

Homeless Response System

Glossary of Terms

Cal-AIM, the California Advancing & Innovating Medi-Cal (Cal-AIM) initiative sponsored by the state Department of Health Care Services is a long-term commitment to transforming and sustaining Medi-Cal, offering Californians, including persons experiencing homelessness, a more equitable, coordinated, person-centered approach to maximizing their health and life trajectory.

Chronically Homeless Individual refers to an individual with a disability who has been continuously homeless for one year or more or has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years where the combined length of time homeless on those occasions is at least 12 months.

Chronically Homeless People in Families refers to people in families in which the head of household has a disability and has either been continuously homeless for one year or more or has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years where the combined length of time homeless on those occasions is at least 12 months.

Congregate Shelter is an emergency shelter where the residents share a common sleeping area.

Continuum of Care (CoC) is the local planning body responsible for coordinating the full range of homelessness services in the Sacramento region and may cover the

cities, county, and unincorporated geographic areas.

Coordinated Access System (CAS) – CAS is a regionally based system that connects new and existing programs into a “no wrong-door network” by assessing the needs of individuals/families/youth experiencing homelessness and linking them with the most appropriate housing and services to end their homelessness.

Diversion Services is a client-driven approach designed to immediately help a person or household who just lost housing find safe alternative housing, rather than entering shelter or experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Emergency Shelter is a facility with the primary purpose of providing temporary shelter for homeless people.

Harm Reduction is a therapeutic engagement approach which helps individuals who are active in their substance use and not yet ready to stop or seek treatment. It helps individuals use in a way that less harmful.

Homeless describes a person who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) A computerized data collection system designed to capture client information over time on the characteristics, service needs and accomplishments of homeless persons. Implementation of an HMIS is required

by the federal department Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for programs receiving federal funding through the Continuum of Care (CoC).

Homelessness Prevention refers to policies, practices, and interventions that reduce the likelihood that someone will experience homelessness.

Housing First is an approach that offers permanent housing as quickly as possible for people experiencing homelessness, particularly for people with long histories of homelessness and co-occurring health challenges, while providing the supportive services people need to keep their housing and avoid returning to homelessness.

Individual refers to a person who is not part of a family with children during an episode of homelessness. Individuals may be homeless as single adults, unaccompanied youth, or in multiple-adult or multiple-child households.

Non-congregate Shelter is an emergency shelter that provides private sleeping space, such as a hotel or motel room.

Other Permanent Housing is housing with or without services that is specifically for people who formerly experienced homelessness but that does not require people to have a disability.

People in Families with Children are people who are experiencing homelessness as part of a household that has at least one adult (age 18 and older) and one child (under age 18).

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is a housing model designed to provide

housing assistance (project and tenant-based) and supportive services on a long-term basis to people who formerly experienced homelessness. Participants are required to have a disability for eligibility.

Racial Equity is assessed by how communities measure and address racial inequities and other disparities in the risks for, and experiences of homelessness in the community, consistent with fair housing and civil rights requirements.

Rapid Rehousing is a housing model designed to provide temporary housing assistance to people experiencing homelessness, moving them quickly out of homelessness and into permanent housing.

Street Outreach is defined as the activity of engaging unsheltered homeless individuals through the process of rapport building with the goal of linking that individual to a permanent housing resource.

Sheltered Homelessness refers to people who are staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or safe havens.

Transitional Housing Programs provide people experiencing homelessness a place to stay combined with supportive services for up to 24 months.

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (under 18) are people in households with only children who are not part of a family with children or accompanied by their parent or guardian during their

episode of homelessness, and who are under the age of 18.

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (18-24) are people in households without children who are not part of a family with children or accompanied by their parent or guardian during their episode of homelessness and who are between the ages of 18 and 24.

Unsheltered Homelessness refers to people whose primary nighttime location is a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for people (for example, the streets, vehicles, or parks).

Veteran refers to any person who served on active duty in the armed forces of the United States. This includes Reserves and National Guard members who were called up to active duty.

