or wound someone. Domestic violence can happen to anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation, religion or gender. It can happen between couples who are married, living together or who are dating. Domestic violence affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels.

## **DV – Domestic Violence**

### **Education for Homeless Children and Youth – EHCY**

The Education for Homeless Children and Youth program (EHCY), operated by the Department of Education, assures that homeless children are able to enroll, attend, and succeed in school. EHCY establishes liaisons between shelters and schools and provides funding for children's transportation, tutoring, and supplies.

### **EFAHP – Emergency Financial Assistance Housing Program**

### **EFSG – Emergency Food and Shelter Grant**

### **EHCY – Education for Homeless Children and Youth**

### **ELI – Extremely Low Income**

### **Emergency Financial Assistance for Housing Program – EFAHP**

A state of Florida program administered by the Office on Homelessness. EFAHP provides a one-time payment of up to \$400 to families who are totally without shelter or face the loss of shelter because of non-payment of rent or mortgage. It also helps those families who have had household disasters such as fire, flood, or other accidents.

You may download and print the EFAHP application and Vendor's Agreement from:

<http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/homelessness/efahp.shtml>.

### **Emergency Food and Shelter Grant – EFSG**

A federal grant program funded through FEMA and with oversight of the program given to the EFSP National Board, as established by Congress. The Local EFSP board votes to approve recommendations (provided to the National Board, who makes the final award determination) by service category for each applicant entity.

Program funds are used to supplement programs that provide the, as determined by the Local Board in funded jurisdictions:

- Food, in the form of served meals or groceries.
- Lodging in a mass shelter or hotel.
- One month's rent or mortgage payment.
- One month's utility bill.
- Minimal repairs to allow a mass feeding or sheltering facility to function during the program year.
- Equipment necessary to feed or shelter people, up to a \$300 limit per item.

### **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

### **Emergency Shelter Grant – ESG**

The Emergency Shelter Grants program, funded by HUD, provides homeless persons with basic shelter and essential supportive services. It can assist with the operational costs of the shelter facility, and for the administration of the grant. ESG also provides short-term homeless prevention assistance to persons at imminent risk of losing their own housing due to eviction,

foreclosure, or utility shutoffs. This funding is administered locally by Hillsborough County and the City of Tampa.

**Extremely Low Income – ELI**

Individuals/households with annual income at or below 30 percent of the area’s median income

**ESG – Emergency Shelter Grant**

**Fair Market Rents – FMR**

The average cost to rent housing in a metropolitan area. FMRs in Hillsborough County (2007)

1 bedroom	\$ 676
2 bedrooms	\$ 817
3 bedrooms	\$1,035
4 bedrooms	\$1,250

**Family Justice Center – FJC**

The Mission of the Family Justice Center of Hillsborough County is to improve the lives of family violence victims through community collaboration and the provision of comprehensive services in a single location. It is a community-wide collaborative between public, private and non-profit organizations to provide comprehensive services to domestic violence victims and their families in a centralized location, or ‘one-stop-shop.’

The FJC is part of The President’s Family Justice Center Initiative, and is one of 15 sites around the nation, and the only in Florida. There are over 20 programs on site offering a variety of services to victims of domestic violence and their children. The Center is located at 9309 North Florida Ave, Suite 109 in Tampa. Hours are Monday through Thursday from 8am to 8pm, and 8 to 5 on Fridays. Appointments welcome but not required. [www.fjchc.org](http://www.fjchc.org)

**FCH – Florida Coalition for the Homeless**

**Federal Homeless Assistance Grant Funding**

Provides funding to organizations to provide shelter, transitional and permanent housing, and services. These grants include the Continuum of Care (CoC) and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) programs.

**FHC – Family Housing Coalition**

**FJC – Family Justice Center**

**Florida Coalition for the Homeless – FCH**

A dynamic organization whose membership and board of directors, homeless advocates, service providers, members of the faith-based community, formerly homeless persons, educators, attorneys, mental health professionals and many others statewide who are committed to putting an end to homelessness and improving the conditions of persons living without shelter. Some of the ways the Florida Coalition carry out their work include:

- Sharing information and strategies among local homeless coalitions and all interested parties,
- Standing in support of local legislative initiatives,
- Working to prevent further homelessness and alleviate suffering,

- Proactively monitoring public policies and funding shifts which effect homeless people,
- Providing information and resources to local coalitions and service providers,
- Developing and disseminating best practices, model programs and standards, and
- Promoting involvement and leadership from local service providers, homeless coalitions, units of government and homeless/formerly homeless people in the development and implementation of a statewide agenda.

[www.flahomelesscoalition.com](http://www.flahomelesscoalition.com)

### **Florida Housing Coalition – FHC**

A non-profit statewide membership organization whose mission is to act as a catalyst to bring together housing advocates and resources so that all Floridians have a quality affordable home and suitable living environment.

The Florida Housing Coalition provides information, training and technical assistance on affordable housing and related issues; supports community-based partnerships in leveraging resources; and advocated for policies, programs and use of funding resources that maximizes the availability and improve the quality for affordable housing in Florida. [www.flhousing.org](http://www.flhousing.org)

### **Florida Housing Finance Corporation – FHFC**

The mission of the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (Florida Housing) is to help our fellow Floridians obtain safe, decent housing that might otherwise be unavailable to them. Florida Housing's Board of Directors and staff are continuing to work to increase affordable housing opportunities for Floridians, ensure that Florida Housing's programs are well matched to the housing needs of Floridians, and communicate the importance of affordable housing to Florida's communities.

Below is a list of Florida Housing's Affordable Housing Programs as related to 1) Homeownership, 2) Multifamily Development and 3) Special Programs

#### **1) Homeownership Programs**

##### First Time Homebuyer Program

Florida Housing issues bonds under the Single Family Mortgage Revenue Bond Program and the proceeds from these bonds are used to originate 30-year mortgage loans through the First Time Homebuyer Program. First-time homebuyers then benefit from lower mortgage interest rates due to the tax-exempt status of the bonds. Eligible borrowers have to meet certain criteria such as the first-time homebuyer requirement, as defined by the Internal Revenue Code, credit worthiness, and an appropriate income level, not exceeding program limits.

##### Down Payment Assistance Programs

Funds for down payment assistance and closing costs are often provided in conjunction with the First Time Homebuyer Program through the Homeownership Assistance Program (HAP), the HOME Investment Partnerships program, the Homeownership Assistance for Moderate Income (HAMI) program and Three Percent Cash Assistance.

### Homeownership Pool Program

Florida Housing Finance Corporation, in response to the recognized need to enhance the ability and process of Developers to match qualified homebuyers with purchase assistance, has created the HOMEOWNERSHIP POOL (“HOP”) PROGRAM. The “HOP” Program is designed to be a noncompetitive and on-going program, where Developers, by way of an online system have the ability to reserve funds for eligible homebuyers to provide purchase assistance on a first-come, first-served basis.

### Mortgage Credit Certificate

A Mortgage Credit Certificate (MCC) allows the homebuyer to claim a tax credit for some portion of the mortgage interest paid per year. It is a dollar for dollar reduction against their federal tax liability. An MCC may be issued to homebuyers at tax credit rates varying from 10 percent to 50 percent based on the mortgage interest paid per year capped at \$2,000 annually. Florida Housing determines the tax credit rate. The credit is non-refundable but may be carried forward for a period up to three (3) years.

## **2) Multifamily Development Programs**

### Multifamily Mortgage Revenue Bonds

The Multifamily Mortgage Revenue Bond program uses both taxable and tax-exempt bonds to provide below market rate loans to nonprofit and for-profit developers who set aside a certain percentage of their apartment units for low income families. Proceeds from the sale of these bonds are used to construct or acquire and rehabilitate multifamily rental properties. The Bond program’s application scoring and ranking criteria encourage increased set asides for low-income households. Special consideration is given to properties that target specific geographic areas such HOPE VI communities.

### Florida Affordable Housing Guarantee

The Florida Affordable Housing Guarantee Program encourages affordable housing lending by issuing guarantees on financing for affordable housing. This program provides guarantees on taxable and tax-exempt bonds, and creates a security mechanism that allows lenders to sell affordable housing loans in the secondary market. It also encourages affordable housing lending activities that would not otherwise have taken place.

### HOME Investment Partnerships

The HOME program provides non-amortizing, low interest rate loans to developers of affordable housing who acquire, rehabilitate, or construct housing for low income families. Loans are offered through the annual Universal Cycle at the simple interest rate of zero percent to nonprofit applicants and three percent to for-profit applicants. Florida Housing’s HOME program is designed for smaller developments in rural areas.

### Elderly Housing Community Loan - EHCL

A portion of State Apartment Incentive Loan funds is set aside to fund the Elderly Housing Community Loan (EHCL) program. This program provides up to \$750,000 in loans to make substantial improvements to existing affordable elderly rental housing. The EHCL program generally has one competitive funding cycle each year and the application period is open for a minimum of 60 days. These funds are available for the purpose of making building preservation, sanitation repairs or improvements required by federal, state or local regulation codes, and for life safety or security related improvements.

#### Low Income Housing Tax Credits - LIHTC

The competitive Housing Credit program provides for-profit and nonprofit organizations with a dollar-for-dollar reduction in federal tax liability in exchange for the acquisition and substantial rehabilitation, substantial rehabilitation or new construction of affordable rental housing units. Special consideration is given to properties that target specific demographic groups such as the elderly, homeless people, farmworkers and commercial fishing workers. Consideration is also given to properties that target specific geographic areas such as the Florida Keys, rural areas, urban infill areas, and Front Porch Florida communities.

#### State Apartment Incentive Loan Program - SAIL

The State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) program provides low-interest loans on a competitive basis to developers of affordable rental housing each year. SAIL funds provide gap financing that allows developers to obtain the full financing needed to construct affordable multifamily units. SAIL dollars are available to individuals, public entities, and nonprofit or for-profit organizations for the construction or substantial rehabilitation of multifamily units. Special consideration is given to properties that target specific demographic groups such as the elderly, homeless people, farmworkers, and commercial fishing workers.

### **3) Special Programs**

#### Predevelopment Loan Program - PLP

The Predevelopment Loan Program (PLP) assists nonprofit and community based organizations, local governments, and public housing authorities with planning, financing, and developing affordable housing. Eligible organizations may apply for a loan of up to \$500,000 for predevelopment activities such as rezoning, title searches, legal fees, impact fees, administrative costs, soil tests, engineering fees, appraisals, feasibility analyses, audit fees, earnest money deposits, insurance fees, commitment fees, administrative costs, marketing expenses, and acquisition expenses. Technical assistance is also provided.

#### State Housing Initiatives Partnership - SHIP

The State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) program provides funds to local governments on a population-based formula as an incentive to produce and preserve affordable housing for very low, low, and moderate income families. These funds are derived from the collection of documentary stamp tax revenues, which are deposited into the Local Government Housing Trust Fund. SHIP funds are distributed on an entitlement basis to all 67 counties and 50 Community Development Block Grant entitlement cities in Florida. The minimum allocation per county is \$350,000. SHIP dollars may be used to fund emergency repairs, new construction, rehabilitation, down payment and closing cost assistance, impact fees, construction and gap financing, mortgage buy-downs, acquisition of property for affordable housing, matching dollars for federal housing grants and programs, and homeownership counseling. Each participating local government may use up to ten percent of their SHIP funds for administrative expenses.

#### Demonstration Loans

Florida Housing issues Demonstration Loans under authority of 420.507, F.S. Demonstration Loans are issued through a request for proposals (RFP) process one or more times throughout the year. Each RFP is developed to address a certain type of special needs housing. Demonstration Loans have been approved for housing for

homeless people and elders, farmworkers, persons with disabilities and victims of domestic violence.

#### Affordable Housing Catalyst Program

The Affordable Housing Catalyst Program provides on-site and telephone technical assistance and training on the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP), the HOME Investment Partnerships Program and other affordable housing programs. This technical assistance includes assisting agencies in leveraging those dollars with other public and private funding sources, training on forming local and regional public/private partnerships, working effectively with lending institutions, implementing regulatory reform, training for boards of directors, implementing rehabilitation and emergency repair programs, developing volunteer programs, assisting with the design and establishment of fiscal and program tracking systems, and compliance requirements of state and federally funded housing programs. Workshops are conducted throughout the year at locations around the state.

[www.flhousing.org](http://www.flhousing.org)

#### **Florida Housing Search**

A FREE online database of rental units that accept below-market rents and/or housing vouchers. The database can also be accessed via a toll-free number: 1-877428-8844; English and Spanish services provided. Remember **floridahousingsearch.org** when assisting people in need of affordable housing in Hillsborough County and throughout the state. [www.floridahousingsearch.org](http://www.floridahousingsearch.org).

#### **Florida Substance Abuse and Mental Health Corporation – SAMHC**

A non-profit corporation created by the Legislature to oversee the state's publicly funded substance abuse and mental health services. The Governor, President of the Senate and Speaker of the House appoint its 12 directors.

The corporation is charged with making recommendations annually to the Governor and the Legislature on policies designed to improve coordination and effectiveness of the state's publicly funded mental health and substance abuse systems. [www.samhcorp.org](http://www.samhcorp.org)

#### **Florida Supportive Housing Coalition – FLSHC**

The Florida Supportive Housing Coalition is a nonprofit organization representing housing and service providers who recognize the effectiveness of supportive housing for people with special needs. Founded in November 2001, the Coalition is committed to promoting long-term housing solutions for people with special needs, particularly the homeless, disabled, elderly, people with mental illnesses, and other special populations. By working together to ensure supportive housing is available to all who need it, we will have a positive impact on their lives, while making significant positive changes in the social and economic structures of our State and communities. [www.flshc.net](http://www.flshc.net)

#### **FMR – Fair Market Rents**

#### **HEARTH Act – Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act**

#### **HHA – Homeless Housing Assistance Grant**

## **HIPAA – Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996**

Congress mandated the establishment of Federal standards for the privacy of individually identifiable health information. When it comes to personal information that moves across hospitals, doctors' offices, insurers or third party payers, and State lines, our country has relied on a patchwork of Federal and State laws. Under the patchwork of laws existing prior to adoption of HIPAA and the Privacy Rule, personal health information could be distributed—without either notice or authorization—for reasons that had nothing to do with a patient's medical treatment or health care reimbursement.

The Privacy Rule establishes a Federal floor of safeguards to protect the confidentiality of medical information. State laws which provide stronger privacy protections will continue to apply over and above the new Federal privacy standards.

## **Hold Harmless Status**

*(as related to the HUD Continuum of Care grant application and process)*

A CoC considered to be in the “hold harmless status” reduces the risk of losing pro rata need if a decision is made to reallocate a portion of its “hold harmless amount” for development of a new permanent housing project.

The “hold harmless amount” is equal to the total funds needed, to fund for one year, the eligible SHP Renewals in a given year. Only those CoCs where the “hold harmless amount” exceeds the preliminary pro rata need are eligible for the “hold harmless status.”

In previous years if a CoC reallocated a portion of its renewal funds for a new project, those funds were lost if the CoC did not score above the full funding line.

In “hold harmless status” a CoC may reallocate funding from one or more of its renewal projects for a new permanent housing project, which will be funded even if the CoC scores below the full funding line as long as it is an eligible permanent supportive housing project (meets threshold requirements and is not the Samaritan bonus project) and the CoC scores at least a 65. The full funding line last year was 86.

Tampa/Hillsborough is eligible for “hold harmless status;” however, there are currently no plans to reallocate funds from renewal projects for anew project this year.

## **HMIS – Homeless Management Information System**

### **HOME Investment Partnerships**

The HOME Investment Partnerships program is a block grant to states and cities for the sole purpose of increasing the amount of affordable housing. Communities can use the funds for housing construction, rehabilitation, and rental assistance. This is currently the largest public source of funding for housing construction. All housing units that use HOME funds are required to be affordable to households with low or moderate incomes (up to 80 percent of area median income). Roughly 40 percent of units are affordable to households with extremely low incomes (up to 30 percent of area median income).

### **Homeless or homeless individual or homeless person** *(as defined by HUD)*

(a) In General

(1) an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and

(2) an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is—

- (A) a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill);
- (B) an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or
- (C) a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

(b) Income Eligibility

(1) In general

A homeless individual shall be eligible for assistance under any program provided by this chapter, only if the individual complies with the income eligibility requirements otherwise applicable to such program.

(2) Exception

Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a homeless individual shall be eligible for assistance under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 [[29 U.S.C. 2801](#) et seq.].

(c) Exclusion

For purposes of this chapter, the term “homeless” or “homeless individual” does not include any individual imprisoned or otherwise detained pursuant to an Act of the Congress or a State law.

**Homeless Children and Youth**

McKinney-Vento Act's Education of Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) subtitle includes a more comprehensive definition of homelessness. This statute states that the term 'homeless child and youth'

(A) means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence... and

(B) includes:

- (i) children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and includes children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;
- (ii) children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a private or public place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- (iii) children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings, and,

(iv) migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

McKinney-Vento Act sec. 725(2); 42 U.S.C. 11435(2).

**Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act – HEARTH Act** Reauthorizes the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Programs that are administered by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HEARTH provides greater decision making at the local level, more closely aligns the HUD definition of homelessness with other federal agency definitions (including the Department of Education), expands resources for emergency shelter and supportive services, provides a framework for greater homeless prevention activity, and allows communities the flexibility to implement a range of housing solutions. A summary of key provisions is included below.

Consolidates all HUD McKinney-Vento housing programs (except Emergency Shelter Grants) into one competitive program with a broad set of eligible activities, including homelessness prevention, permanent or transitional housing for any homeless population, and supportive services. This is the first time that homelessness prevention would be an eligible activity under the competitive portion of HUD’s homeless assistance grants.

Codifies principles of local control over HUD homeless assistance grant funding, by writing the Continuum of Care (CoC) process into law. Without being overly prescriptive, ensures that local agencies serving all homeless populations must participate in the CoC. Allows CoC’s to prioritize particular housing and services initiatives based on demonstrated need in their communities, not because of rigid “one size fits all” priorities set by HUD in Washington, D.C.

Aligns the HUD definition of who is homeless more closely with the definition used by other federal agencies by including people who are living in doubled-up situations or in hotels/motels due to lack of adequate alternatives. This change will provide communities with the flexibility to serve the people who are homeless within their borders.

Does not codify a definition of “chronic homelessness” or a set of incentives designed to end “chronic homelessness.” At the same time, communities wishing to prioritize housing and services for homeless persons living on the streets are free to target dollars to that population.

Protects victims of domestic violence by prohibiting the disclosure of any information collected by a housing or social service provider that could identify them, and by permitting victims of domestic violence who may be in danger to immediately move to a safer living situation.

Includes administrative provisions beneficial to grantees -- requires HUD to release their annual NOFA no later than 3 months after enactment of each year’s appropriations bill, ensures that HUD will make grant awards no later than 5 months after applications are due, and instructs HUD to create an official appeals process for grantees who do not receive funding.

The National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness and the Homeless Coalition of Hillsborough County support the HEARTH Act.

### **Homeless Housing Assistance Grant – HHA**

The Homeless Housing Assistance Grant program is a funding program of the state of Florida. HHA shall be used to assist in the development of transitional housing or permanent housing for the homeless. The grants may be used to support the new construction for housing units, or the rehabilitation of existing housing units.

The grants are made to the designated lead agency of the local homeless continuum of care. The lead agency may contract with other entities to construct and/or rehabilitate the transitional or permanent housing assisted with this grant. It is anticipated that the lead agency will be the applicant on behalf of a specific project development team, including the builder, housing developer and entity that will operate the housing for the homeless upon completion and occupancy. The lead agency shall subcontract with the project team, and the lead agency shall be responsible for assuring the timely completion and occupancy of the housing by the homeless persons.

To be eligible for a Homeless Housing Assistance Grant, the housing project must be specifically identified in the local homeless assistance continuum of care plan, on file with the Office on Homelessness, for the catchment area in which the project is located. The lead agency shall be required to certify and document this in the application.

The maximum grant to a single specific project shall be \$750,000. This is a grant to the project and will not be required to be repaid to the state, provided the lead agency meets the terms and conditions of the grant award agreement, including the completion of construction and occupancy by the homeless for 10 years.

The projects awarded grants shall be based strictly upon the ranking of the applications approved by the Department.

### **Homeless Management Information System – HMIS**

A shared information data base that tracks services received by homeless people, helps identify gaps in services within the continuum, and allows for greater collaboration among service providers as the system provides a 'history' of a homeless person's involvement in the system of care making it easier for caseworkers to evaluate the situation and provide services in the most efficient manner. In addition, the HMIS system can help accurately describe a community's homeless population including unduplicated census counts, need for increased capacity to fill service gaps. This system is required by HUD for all continuums of care.

### **Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program – HVRP**

The Department of Labor operates the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) to provide job placement services to homeless veterans.

### **HOPWA – Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS/HIV**

#### **“Housing America 2007”**

A nationwide campaign to raise public consciousness of the critical need of affordable housing.

#### **Housing Choice Vouchers (formerly Section 8)**

Allows very low-income families to choose and lease or purchase safe, decent, and affordable privately-owned rental housing and are funded through HUD. There are several types of HCVs including: Conversion, Family Unification, Homeownership, Project-based, Tenant-based and People with disabilities. <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/hcv/index.cfm>

## **Housing First**

An approach that centers on providing homeless families and individuals with housing quickly and then providing services as needed.

A Housing First approach rests on the belief that helping people access and sustain permanent, affordable housing should be the central goal of work with people experiencing homelessness. By providing housing assistance, case management and supportive services responsive to individual or family needs (time-limited or long-term) after an individual or family is housed, communities can significantly reduce the time people experience homelessness and prevent further episodes of homelessness. A central tenet of the Housing First approach is that social services to enhance individual and family well-being can be more effective when people are in their own home.

## **Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS/HIV – HOPWA**

The HOPWA Program was established by HUD to address the specific needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families. HOPWA makes grants to local communities, States, and nonprofit organizations for projects that benefit low income persons medically diagnosed with HIV/AIDS and their families.

## **Housing Costs**

Essentially, the costs of occupying housing. Calculated on a monthly basis, housing costs for

- renters include “contract rent, utilities, propter insurance and mobile home park fees.”
- owners it includes the “sum of monthly payments for all mortgages or installment loans or contracts, except reverse annuity mortgages and home equity lines of credit; real estate taxes, property insurance, homeowner association fees (and similar types of these fees), utilities.

Utilities include “electricity, gas, fuels (oil, coal, kerosene or wood), water, sewage disposal, and, garbage and trash collection.

## **Housing Wage**

The minimum hourly wage a worker must earn to afford a two-bedroom apartment at fair market rent without paying more than 30 percent of his or her income in rent.

## **HUD – U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development**

### **HVRP – Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program**

### **Leverage / Leveraging**

“Leveraged” funds are simply a financial commitment toward the costs of a project from a source other than the granting organization.

Leveraging, the maximization of the effect of federal assistance for a project by obtaining additional project funding from non-federal sources, can be achieved by a commitment from the grantee or through various partnerships

Leveraging resources come from outside entities and may come from public or private entities.

**Living Wage**

The hourly wage needed by a full-time working person to be able to afford housing, paying no more than 30 percent of the households income on housing cost, in their community. *See also: Universal Living Wage*

**Low-income**

An annual income not in excess of 80 percent of the median income for the area, as determined by HUD.

**Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program – LIHEAP**

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program provides federal funds to states and other jurisdictions to assist eligible households to pay heat and cooling expenses.

**Match**

A designated amount of resources that will be used to “match” the amount of funding being awarded by a grant. (I.E. If a grant requires a dollar for dollar match; then the organization is required to secure \$1 for every \$1 provided by the grantor. Match is the contribution by the awardee toward eligible costs of the project in the form of cash, in-kind, or donated materials

**Mainstream Programs**

Programs that are not specifically targeted to homeless people, including Medicaid, food stamps, Social Security Disability, Workforce programs, Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF)

**McKinney-Vento** *(info adapted from the National Coalition for the Homeless Fact Sheet)*

The Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (PL100-77) was the first -- and remains the only -- major federal legislative response to homelessness. This fact sheet provides a brief history of the McKinney Act, describes its content and evolution, and summarizes recent trends in McKinney Act legislation and funding. A list of resources for further reading is also provided.

History

In the early 1980s, the initial responses to widespread and increasing homelessness were primarily local. Homelessness was viewed by the Reagan Administration as a problem that did not require federal intervention. In 1983, the first federal task force on homelessness was created to provide information to localities on how to obtain surplus federal property; this task force did not address homelessness through programmatic or policy actions. In the years that followed, advocates around the country demanded that the federal government acknowledge homelessness as a national problem requiring a national response. With this goal in mind, the Homeless Persons' Survival Act was introduced in both houses of Congress in 1986.

This act contained emergency relief measures, preventive measures, and long-term solutions to homelessness. Only small pieces of this proposal, however, were enacted into law. The first, the Homeless Eligibility Clarification Act of 1986, removed permanent address requirements and other barriers to existing programs such as Supplemental Security Income, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Veterans Benefits, Food Stamps, and Medicaid. Also in 1986, the Homeless Housing Act was adopted. This legislation created the Emergency Shelter Grant program and a transitional housing demonstration program; both programs were administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

In late 1986, legislation containing Title I of the Homeless Persons' Survival Act – emergency relief provisions for shelter, food, mobile health care, and transitional housing -- was

introduced as the Urgent Relief for the Homeless Act. After an intensive advocacy campaign, large bipartisan majorities in both houses of Congress passed the legislation in 1987. After the death of its chief Republican sponsor, Representative Stewart B. McKinney of Connecticut, the act was renamed the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act. A reluctant President Ronald Reagan signed it into law on July 22, 1987.

### Content

The McKinney Act originally consisted of fifteen programs providing a range of services to homeless people, including emergency shelter, transitional housing, job training, primary health care, education, and some permanent housing. The McKinney Act contains nine titles:

- Title I of the McKinney Act includes a statement of six findings by Congress and provides a definition of homelessness.
- Title II establishes and describes the functions of the Interagency Council on the Homeless, an independent entity within the Executive Branch composed of the heads of 15 federal agencies.
- Title III of the McKinney Act authorizes the Emergency Food and Shelter Program, which is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- Title IV authorizes the emergency shelter and transitional housing programs administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, including the Emergency Shelter Grant program (expanded from the program created by the Homeless Housing Act in 1986), the Supportive Housing Demonstration Program, Supplemental Assistance for Facilities to Assist the Homeless, and Section 8 Single Room Occupancy Moderate Rehabilitation.
- Title V of the McKinney Act imposes requirements on federal agencies to identify and make available surplus federal property, such as buildings and land, for use by states, local governments, and nonprofit agencies to assist homeless people.
- Title VI authorizes several programs administered by the Department of Health and Human Services to provide health care services to homeless persons, including the Health Care for the Homeless program, a Community Mental Health Services block grant program, and two demonstration programs providing mental health and alcohol and drug abuse treatment services to homeless persons.
- Title VII of the McKinney Act authorizes four programs: the Adult Education for the Homeless Program and the Education of Homeless Children and Youth Program, both administered by the Department of Education; the Job Training for the Homeless Demonstration Program, administered by the Department of Labor; and the Emergency Community Services Homeless Grant Program, administered by the Department of Health and Human Services.
- Title VIII amends the Food Stamp program to facilitate participation in the program by persons who are homeless, and also expands the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program, administered by the Department of Agriculture.
- Title IX of the McKinney Act extends the Veterans Job Training Act.

## Evolution

The McKinney Act has been amended four times: in 1988, 1990, 1992 and 1994. These amendments have, for the most part, expanded the scope and strengthened the provisions of the original legislation.

In 1988, Congress amended the McKinney Act with relatively minor changes. The 1988 amendments mostly served to expand eligible activities and to modify the distribution of McKinney funds.

The 1990 amendments were more far reaching, altering the majority of programs authorized by the original act. In addition to expanding eligible activities for several McKinney Act programs, a few new programs were created. These included the Shelter Plus Care program, which provides housing assistance to homeless individuals with disabilities, mental illness, AIDS, and drug or alcohol addiction, and a demonstration program within the Health Care for the Homeless program to provide primary health care and outreach to at-risk and homeless children. Also in 1990, the Community Mental Health Services program was amended and given a new name: the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) program. The 1990 amendments also specified in greater detail the obligations of states and local educational agencies in assuring the access of homeless children and youth to public education. The amendments also increased the Education of Homeless Children and Youth program's authorization and required states to make grants to local educational agencies for the purpose of implementing the law.

The 1992 amendments modified and expanded Title IV of the McKinney Act, the shelter and housing provisions. Included in these amendments were the creation of "safe havens," or very low cost shelter for persons unwilling or unable to participate in supportive services; the creation of a Rural Homeless Housing Assistance grant program; and the consolidation of the mental health services demonstration program and the alcohol and drug abuse treatment demonstration program into the Access to Community Care and Effective Services and Support (ACCESS) program. The ACCESS demonstration program was designed to fund projects that integrate services for severely mentally ill people.

In 1994, Congress amended the Education of the Homeless Children and Youth program and the Surplus Property Program. The amendments to the Education of Homeless Children and Youth program provided local educational authorities with greater flexibility in the use of funds; specified the rights of homeless preschoolers to a free and appropriate public preschool education; gave parents of homeless children and youth a voice regarding their children's school placement; and required educational authorities to coordinate with housing authorities. The 1994 amendments also removed military bases closed under base-closure laws from the McKinney Act process and created a new process under which service providers could apply to Local Redevelopment Agencies to use property at closed bases to assist homeless persons.

The McKinney-Vento Act is currently up for reauthorization.

**NAEH – National Alliance to End Homelessness**

**NAHRO – National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials**

**NCH – National Coalition for the Homeless**

### **National Alliance to End Homelessness – NAEH**

The National Alliance to End Homelessness is a nonpartisan, mission-driven organization committed to preventing and ending homelessness in the United States. The National Alliance to End Homelessness is a leading voice on the issue of homelessness. The Alliance analyzes policy and develops pragmatic, cost-effective policy solutions. We work collaboratively with the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to build state and local capacity, leading to stronger programs and policies that help homeless individuals and families make positive changes in their lives. We provide data and research to policymakers and elected officials in order to inform policy debates and educate the public and opinion leaders nationwide. [www.endhomelessness.org](http://www.endhomelessness.org)

### **National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials – NAHRO**

The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) is a professional membership organization comprised of 21,227 housing and community development agencies and officials throughout the United States who administer a variety of affordable housing and community development programs at the local level.

NAHRO's mission is to create affordable housing and safe, viable communities that enhance the quality of life for all Americans, especially those of low- and moderate-income by:

- Ensuring that housing and community development professionals have the leadership skills, education, information and tools to serve communities in a rapidly changing environment;
- Advocating for appropriate laws and policies which are sensitive to the needs of the people served, are financially and programmatically viable for our industry, are flexible, promote deregulation and local decision making; and
- Fostering the highest standards of ethical behavior, service and accountability.

NAHRO enhances the professional development and effectiveness of its members through its comprehensive professional development curriculum, conferences, and publications. Through these efforts we are working to equip NAHRO and our membership with the skills, knowledge, and abilities necessary to survive and prosper in a changing environment, and make our Association more efficient and effective. [www.nahro.org](http://www.nahro.org)

### **National Coalition for the Homeless – NCH**

The National Coalition for the Homeless, founded in 1984, is a national network of people who are currently experiencing or who have experienced homelessness, activists and advocates, community-based and faith-based service providers, and others committed to a single mission. That mission, our common bond, is to end homelessness. NCH is committed to creating the systemic and attitudinal changes necessary to prevent and end homelessness. At the same time, NCH works to meet the immediate needs of people who are currently experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of doing so. NCH takes as their first principle of practice that people who are currently experiencing homelessness or have formerly experienced homelessness must be actively involved in all of our work. [www.nationalhomeless.org](http://www.nationalhomeless.org)

### **National Low Income Housing Coalition – NLIHC**

The National Low Income Housing Coalition is dedicated solely to ending America's affordable housing crisis. We believe that this is achievable, that the affordable housing crisis is a problem that Americans are capable of solving. While we are concerned about the housing circumstances of all low income people, we focus our advocacy on those with the most serious housing problems, the lowest income households. [www.nlihc.org](http://www.nlihc.org)

## **National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness – NPACH**

A grass roots anti-poverty organization whose mission is to ensure that national homelessness policy accurately reflects the needs and experiences of local communities. [www.npach.org](http://www.npach.org)

## **NLIHC – National Low Income Housing Coalition**

## **NPACH – National Policy and Advocacy Council**

## **NOFA – Notice of Funding Available**

When an agency or governmental body has funding available they issue an official NOFA which generally includes a request for proposals by organizations to use the funding for the purpose stated in the notice

## **Outreach**

The initial and most critical step in connecting, or reconnecting a homeless individual to needed health, mental health, recovery, social welfare, and housing services. Outreach is primarily directed toward finding homeless people who might not use services due to lack of awareness or active avoidance, and who would otherwise be ignored or underserved. Outreach is viewed as a process rather than an outcome, with a focus on establishing rapport and a goal of eventually engaging people in the services they need and will accept. Outreach is first and foremost a process of relationship-building.

## **Overcrowded Housing Units**

Generally defined as having more than 1 person per room.

## **P.A.T.H. – Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness**

## **Permanent Housing**

The definition of permanent housing includes persons living in the following situations:

- Market Rate Housing – Person renting on their own within the community
- Homeownership – persons owning their own homes
- Section 8 Program – persons renting in the community with the assistance of a voucher or certificate funded through the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The voucher covers the rental difference between an individual or family who pays between 30% and 40% of their adjusted gross income towards rent with HUD paying the rest.
- Shelter + Care – Formally homeless persons whose rent is subsidized through funding received from HUD
- Permanent Supportive Housing for Handicapped Homeless – Formally homeless persons whose rent is subsidized through funding received from HUD

## **Permanent Housing for Persons with Disabilities**

Another type of supportive housing; It is long-term community-based housing and has supportive services for homeless persons with disabilities. This type of supportive housing enables special needs populations to live as independently as possible in a permanent setting.

## **PIT – Point in Time**

### **Places for People**

Hillsborough County's 10-year plan to end homelessness, completed in 2002. This document is available on the Coalition's website at <http://www.homelessofhc.org/HCActionPFP.html>

### **Point In Time Census – PIT**

A 'snapshot' of the homeless population taken on a given day. Point in Time Census is required by HUD to be conducted the last week of January, at least every 2 years. The count includes a street count in addition to a count of all clients in emergency and transitional shelters.

### **Precariously Housed**

People on the edge of becoming literally homeless who may be doubled up with friends and relatives or paying extremely high proportions of their resources for rent. The group is often characterized as being at imminent risk of becoming homeless.

### **Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program**

The goals of the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program (PSSF), authorized through the Social Security Act, are to prevent the unnecessary separation of children from their families, improve the quality of care and services to children and their families, and ensure permanency for children by reuniting them with their parents, by adoption or by another permanent living arrangement. The services are designed to help state child welfare agencies and eligible Indian tribes establish and operate integrated, preventive family preservation services and community based family support services for families at risk or in crisis. The programs include family support, family preservation, time-limited family reunification, and adoption promotion and support services.

### **PRN – Pro Rata Need**

#### **Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness**

The Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) program allocates funds by formula to states to serve homeless people with serious mental illness. Eligible services include outreach, screening and diagnosis, habilitation and rehabilitation, community mental health services, substance abuse treatment, case management, residential supervision, and housing.

#### **Pro Rata Need – PRN**

The term used to describe the relative portion of national homeless assistance need assigned to a community or group of communities in HUD's Continuum of Care (CoC) competition. The "pro rata need amount" is the expression of relative homeless assistance need in dollar terms for use in scoring the "need" rating factor within a CoC competition.

To learn how HUD determines a community's PRN, visit the HUDs CoC Questions and Answers document at the weblink below. PRN information can be found on pages 17-19.

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/nofa07/coc-qa.pdf>

### **Public Housing**

Established to provide decent and safe rental housing for eligible low-income families, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Public housing comes in all sizes and types, from scattered single family houses to high-rise apartments for elderly families. There are approximately 1.3 million households living in public housing units, managed by some 3,300 Housing Agencies (Has). The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) administers Federal aid to local (HAS) that manage the housing for low-income residents at

rents they can afford. HUD furnishes technical and professional assistance in planning, developing and managing these developments. (source: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/index.cfm>)

### **Recuperative Care Center**

A facility for homeless persons who are released from hospitals that provides time to recuperate with medical support and to coordinate placement into housing

### **Runaway and Homeless Youth Act**

The Family and Youth Services Bureau, part of the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families, administers the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act programs. The three programs include:

The Basic Center Program, which provides financial assistance to meet the immediate needs of runaway and homeless youth and their families including emergency shelter, reunification when possible, food, clothing, counseling and facilitating access to health care;

The Transitional Living Program which supports projects that provide long-term residential services to homeless youth ages 16 to 21 for up to 18 months; and

The Street Outreach Program, which provides funds to private and nonprofit agencies performing outreach efforts designed to move youth off the streets.

### **Ryan White CARE Act**

The Ryan White CARE Act programs address the unmet health needs of persons living with HIV disease by funding primary health care and support services. The CARE Act reaches over for people living with HIV. The Ryan White CARE Act consists of several programs. The largest of these are:

Emergency Assistance (Title I): Includes outpatient medical and dental care, prescription drugs, mental health and substance abuse services, transitional housing, and case management;

Comprehensive Care (Title II): Includes outpatient medical, dental, developmental and rehabilitative, home and community based services; and

Early Intervention (Title III): Funds community based organizations, health care for the homeless centers, and city and county health departments to provide medical and support services, including case management and mental health services.

### **S+C – Shelter Plus Care**

#### **Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund**

The Sadowski Affordable Housing Act passed in 1992 created a Housing Trust Fund to help build affordable housing throughout Florida. The revenue for this fund is generated by a small tax on the real-estate documentary-stamp fees. Florida used the housing trust fund monies exclusively for housing from 1993 to 2003, fully funding housing each year. Since that time, funding was reduced with housing trust fund monies either diverted or left unappropriated.

### **Safe Haven**

A residential program that serves hard-to-reach homeless persons who have severe mental illness, are on the streets and have been unable or unwilling to participate in supportive services.

They provide 24-residence for an unspecified duration and may provide support services to eligible persons who are not residents, on a drop-in basis. Safe Havens do not require participation in services and referrals as a condition of occupancy. Rather, it is hoped that after a period of stabilization in a safe haven, resident will be more willing to participate in services and referrals and will eventually be ready to move to more traditional form of housing.

### **SAIL – State Apartment Incentive Loan Program**

#### **Samaritan Housing Initiative**

This special incentive to promote permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless persons is provided to Continuum of Care systems that place an eligible, new permanent housing project in the number one priority position on the priority list.

### **SAMHSA – Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration**

#### **Second Chance Act**

An essential step to ending homelessness is preventing public institutions such as correctional facilities from discharging people to the streets or shelters. Initiatives that establish a zero tolerance policy for discharging people from the criminal justice system into homelessness are already underway in states such as Massachusetts and Kentucky, where corrections officials are beginning to connect with community-based groups and services to help prepare people to meet their housing, income, and service needs before they are released.

#### **Section 8 (Housing Choice Vouchers)**

A federally created program for low-income people who wish to live in privately owned housing and receive rental assistance, usually through a system of providing housing vouchers

#### **Section 202 – HUD Supportive Housing for the Elderly Program**

HUD provides capital advances to finance the construction, rehabilitation or acquisition with or without rehabilitation of structures that will serve as supportive housing for very low-income elderly persons, including the frail elderly, and provides rent subsidies for the projects to help make them affordable.

The Section 202 program helps expand the supply of affordable housing with supportive services for the elderly. It provides very low-income elderly with options that allow them to live independently but in an environment that provides support activities such as cleaning, cooking, transportation, etc. The program is similar to Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities (Section 811).

HUD provides interest-free capital advances to private, nonprofit sponsors to finance the development of supportive housing for the elderly. The capital advance does not have to be repaid as long as the project serves very low-income elderly persons for 40 years.

Project rental assistance funds are provided to cover the difference between the HUD-approved operating cost for the project and the tenants' contribution towards rent. Project rental

assistance contracts are approved initially for 5 years and are renewable based on the availability of funds.

The available program funds for a fiscal year are allocated to HUD's local offices according to factors established by the Department.

### **Section 811 – Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities**

HUD provides funding to nonprofit organizations to develop rental housing with the availability of supportive services for very low-income adults with disabilities, and provides rent subsidies for the projects to help make them affordable.

The Section 811 program allows persons with disabilities to live as independently as possible in the community by increasing the supply of rental housing with the availability of supportive services. The program also provides project rental assistance, which covers the difference between the HUD-approved operating costs of the project and the tenants' contribution toward rent. The program is similar to Supportive Housing for the Elderly (Section 202).

HUD provides interest-free capital advances to nonprofit sponsors to help them finance the development of rental housing such as independent living projects, condominium units and small group homes with the availability of supportive services for persons with disabilities. The capital advance can finance the construction, rehabilitation, or acquisition with or without rehabilitation of supportive housing. The advance does not have to be repaid as long as the housing remains available for very low-income persons with disabilities for at least 40 years.

HUD also provides project rental assistance; this covers the difference between the HUD-approved operating cost of the project and the amount the residents pay--usually 30 percent of adjusted income. The initial term of the project rental assistance contract is 5 years and can be renewed if funds are available. The available program funds for a fiscal year are allocated to HUD's local offices according to factors established by the Department.

Each project must have a supportive services plan. The appropriate State or local agency reviews a potential sponsor's application to determine if the plan is well designed to meet the needs of persons with disabilities and must certify to the same. Services may vary with the target population but could include case management, training in independent living skills and assistance in obtaining employment. However, residents cannot be required to accept any supportive service as a condition of occupancy.

### **SELHA – Services for Ending Long-Term Homelessness Act**

#### **Services for Ending Long-Term Homelessness Act – SELHA**

Current federal advocacy efforts seek to pass SELHA which will establish a grant program run by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for services to end chronic homelessness. Under this proposed legislation and proposed new grant program, priority will be given to applicants that target funds to people that are homeless for longer than one year, frequently use the ER, or interact regularly with law enforcement. Services provided by the grant awardees may include mental health services, substance abuse treatment, referrals for primary health care and dental services, health education, money management, and parental skills training.

**Severe Weather Shelter**

Similar to cold weather shelter, severe weather shelters open during times of extreme weather conditions including heat waves and tropical storms/hurricanes.

**SHIP – State Housing Initiatives Program****SHP – Supportive Housing Program****Shelter Plus Care – S+C**

Provides grants for rental assistance for homeless persons with disabilities through four component programs: Tenant, Sponsor, Project, and Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Rental Assistance.

**Single Room Occupancy – SRO**

Provides rental assistance on behalf of homeless individuals in connection with moderate rehabilitation of SRO dwellings

**Special Needs**

A 'generic' term that can include persons with mental illness, physical and/or mental disability, co-occurring disorders, substance abuse, domestic violence victims, and HIV+/AIDS, youth aging out of foster care, runaways.

**SOAR - SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery**

SOAR is a comprehensive interviewing and information gathering model based on the Steps to Recovery curriculum to help people with disabilities apply for and receive in the most efficient manner SSI/SSDI benefit.

Chronically homeless people often have mental and physical disabilities which qualify them for SSI/SSDI benefits. Assisting these individuals increases their income, improves access to mainstream services and is a step towards ending their homelessness.

**Social Service Block Grant – SSBG**

A grant administered by the US Department of Health and Human Service's Administration for Children and Family, the SSBG funds are to enable each state to furnish social services best suited to meet the needs of the individuals residing within the state. Such services may be provided but are not limited to: daycare for children or adults, protective services for children or adults, special services to persons with disabilities, adoption, counseling, case management, family planning, health-related, transportation, foster care for children or adults, substance abuse, legal, housing, home-delivered meals, congregate meals, independent/transitional living, special services for youth, employment services or any other social services found necessary by the state for its population.

Services funded by the SSBG must be directed at one or more of these five goals:

- achieving or maintaining economic self-support to prevent, reduce or eliminate dependency
- achieving or maintaining self-sufficiency, including reduction or prevention of dependency
- preventing or remedying neglect, abuse or exploitation of children and adults unable to protect their own interest, or preserving, rehabilitating or reuniting families
- preventing or reducing inappropriate institutional care by providing for community-based care, home-based care or other forms of less intensive care

- securing referral or admission for institutional care when other forms of care are not appropriate or providing services to individuals in institutions.

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/ssbg/>

### **Special Needs Populations**

“Persons with Special Needs” or “Special Needs Population” means a person with a disability as defined by U.S. HUD; or a person receiving SSI; or a young adult exiting foster care up to the age of 22 or other households requiring professional supportive living services in order to maintain their housing and/or develop independent living skills.

According to the Shimberg Center, as of 2004, twenty-two percent (22%) of all renter households in Florida include one or more members with a self-reported disability. There were an estimated 2,011,009 renter households in Florida, representing almost 30% of 6,815,639 total households statewide. 446,408 total renter households in Florida include one or more members with a self reported disability. (*Demographic Profile of Extremely Low Income Households*, dated January 2006)

Since the assistance provided to a disabled person in Florida, \$603 per month, is not enough to afford an efficiency anywhere in the State, it stands to reason that people relying exclusively on that income are “at risk” of becoming homeless.

### **SRO – Single Room Occupancy**

### **SSBG – Social Services Block Grant**

### **SSDI – Social Security Disability Insurance**

### **SSI – Supplemental Security Income**

### **SSO – Supportive Services Only**

### **Social Security Disability Insurance – SSDI**

A Federal Program administered by the Social Security Administration that provides wage replacement income for those who pay FICA taxes when they have a disability meeting Social Security disability rules. You are ‘insured’ if you have worked long enough and paid Social Security taxes.

SSDI provides a variety of benefits to family members when a primary wage earner in the family becomes disabled or dies. SSDI is financed with Social Security taxes paid by workers, employers, and self-employed persons. SSDI benefits are payable to disabled workers, widows, widowers, and children or adults disabled since childhood who are otherwise eligible.

### **Supplemental Security Income – SSI**

A Federal program administered by the Social Security Administration that was established to provide cash assistance to individuals who:

- Have limited income and resources;
- Are age 65 or older;
- Are blind; or
- Are disabled.

**Stand Down**

One part of the Department of Veterans Affairs' efforts to provide services to homeless veterans. Stand Downs are typically one to three day events providing services to homeless veterans such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, VA and Social Security benefits counseling, and referrals to a variety of other necessary services, such as housing, employment and substance abuse treatment. Stand Downs are collaborative events, coordinated between local VAs, other government agencies, and community agencies who serve the homeless.

The first Stand Down was organized in 1988 by a group of Vietnam veterans in San Diego. Since then, Stand Downs have been used as an effective tool in reaching out to homeless veterans, reaching more than 200,000 veterans and their family members between 1994-2000.

**State Apartment Incentive Loan Program – SAIL**

The SAIL program provides gap financing for the construction of multifamily housing. It is administered by Florida Housing Finance Corporation through its annual "Universal Cycle," which also makes available other program resources in the same cycle.

**State Housing Initiatives Partnership – SHIP**

A program dedicated state and local housing trust fund for affordable housing activities throughout Florida

**Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration – SAMHSA**

Part of the US Department of Health and Human Services and provides a variety of grants to fund mental health services, substance abuse prevention and substance abuse treatment. [www.samhas.gov](http://www.samhas.gov)

**Substandard Housing**

Housing units are considered to be substandard if they are overcrowded, do not have heat, or lack complete kitchens or plumbing.

**SuperNOFA**

A 'super' notice of funding happens when HUD consolidates the notice of funding for several grant programs into one 'super' notice. Although they may release the notices at the same time, it is important to review each grant program specifics as they have different submission deadlines and requirements.

**Supportive Housing**

Supportive housing is affordable housing integrated with a comprehensive, individualized service delivery system that allows people to live successfully in the community with stable permanent housing.

Supportive housing is the proven solution for stabilizing and housing people with special needs, including individuals and families challenged with homelessness, people with physical or developmental disabilities, frail elders, victims of violence, people with a mental illness, youth exiting foster care, people living with AIDS, the formerly incarcerated, certain veterans and people overcoming addictions.

**Supportive Housing Program – SHP**

HUD's SHP helps develop housing and related supportive services for people moving from homelessness to independent living. Program funds help homeless people live in a stable place, increase their skills or income, and gain more control over the decisions that affect their lives.

### **Supportive Services Only – SSO**

Projects that address the service needs of homeless persons. Projects are classified as this component only if the project sponsor is not also providing housing to the same persons receiving the services.

SSO projects may be in a structure(s) at a central site, or they may be in multiple structures at scattered sites where services are delivered. Projects may also be operated independent of a structure, e.g., street outreach or mobile vans for health care. Regardless of the design, SSO project applications must contain a full description of how homeless persons will be assisted to obtain and remain in permanent housing and how homeless persons will be assisted in increasing their incomes and in living independently.

### **TA – Technical Assistance**

### **TANF – Temporary Assistance for Needy Families**

### **TBRA – Tenant Based Rental Assistance**

#### **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families – TANF**

Provides assistance and work opportunities to needy families by granting states the federal funds and wide flexibility to develop and implement their own welfare programs. Citizens may apply for assistance at their local TANF agency. <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa>

#### **Tenant Based Rental Assistance – TBRA**

A program that provides families and individuals with very low and extremely low incomes with housing assistance. TBRA programs allow participants to choose any housing that meets the requirements (safety standards, fair market rent level, etc.) of the program and is not limited to units located in subsidized housing projects. In most programs, the participant pays 30 percent of their income towards their rent and the housing assistance pays the remaining rent amount directly to the landlord.

### **Transitional Housing**

Is one type of supportive housing used to facilitate the movement of homeless individuals and families to permanent housing; basically it is housing in which homeless persons live for up to 24 months and receive supportive service that enable them to live independently. The supportive service may be provided by the organization managing the housing or coordinated by them and provided by other public or private agencies.

### **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development – HUD**

The Federal Government department that oversees all federal homeless and housing programs and funding.

### **U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness**

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness operates as an office of the White House Domestic Policy Council. Its mission is to coordinate the federal government's response to homelessness through cooperation across all federal departments and agencies. The Council is funded as an Independent Agency in the same bill that funds HUD. [www.usich.gov](http://www.usich.gov)

### **UNITY Information System**

The Homeless Coalition of Hillsborough County's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). This data collection software application is designed to record and store client-level

information on the characteristics and service needs of homeless persons. The UNITY Information Network is a web-based program that homeless assistance providers use to coordinate care, manage their operations, and better serve their clients.

UNITY creates a more coordinated and effective, housing and service delivery system.

### **UNITY Partner Agency**

Any agency with a signed agreement using the UNITY Information Network.

### **Universal Data Elements**

Data required to be collected from each adult, unaccompanied youth, and child under the age of 18 in a household, who apply for a homeless assistance service. These data elements include name, social security number, date of birth, ethnicity and race, gender, veteran status, disabling condition, residence prior to program entry, zip code of last permanent address, program entry and exit date.

These data elements make it possible to generate an unduplicated count of homeless people accessing services from homeless providers, basic demographic characteristics of homeless people, and their patterns of service use. The data elements will also allow us to measure the number of chronically homeless people who use homeless services along with producing information on shelter stays and homelessness episodes over time.

### **Universal Living Wage**

Based on the premise that anyone working 40 hours a week should be able to get/afford housing in their community. The Universal Living Wage is DYNAMIC. The Universal Living Wage is Dynamic in the purest sense of the word. It is designed to show what salary a full-time, minimum-wage worker would need to be paid in order to afford a certain bedroom size. It is based on HUD's standard that no more than 30 percent of a person's/household's gross income should be spent on housing. [www.univerallivingwage.org](http://www.univerallivingwage.org)

### **Universal Living Wage Formula**

Example for a one-bedroom apartment in Austin, TX if Austin chooses to use the wage needed for an one bedroom apartment as their "universal living wage."

#### **ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT**

1. **HUD STANDARD:** No more than **30%** of a person's gross income should be spent on Housing.
2. **HUD Fair Market Rent: \$667**(One Bedroom Apartment, in Austin, San Marcos, TX)
3. **TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME: \$667** divided by **.3 = \$2223.33** monthly gross income necessary to afford basic housing.
4. **PREMISE:** Anyone working **40** hours per week should be able to get housing and get off of the streets.<sup>1</sup>
5. **WORK HOURS: 40** hours/week @ **4.33** weeks/month = **173.33** work hours/month, **173.33** work hours X **12** months = **2080** hours/year.
6. **Total Gross Monthly Income** of **\$2223.33** X **12** months = **\$26,680****\$26,680** divided by **2080** hours/year = **\$12.83/hour**

## NEW HOURLY WAGE in Austin, TX.

### 7. Total Monthly Expenditures:

<b>\$2223.33</b>	Total Gross Monthly Income <sup>2</sup>
<b>- \$ 503.58</b>	Fed. Taxes, Soc Sec., Medicare sup
<b>- \$ 667.00</b>	Housing Costs
<b>\$1052.75</b>	Remaining for: Medical, Clothing, Food, Transportation and Telephone

<sup>1</sup>Whether a person works 4 hours per week or 40 hours per week, they should be paid at the full 40 hour rate. A full hours work deserves a full hours wage.

<sup>2</sup>Minus **\$333.50** for Federal Income Tax, **\$137.85** for Social Security, and **\$32.24** for Medicare. The Federal Income Tax rate (15%) is based on the monthly deductions outline in the Internal Revenue Circular E, Employers' Tax Guide (Rev. Jan, 2000), Social Security is **6.2%** of gross monthly income, and Medicare is **1.45%** of gross monthly income (Total equals **\$503.58**)

### VAWA – Violence Against Women Act

#### Very low-income

An annual income not in excess of 50 percent of the median income for the area

#### Violence Against Women Act – VAWA

The Violence Against Women Act of 2005, which is a reauthorization and expansion of VAWA, contains groundbreaking new initiatives to help children exposed to violence, train health care providers to support victims of abuse, encourage men to teach the next generation that violence is wrong, and provide crisis services for victims of rape and sexual assault. It also continues efforts to improve the law enforcement response to violence against women and provide supportive services, such as transitional housing, to women and children forced to leave their homes because of violence.

**Voucher** – A government payment to, or on behalf of, a household, to be used solely to pay a portion of the household's housing costs in the private market. Vouchers are considered tenant-based assistance because they are not typically connected to a particular property or unit but are issued to the tenant.

#### YIMBY

Yes In My Back Yard – the opposite of NIMBY (Not in My Back Yard)

Submissions, suggestions, additions, changes and all other input is welcome and encouraged. Please direct input to Lesa Weikel at [Lesa@homelessofhc.org](mailto:Lesa@homelessofhc.org).