

Understanding HUD Defined Homeless Statuses



OneHome

What is **Literal** Homelessness?

Literally homeless is defined as individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, meaning the individual or family has:

- A **primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation, or**
- Is living in a **publicly or privately operated shelter** designed to provide temporary living arrangements.
 - This category also includes individuals who are **exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less** who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately prior to entry into the institution.

Public or Private Place Not Meant for Human Habitation

- Vehicles
- Abandon buildings or structures without running water
- Sleeping outdoors

Publicly or Privately Operated Shelter

- Safe Haven
- DV shelter program
- Emergency Shelter
- Hotel rooms paid for by non profits, government programs or faith based affiliates

Exiting an Institution Where He or She Resided for **90 Days Or Less**

- Hospitals
- Jail
- Rehab Programs
- Mental Health Facility

Fleeing a Domestic Violence Situation

- Fleeing or attempting to flee a violence situation; Has no other residence; AND lacks resources for permanent housing

What is **Chronic** Homelessness?

Chronically Homeless is a person who has been:

- **Literally homeless for 12 consecutive months** or has **had at least four episodes** (and a total of at least 12 months) of being literally homeless in the past three years, with an episode constituting a break of at least 7 days in a housed situation;
- **AND have a disabling condition** (for families: head of household has a disabling condition), including:
 - A substance use disorder
 - A serious mental illness
 - A developmental disability
 - Posttraumatic stress disorder
 - A brain injury
 - A chronic physical illness or disability

Distinguishing **Literal** & **Chronic** Homelessness

When determining **LITERAL HOMELESSNESS** we are asking ourselves *WHERE* the person slept *LAST NIGHT*.

When determining **CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS** we are asking ourselves *HOW LONG* the person has been unhoused.

Literal Homelessness

Shelter

Vouchered into a Motel

Vehicle

Chronic Homelessness

Disability (HOH)

Homeless 4x in 3 years = 12 months

Homeless 12 months

WHEN DO CLIENTS LOSE LITERAL HOMELESS STATUS?

1

Clients lose literal homeless status once they begin residing in an institution like, jail, rehab or a mental health facility for over 90 days.

2

Clients lose literal homeless status once they begin couch surfing or staying with family or friends

3

Clients lose literal homeless status once they begin paying for a motel/hotel with their own or borrowed money from a friend or family member.

4

Clients lose literal homeless status once they are accepted into and lease-up into a housing resource like Rapid Re-Housing.

WHEN DO CLIENTS RETAIN LITERAL HOMELESS STATUS?

1

Clients retain literal homeless status while residing in shelters and/or safe havens.

2

Clients retain literal homeless status when they exit an institution like jail, detox or a mental health facility and begin sleeping outdoors or other places not meant for human habitation

3

Clients retain literal homeless status when actively fleeing domestic violence

4

Clients retain literal homeless status when they are vouchered into a motel by a nonprofit, government agency or church affiliate

WHEN DO CLIENTS LOSE CHRONIC HOMELESS STATUS?

1

Clients lose chronic homeless status once they become housed for over 90 days in an institution like, jail, rehab or a mental health facility.

2

Clients may lose chronic homeless status once they begin couch surfing for at least 7+ consecutive days depending on other time spent homeless.

3

Clients may lose chronic once they begin self paying at a motel or hotel for at least 7+ consecutive days depending on other time spent homeless.

NOTE:

These 3 scenarios are considered housed episodes, or breaks in homelessness. When these occur, chronicity can no longer be 12 consecutive months, and clients must have 4 separate unhoused episodes of homelessness totaling 12 months within the last 3 years in order to be considered chronically homeless.

WHEN DO CLIENTS RETAIN CHRONIC HOMELESS STATUS?

1

Clients retain chronic homeless status while residing in shelters and/or safe havens.

2

Clients retain chronic homeless status when accepting housing resources like Rapid Re-Housing.

3

Clients retain chronic homeless status when exiting an institutional stay of 90+ days, IF they also have at least 4 episodes of homelessness in the past three years prior to entering the institution, and are literally homeless again, adding up to 12+ months