

DEFINITION OF CHRONICALLY HOMELESS PERSON OR FAMILY

Published in December 2015, HUD published the [Final Rule on Defining “Chronically Homeless”](#). All CoC recipients must comply with the regulations as of January 15, 2016.

[Flow Chart of HUD’s definition of chronic homelessness](#)

An unaccompanied homeless individual (18 years of age or older) with a disabling condition

OR

A family with an adult head of household (18 years of age or older) with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for at least 12 months.

OR

Has had at least four (4) separate occasions of homelessness in the past three (3) years, as long as the combined occasions equal at least 12 months and each break in homelessness separating the occasions included at least 7 days of not living in a place not meant for habitation, and emergency shelter or safe haven.

Additional instructions:

- When counting occasions of homelessness, only include episodes when the person was sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or emergency homeless shelter.
- Stays in institutional care facilities for fewer than 90 days will not constitute as a break in homelessness, but rather such stays are included in the 12 month total, as long as the individual was living or residing in a place not meant for habitation, a safe haven, or emergency shelter immediately prior to entering the institution.

Institutional care facilities include:

- Jail
- Substance abuse or mental health treatment facility
- Hospital
- Other similar facility

Disabling conditions include:

- Developmental disability
- HIV/AIDS
- Diagnosable substance abuse problem
- A long-term physical, mental or emotional impairment that substantially impedes a person’s ability to live independently and could be improved by more suitable housing conditions.