

Blue Ridge Continuum of Care

Common Acronyms List

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act The ADA is federal legislation that was signed into law on July 26, 1990. The ADA is a wide-ranging civil rights law that prohibits, under certain circumstances, discrimination based on disability.
CBO	Community Based Organization The focus of CBOs is to improve the general physical characteristics of a community.
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant The CDBG is a HUD program that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs.
CH	Chronically Homeless A chronically homeless person is defined by HUD as an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continually homeless for a year or more or has had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years.
CoC	Continuum of Care The Continuum of Care refers to a community plan to organize and deliver housing and services to meet the specific needs of people who are homeless as they move to stable housing and maximum self-sufficiency. It includes action steps to end homelessness and prevent a return to homelessness. It also refers to the system of services that help people move from homelessness to housing.
COI	Conflict of Interest HUD outlines COI provisions and exceptions relating to some of their programs
EFSP	Emergency Food and Shelter Program The EFSP allocates federal funds to local communities for programs such as soup kitchens, food banks, shelters, and homelessness prevention services.
EH	Emergency Housing Emergency housing is a temporary shelter with services that are designed to facilitate the transition from sleeping in places not meant for human habitation to appropriate housing for homeless individuals and families.

ES	<p>Emergency Shelter</p> <p>An emergency shelter is a short-term shelter providing services designed to facilitate homeless individuals and families transition from sleeping in places not meant for human habitation to appropriate housing. Emergency shelter is provided free of charge for a maximum of ninety (90) days and is operated on a 24-hour basis. On a case-by-case basis, clients may remain for longer than ninety days if they require longer period to accomplish a specific goal.</p>
ESG	<p>Emergency Shelter Grant</p> <p>Emergency Shelter Grants provide homeless persons with basic shelter and essential supportive services. Grantees are state governments, large cities, and urban counties.</p>
FEMA	<p>Federal Emergency Management Agency</p> <p>FEMA is part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The mission of FEMA is to reduce the loss of life and property and protect the Nation from all hazards, including natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters, by leading and supporting the Nation in a risk-based, comprehensive emergency management system of preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation.</p>
FMR	<p>Fair Market Rent</p> <p>Under HUD, FMRs are primarily used to determine payment standard amounts for the Housing Choice Voucher program, to determine initial renewal rents for some expiring project-based Section 8 contracts, to determine initial rents for housing assistance payment (HAP) contracts in the Moderate Rehabilitation Single Room Occupancy program (Mod Rehab), and to serve as a rent ceiling in the HOME rental assistance program.</p>
FOIA	<p>Freedom of Information Act</p> <p>The FOIA is federal legislation that allows for the full or partial disclosure of previously unreleased information and documents controlled by the U.S. Government. FOIA outlines procedures relating to disclosure and the agency records that are must be disclosed.</p>
HEARTH	<p>Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act</p> <p>The HEARTH Act amends and reauthorizes the McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance Act with substantial changes, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A consolidation of HUD's competitive grant programs • The creation of a Rural Housing Stability Assistance Program • A change in HUD's definition of homelessness and chronic homelessness • A simplified match requirement • An increase in prevention resources • An increase in emphasis on performance

HMIS	<p>Homeless Management Information System</p> <p>HMIS is a computerized data collection system designed to capture client information over time on the characteristics, service needs and accomplishments of homeless persons. HUD requires all CoC applicants to demonstrate progress in implementing HMIS.</p>
HOPWA	<p>Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS</p> <p>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</p>
HUD	<p>U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development</p> <p>HUD is a federal department created in 1965 to increase homeownership, support community development and housing free from discrimination. Since 1987, HUD has been responsible for funding homeless programs, which today comprise the CoC.</p>
MI	<p>Mentally Ill</p> <p>Programs that are tailored for individuals with mental illness are programs that serve individuals substantially limited in one or more major life activity by mental illness, based on confirmed clinical diagnosis, or initially by referral or staff assessment and later confirmed by clinical diagnosis.</p>
NIMBY	<p>Not In My Back Yard</p> <p>The term “NIMBY” describes the opposition of residents to the nearby location of something they consider undesirable.</p>
OR	<p>Outreach Services</p> <p>The goal of outreach services is to assist clients to get off the streets or out of places not meant for human habitation and into any form of housing in the CoC. Outreach services may be provided during the day or at night.</p>
PH	<p>Permanent Housing</p> <p>Permanent housing for persons with disabilities is long-term housing that is commonly community-based with supportive services designed to enable homeless persons with disabilities to live as independently as possible in a permanent setting. Permanent housing can be provided in one structure or several structures at one site or in multiple structures at scattered sites.</p>
PRA	<p>Project-Based Rental Assistance</p> <p>PRAs are a HUD eligible components of the S+C program.</p>

- PSH** **Permanent Supportive Housing**
Permanent Supportive Housing programs provide permanent housing and supportive services for homeless persons with physical and/or mental health disabilities.
- SH** **Safe Haven**
Safe havens are supportive housing that shall not require participation in services and referrals as a condition of occupancy. Instead, it is hoped that after a period of stabilization in a safe haven, residents will be more willing to participate in services and referrals, and will eventually be ready to move to more traditional forms of housing.
- SHP** **Supportive Housing Program**
The Supportive Housing Program is a HUD CoC Homeless Assistance Program that provides funding for the development and operation of programs that help homeless persons transition from homelessness to living as independently as possible.
- S+C** **Shelter Plus Care**
The Shelter Plus Care Program is a HUD CoC Homeless Assistance Program that provides funding for rental assistance. The program serves homeless persons with disabilities and requires appropriate supportive services to be provided. Programs are administered by the Housing Authorities.
- SRA** **Sponsor-Based Rental Assistance**
SRAs are a HUD eligible components of the S+C program.
- SRO** **Single Room Occupancy**
SROs are private rooms that contain either food preparation or sanitary facilities, or both, that are designed for occupancy by a single individual.
- SSDI** **Social Security Disability Insurance**
SSDI is an insurance program for disabled people who have paid FICA taxes for a certain number of calendar quarters. SSDI pays a variable monthly benefit amount, which depends on your work history. Payments begin after a 5-month waiting period from the time of disability. The Social Security Administration (SSA) administers SSDI.
- SSI** **Supplemental Security Income**
SSI is a federal income supplement program funded by general tax revenues and not Social Security taxes. SSI is designed to help aged and disabled people who have little or no income and provides cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter.

- SSO** **Supportive Services Only**
SSO projects provide services designed to address the special 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. Examples of SSO projects include: medical services; childcare; employment programs; mental health services; substance abuse treatment; etc.
- SuperNOFA** **Super Notice of Funding Availability**
By using a SuperNOFA, HUD announces the availability of funding awards.
- TANF** **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. The Office of Family Assistance (OFA), located in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families oversees the TANF Program.
- TH** **Transitional Housing**
Transitional housing is housing that facilitates the movement of homeless individuals and families to permanent housing. It is housing in which homeless persons live up to 24 months and receive supportive services that enable them to live more independently. This temporary housing is combined with supportive services to enable homeless individuals and families to live as independently as possible. Transitional housing can be provided in one structure or several structures at one site or in multiple structures at scattered sites.
- VA** **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**
The mission of the VA is to provide excellence in patient care, veterans' benefits and customer satisfaction.
- TRA** **Tenant-Based Rental Assistance**
TRAs are a HUD eligible components of the S+C program.

Federal Definition of Homeless

The United States Code contains the official federal definition of homeless. In Title 42, Chapter 119, Subchapter I, homeless is defined as:

§11302. General definition of homeless individual

(a) In general

For purposes of this chapter, the term "homeless" or "homeless individual or homeless person" includes-

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.

Additional Resources:

HUD Homelessness Resource Exchange

<http://www.hudhre.info>

Blue Ridge Interagency Council on Homelessness

<http://www.rvarc.org/homelessness>

City of Roanoke

www.roanokeva.gov

Blue Ridge Continuum of Care (Council of Community Services)

<http://www.councilofcommunityservices.com/programs/coc>