

HUD: New Homeless Definition

Who Does This New Rule Apply To?

The rule applies to programs funded by HUD differently depending on the type of program (formula or competitive) and, for competitive programs, when your operating year begins. The final rule applies to:

1. All recipients of Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program funds.
2. All recipients of SHP and S+C funding awarded through the FY 2011 CoC Competition at the point that their renewal award takes effect. For example, a project with a start date of May 1 would be subject to the new definition regulation on May 1 when their 2011 renewal grant agreement takes effect.
3. This definition **does not** apply to HPRP programs or competitive projects that did not renew in the 2011 Continuum of Care competition.

How Does the Rule Define Homelessness?

The final rule on the Definition of Homeless establishes four categories under which an individual or family may qualify as homeless. The categories are:

Category 1	<p>Literally homeless individuals/families</p> <p>Individuals and families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, which includes one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place not meant for human habitation • Living in a shelter (Emergency shelter, hotel/motel paid by government or charitable organization) • Exiting an institution (where they resided for 90 days or less AND were residing in emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering institution)
Category 2	<p>Individuals/families who will imminently (within 14 days) lose their primary nighttime residence, which includes ALL of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have no subsequent residence identified AND • Lack the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing
Category 3	<p>Unaccompanied youth (under 25 years of age) or families with children/youth who meet the homeless definition under another federal statute and includes ALL of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have not had lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing at any time during last 60 days • Have experienced two or more moves during last 60 days • Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time because of: chronic disabilities, OR chronic physical health or mental health conditions, OR substance addiction, OR histories of domestic violence or childhood abuse (including neglect) OR presence of a child or youth with a disability, OR two or more barriers to employment
Category 4	<p>Individuals/families fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or family member and includes ALL of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have no identified residence, resources or support networks • Lack the resources and support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing