

Definitions of the Program Categories Used to Present the Data in this Study

Each funded program included in this study has been classified into one of 13 categories that describe the program's primary purpose. These categories cover the spectrum of services directed to the homeless population.

These categories are:

Case management and information and referral programs, which offer homeless persons emergency and supportive services as well as basic information and guidance in helping them obtain the services they need.

Day shelters, which offer homeless persons respite from the streets. They provide clothing, showers, laundry facilities, and message and meal services.

Employment assistance, which include job search, employment preparation, and job development programs.

Food programs, which include those offering food stamps, congregate meals, or commodities. Most of the funds for food referenced in this study are for food stamps.

Health services, which include both inpatient and outpatient diagnostic and treatment programs. The two major categories of services cited in this report include medical clinics associated with homeless agencies and County Medical Services (CMS), a contract network of clinics and hospitals for coverage of adults not eligible for coverage elsewhere.

Mental health services, which include crisis intervention, outpatient counseling, support groups, inpatient care, and residential programs. They are offered through both County-run programs and contracted services operated by non-profit providers.

Planning, administration, and coordination, which include administrative and support services directly benefiting homeless agencies or homeless services.

Substance abuse treatment/recovery services, which include detoxification, residential treatment, outpatient treatment, and ongoing support for those affected by alcohol or drug abuse.

Housing (Shelter) Programs

There are three types of Housing Programs in this study:

- ***Emergency shelters***, which include any facility with overnight sleeping accommodations, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary shelter for homeless persons, with or without special needs. Clients are allowed to stay anywhere from a few days up to (usually) about 90 days.
- ***Winter shelters*** are considered temporary emergency shelters, as they are open only during the winter season. Clients are offered supportive services and can stay longer than the regular 30 days.
- ***Winter shelter voucher programs*** are also considered temporary emergency shelters. They operate during the winter season by offering families and disabled adults hotel/motel vouchers.
- ***Permanent supportive housing***, which describes permanent housing where people need supportive services (e.g. - healthcare) to maintain their permanency.
- ***Transitional shelters***, which provide a bridge between emergency shelter and permanent housing. Programs emphasize the preparation of homeless persons or families for independent living. Clients stay from 1 month to as long as 24 months.

Cash assistance programs

There are three cash assistance programs cited in this study:

- **Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)** provides funds to those who are deprived of support from one or both parents.
- **General Relief (GR)** provides temporary financial assistance to help meet minimum needs for food, shelter, and clothing. GR is reserved for those who fail to qualify for other public assistance programs.
- **Food Stamps** provide limited financial assistance to be used towards food.

How Target Homeless Populations are Defined

Target homeless sub populations have been determined for each of the funded programs included in this study. If no specific sub population has been identified, the term “General Population” is used.

The sub population categories used in this report are intended to correspond to those used in grant requirements and other publications issued by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Sometimes, specific categories like “Farm workers/Day laborers” are particular to this region.

These 14 categories include:

- ***(Persons with) AIDS/related diseases***
- ***Adult men and/or women***
- ***Adult men only***
- ***Adult women only***
- ***Alcohol/other drug abusers***
- ***(Dually Diagnosed) DD /Substance abusers/HIV+/SMI***
- ***Families with children***
- ***Farm workers/day laborers***
- ***General Population***
- ***Seniors***
- ***Severely mentally ill (SMI)***
- ***Veterans***
- ***Victims of domestic violence***
- ***Youth on their own***