





Chronic Homelessness Definition

This tool provides some sample recordkeeping tools for the Chronic Homelessness Definition. To review the exact language, please refer to 24 CFR Parts 91 & 578 and the [HUD Exchange](#).

Recordkeeping Documentation Options Explained

<p>3rd Party Documentation</p>	 <p>Documentation from HMIS/Comparable Database</p> <p><i>Records must show entries/exits at Shelters.</i></p> <p><i>An answer of "Yes" to the question as to whether the individual is chronically homeless (Universal Data Element 3.917) is not sufficient.</i></p>	 <p>Written observation by an outreach worker or Written referral by another housing or service provider</p>	 <p>Documentation from Institutions like Hospitals, Correctional Facilities, etc.</p> <p><i>Must include records about stay the length of stay, signed by Clinician or other appropriate staff.</i></p>
<p>Self Certification</p>	 <p>Signed certification by the individual seeking assistance describing how they meet the definition, which must be accompanied by the intake worker's documentation of the living situation and the steps taken to obtain evidence to support it.</p> <p>Remember that for each Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of households served can use self-certification for 3 months of their 12 months, • 75% of households served need to use 3rd Party documentation for 9 months of their 12 months, and • 25% of households served can use self-certification as documentation for any and all months. 		

When do you need third party documentation?



Preferred to record all occasions of homelessness to document Chronic Homelessness.



Not necessary to record breaks in homelessness, these can be based on self reports.



Chronic Homelessness Documentation Form

An individual is defined by HUD as "Chronically Homeless" if they have 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.

Client Name:	Date of Birth:
Number in Household:	Client Head of Household: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Part 1: Current Housing Status

Client must currently be in one of these locations in order to be considered chronically homeless.

Client is currently residing:

- In Emergency Shelter
- On the Streets/Place not Meant for Human Habitation
- In the Safe Haven
- In an Institutional Care Facility (Where they have been for fewer than 90 days) **and the individual was living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or an emergency shelter immediately prior to entering the institutional care facility. (Proof of prior homeless status must be documented).**

Start Date: _____	End Date: _____
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Location Name and Address:

Current Housing Status Notes:

Part 2: Housing History- Continuously Homeless for last 12 months or in last 3 years 4 separate homeless episodes totaling 12 months

	Month # 1	Month # 2	Month # 3	Month # 4	Month # 5	Month # 6	Month # 7	Month # 8	Month # 9	Month # 10	Month # 11	Month # 12	
Mo./Yr.	(Current month)												
Location <i>Check all that Apply</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Streets <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Haven <input type="checkbox"/> Inst. (<90 days)	<input type="checkbox"/> Streets <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Haven <input type="checkbox"/> Inst. (<90 days)	<input type="checkbox"/> Streets <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Haven <input type="checkbox"/> Inst. (<90 days)	<input type="checkbox"/> Streets <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Haven <input type="checkbox"/> Inst. (<90 days)	<input type="checkbox"/> Streets <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Haven <input type="checkbox"/> Inst. (<90 days)	<input type="checkbox"/> Streets <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Haven <input type="checkbox"/> Inst. (<90 days)	<input type="checkbox"/> Streets <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Haven <input type="checkbox"/> Inst. (<90 days)	<input type="checkbox"/> Streets <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Haven <input type="checkbox"/> Inst. (<90 days)	<input type="checkbox"/> Streets <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Haven <input type="checkbox"/> Inst. (<90 days)	<input type="checkbox"/> Streets <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Haven <input type="checkbox"/> Inst. (<90 days)	<input type="checkbox"/> Streets <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Haven <input type="checkbox"/> Inst. (<90 days)	<input type="checkbox"/> Streets <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Haven <input type="checkbox"/> Inst. (<90 days)	<input type="checkbox"/> Streets <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Haven <input type="checkbox"/> Inst. (<90 days)
Doc. Type <i>Check One (Except Self-Cert. select both)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> HMIS <input type="checkbox"/> Obsv. By Outreach <input type="checkbox"/> Comp. Database <input type="checkbox"/> Discharge Paperwork <input type="checkbox"/> Referral <input type="checkbox"/> Self-Cert. <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Doc. of Situation <input type="checkbox"/> Doc. of steps to obtain evidence	<input type="checkbox"/> HMIS <input type="checkbox"/> Obsv. By Outreach <input type="checkbox"/> Comp. Database <input type="checkbox"/> Discharge Paperwork <input type="checkbox"/> Referral <input type="checkbox"/> Self-Cert. <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Doc. of Situation <input type="checkbox"/> Doc. of steps to obtain evidence	<input type="checkbox"/> HMIS <input type="checkbox"/> Obsv. By Outreach <input type="checkbox"/> Comp. Database <input type="checkbox"/> Discharge Paperwork <input type="checkbox"/> Referral <input type="checkbox"/> Self-Cert. <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Doc. of Situation <input type="checkbox"/> Doc. of steps to obtain evidence	<input type="checkbox"/> HMIS <input type="checkbox"/> Obsv. By Outreach <input type="checkbox"/> Comp. Database <input type="checkbox"/> Discharge Paperwork <input type="checkbox"/> Referral <input type="checkbox"/> Self-Cert. <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Doc. of Situation <input type="checkbox"/> Doc. of steps to obtain evidence	<input type="checkbox"/> HMIS <input type="checkbox"/> Obsv. By Outreach <input type="checkbox"/> Comp. Database <input type="checkbox"/> Discharge Paperwork <input type="checkbox"/> Referral <input type="checkbox"/> Self-Cert. <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Doc. of Situation <input type="checkbox"/> Doc. of steps to obtain evidence	<input type="checkbox"/> HMIS <input type="checkbox"/> Obsv. By Outreach <input type="checkbox"/> Comp. Database <input type="checkbox"/> Discharge Paperwork <input type="checkbox"/> Referral <input type="checkbox"/> Self-Cert. <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Doc. of Situation <input type="checkbox"/> Doc. of steps to obtain evidence	<input type="checkbox"/> HMIS <input type="checkbox"/> Obsv. By Outreach <input type="checkbox"/> Comp. Database <input type="checkbox"/> Discharge Paperwork <input type="checkbox"/> Referral <input type="checkbox"/> Self-Cert. <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Doc. of Situation <input type="checkbox"/> Doc. of steps to obtain evidence	<input type="checkbox"/> HMIS <input type="checkbox"/> Obsv. By Outreach <input type="checkbox"/> Comp. Database <input type="checkbox"/> Discharge Paperwork <input type="checkbox"/> Referral <input type="checkbox"/> Self-Cert. <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Doc. of Situation <input type="checkbox"/> Doc. of steps to obtain evidence	<input type="checkbox"/> HMIS <input type="checkbox"/> Obsv. By Outreach <input type="checkbox"/> Comp. Database <input type="checkbox"/> Discharge Paperwork <input type="checkbox"/> Referral <input type="checkbox"/> Self-Cert. <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Doc. of Situation <input type="checkbox"/> Doc. of steps to obtain evidence	<input type="checkbox"/> HMIS <input type="checkbox"/> Obsv. By Outreach <input type="checkbox"/> Comp. Database <input type="checkbox"/> Discharge Paperwork <input type="checkbox"/> Referral <input type="checkbox"/> Self-Cert. <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Doc. of Situation <input type="checkbox"/> Doc. of steps to obtain evidence	<input type="checkbox"/> HMIS <input type="checkbox"/> Obsv. By Outreach <input type="checkbox"/> Comp. Database <input type="checkbox"/> Discharge Paperwork <input type="checkbox"/> Referral <input type="checkbox"/> Self-Cert. <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Doc. of Situation <input type="checkbox"/> Doc. of steps to obtain evidence	<input type="checkbox"/> HMIS <input type="checkbox"/> Obsv. By Outreach <input type="checkbox"/> Comp. Database <input type="checkbox"/> Discharge Paperwork <input type="checkbox"/> Referral <input type="checkbox"/> Self-Cert. <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Doc. of Situation <input type="checkbox"/> Doc. of steps to obtain evidence	<input type="checkbox"/> HMIS <input type="checkbox"/> Obsv. By Outreach <input type="checkbox"/> Comp. Database <input type="checkbox"/> Discharge Paperwork <input type="checkbox"/> Referral <input type="checkbox"/> Self-Cert. <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Doc. of Situation <input type="checkbox"/> Doc. of steps to obtain evidence
Doc. Att.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
How to Document Homelessness by Month.	Third-party documentation of a single encounter with a homeless service provider on a single day within 1 month is sufficient to consider an individual as homeless and living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or an emergency shelter for the entire calendar month (e.g., an encounter on May 5, 2015, counts for May 1 - May 31, 2015), unless there is evidence that there have been at least 7 consecutive nights not living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or an emergency shelter during that month (e.g., evidence in HMIS of a stay in transitional housing). 24 CFR 578.103(a)(4)(iii)(A)												

Break Mo./Yr. & Description or N/A	Break 1: Break 2: Break 3:
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If there are additional breaks please detail and attach. *Note:* Breaks consist of “at least 7 consecutive nights **not** living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter (non-qualifying location(s)) between separate occasions must be documented with the evidence”. 24 CFR 578.103(a)(4)(iii)(B). Documentation of breaks in homelessness between separate occasions, may be documented entirely based on a self-report by the individual seeking assistance.

Part 2: Housing History- Continued

Notes

Self-Cert. Check

Does the documentation include more than 3 Months of Self-Certifications? * Yes No

** Please be advised that if you answered **YES**, that for at least 75% of the households assisted by a recipient in a project during an operating year, no more than 3 months can be self-certified. Please also reference HUD’s more in depth response regarding this requirement under FAQ ID:2872.*

<https://www.hudexchange.info/faqs/2872/for-many-persons-experiencing-chronic-homelessness-obtaining-the-required/>

Key

Mo. = Month, Yr. = Year, Inst. = Institution, Doc. = Documentation, Obsv. = Observation, Comp. = Comparable, Cert. = Certification



Part 3: Disability Status

The term homeless individual with a "disability" means an individual who is homeless, as defined in section 103, and has a disability that

- 1) Is expected to be long-continuing or of indefinite duration;*
- 2) Substantially impairs his/her ability to live independently, **and***
- 3) Is of such nature that daily functioning and the disability could improve under more suitable housing conditions*

The disability could be any physical, mental, or emotional impairment, including impairment caused by alcohol and/or drug abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, or brain injury; a developmental disability as defined in section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15002); or the disease of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome or any condition arising from the etiologic agency of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome.

Documentation Attached:

- Written verification of the disability from a licensed professional;
- Written verification from the Social Security Administration;
- The receipt of a disability check; or
- Intake staff-recorded observation of disability that, no later than 45 days from the application for assistance, accompanied by supporting evidence.

Note: Verified disability documentation must be attached to determine eligibility

Disability Notes:



Part 4: Staff and Client Certifications

Client Certification:

To the best of my knowledge and ability, all the information provided in this document is true and complete. I also understand that any misrepresentation or false information may result in my participation being cancelled or denied, or in termination of assistance. It is my responsibility to notify _____ of any changes in my housing status or address in writing during program participation and I understand that my application may be cancelled if I fail to do so.

Client Name: (Printed)

Client Signature:

Date:

Staff Certification:

To the best of my knowledge and ability, all of the information and documentation used in making this eligibility determination is true and complete.

Staff Name: (Printed)

Staff Signature:

Date:

Staff Role:

Agency:

Notes: