

## **ATTACHMENT C SUPPORTIVE HOUSING GUIDELINES AND DEFINITIONS**

### **Homelessness**

Applicants will serve the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Homeless Category 1 as defined below. HUD Homelessness Categories 2, 3 and 4, as defined below, are not currently eligible to be served by Applicants under this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). The County of Orange (County) reserves the right to change as needed to meet demand.

Final Rule Defining Homeless, the final rule establishes four categories of homelessness. These categories are:

1. Individuals and families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes a subset for an individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter, or a place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution;
2. Individuals and families who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence;
3. Unaccompanied youth and families with children and youth who are defined as homeless under other federal statutes who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition;  
or
4. Individuals and families who are fleeing, or are attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member.

Additional information regarding the Homelessness definition and recordkeeping requirements are available at the following HUD websites: <https://www.hudexchange.info/news/huds-definition-of-homelessness-resources-and-guidance/>  
[https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HomelessDefinition\\_RecordkeepingRequirementsandCriteria.pdf](https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HomelessDefinition_RecordkeepingRequirementsandCriteria.pdf)

### **Chronic Homelessness**

Chronic homelessness means:

1. A "homeless individual with a disability," as defined in section 401(9) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360(9)), who:
  - i. Lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and
  - ii. Has been homeless and living as described in paragraph (1)(i) of this definition continuously for at least 12 months or on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 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 consecutive nights of not living as described in paragraph (1)(i). 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 human habitation, a safe haven, or an emergency shelter immediately before entering the institutional care facility;
2. An individual who has been residing in an institutional care facility, including a jail, substance abuse or mental health treatment facility, hospital, or other similar facility, for fewer than 90 days and met all of the criteria in paragraph (1) of this definition, before entering that facility;  
or
3. A family with an adult head of household (or if there is no adult in the family, a minor head of household) who meets all of the criteria in paragraph (1) or (2) of this definition, including a family whose composition has fluctuated while the head of household has been homeless.

Additional information about the definition of Chronic Homelessness is available at the following HUD Exchange link: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Defining-Chronically-Homeless-Final-Rule.pdf>

### **Permanent Housing**

Permanent housing (PH) is defined as community-based housing without a designated length of stay in which individuals and families who have formerly experienced homelessness live as independently as possible. Under PH, a program participant must be the tenant on a lease (or sublease) for an initial term of at least one year that is renewable and is terminable only for cause. Further, leases (or subleases) must be renewable for a minimum term of one month. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is permanent housing with indefinite leasing or rental assistance paired with supportive services to assist people experiencing homelessness with a disability or families with an adult or child member with a disability achieve housing stability.

Additional information for defining PSH is available at the following HUD Exchange link: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/coc-program-eligibility-requirements/>

### **Coordinated Entry**

Coordinated Entry System (CES) is a standardized and federally mandated approach to addressing the needs of those at-risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness. Aligned with the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, HUD's primary goal of CES is to facilitate a participant-centered process that streamlines access to the most appropriate services and housing interventions for those at-risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness.

The County serves as the CES Lead Agency for the Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) and is responsible for the implementation of CES in Orange County. CES in Orange County is for anyone at-risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness in Orange County including but not limited to adult only household, families with at least one minor child, veterans, transitional aged youth (TAY), seniors and survivors of domestic violence as defined by HUD. For more information about CES in Orange County, please visit: <https://ceo.ocgov.com/care-coordination/homeless-services/coordinated-entry-system>. For questions regarding CES, please contact [coordinatedentry@ceo.oc.gov](mailto:coordinatedentry@ceo.oc.gov)

### **Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Target Population**

The target population is defined as adults, older adults, transition-age youth with serious mental illness, children with severe emotional disorders and their families, who at the time of assessment for housing services meet the criteria for MHSA Community Services and Supports (CSS) in their county of residence and are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

### **Serious Mental Illness**

This applies to adults and older adults who have a serious mental illness. "Serious mental illness" means a mental disorder that is severe in degree and persistent in duration, which may cause behavioral functioning which interferes substantially with the primary activities of daily living, and which may result in an inability to maintain stable adjustment and independent functioning without treatment, support, and rehabilitation for a long or indefinite period of time. *Per Welfare and Institutions Code 5600.3 (b)*.

Verification of a serious mental illness must be provided by a State Licensed Healthcare Professional. This may include medical service providers, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT), Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), physicians or treating health care provider as stated in the Social Security Act-42 U.S.C Section 423.