

Shared Housing and Shelter Definitions

Housing

Rapid Rehousing

Rapid rehousing (RRH) provides short-term rental assistance and services. The goals are to help people obtain housing quickly, increase self-sufficiency, and stay housed. This assistance is offered without preconditions (such as employment, income, absence of criminal record, or sobriety) and the resources and services provided are typically tailored to the needs of the person.

Core Components:

- 1. Housing Identification*
- 2. Rent and Move-In Assistance*
- 3. Case Management*

Permanent Supportive Housing

Permanent supportive housing (PSH) is an intervention that combines affordable housing assistance with voluntary support services to address the needs of chronically homeless people. The services are designed to build independent living and tenancy skills and connect people with community-based health care, treatment and employment services.

Transitional Housing

Transitional housing (TH) is designed to provide homeless individuals and families with the interim stability and support to successfully move to and maintain permanent housing. Transitional housing may be used to cover the costs of up to 24 months of housing with accompanying supportive services. Program participants must have a lease (or sublease) or occupancy agreement in place when residing in transitional housing.

Bridge Housing

Bridge Housing aims to immediately transition vulnerable clients out of homelessness in order to provide a stable experience that can facilitate placement into permanent housing. Bridge Housing is often thought of as the missing link between the shelter system and permanent housing. When used as a regional strategy, it can foster collaboration and more efficiently support a community's most vulnerable residents in exiting the streets. Although models for Bridge Housing can vary greatly, the ultimate goal is to provide a stable temporary housing situation with supportive services while an individual is in the process of locating, applying to, and/or obtaining permanent housing. (Source: Homebase)

Subsidies

Housing subsidies come in many forms, but the main objective is to supplement or offset monthly housing costs for individuals or families to remain in housing. Forms of subsidies include direct housing subsidies, public housing, rent supplements and some types of cooperative housing. (Source: Phoenix Community Alliance, Social Housing & Advancement Committee Glossary Project, www.phoenixcommunityalliance.com)

Workforce Housing

Workforce Housing is housing that is affordable (30% or less of gross income) to households earning between 60% and 120% of area median income. Workforce housing targets middle income workers,

including police officers, firefighters, teachers, health care workers, retail clerks, etc. (Source: Urban Land Institute via Phoenix Community Alliance)

Types of Shelter

(Source: National Alliance to End Homelessness)





Clinical Shelter

Clinical shelter provides medical respite/recuperative care along with acute and post-acute care for persons experiencing homelessness who are too ill or frail to recover from a physical illness or injury on the streets, but who are not ill enough to be in a hospital.

Low-Barrier Shelter

Low-barrier shelters accept people often not eligible for other shelters and housing, such as people who are actively using drugs or alcohol. They provide a safe, warm place for those who may have no other option. While some shelters may require a homeless individual to be sober or pass a drug test, low-barrier shelters do not.

Emergency Shelter

The term Emergency Shelter means any facility with overnight sleeping accommodations, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary shelter for people experiencing homelessness in general or for specific populations of people in homeless situations.

Interventions

(Source: Phoenix Community Alliance, unless otherwise noted.)

Diversion

Diversion is an intervention designed to immediately address the needs of someone who has just lost their housing and has become homeless. Diversion is a client-driven approach. Its goal is to help the person or household find safe alternative housing immediately, rather than entering shelter or experiencing unsheltered homelessness. It is intended to ensure that the homelessness experience is as brief as possible, to prevent unsheltered homelessness, and to prevent stays in shelter. (Source: National Alliance to End Homelessness)

Prevention/Emergency Solutions Grants Programs

Prevention refers to housing relocation and stabilization services and short-and/or medium-term rental assistance as necessary to prevent the individual or family from moving to an emergency shelter or a place not meant for human habitation.

The purpose of Emergency Solution Grants (ESG) programs is to help individuals and families quickly regain stability in permanent housing. ESG homelessness prevention is only eligible to the extent that the assistance is necessary to help families regain stability in their current housing or move into other permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing. Eligible costs include:

- Rental Assistance: This includes rental assistance and rental arrears
- Financial assistance: This includes rental application fees, security and utility deposits, utility payments, last month's rent, moving costs
- Services: This includes housing searches and placement, housing stability case management, landlord-tenant mediation, tenant legal services, credit repair

(Source: Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development)

Affordable Dwelling/Housing

"Affordable dwelling" is housing for which the occupant(s) is/are paying no more than 30% of his/her income for gross housing costs, including utilities. (Source: U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development)

Coordinated Entry

Coordinated entry processes, deployed across an entire community, make it possible for people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness to have their strengths and needs quickly assessed (triage), and to be swiftly connected to appropriate, tailored housing and services within the community. People with the greatest needs receive priority for any type of housing and homeless assistance available, including permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing and other interventions.

Domestic Violence Priority

Domestic violence priority for services is given due to the direct correlation between intimate partner violence and housing instability.

Eviction Prevention

Eviction prevention refers to efforts to prevent the dispossession of a tenant of leased property by force or especially by legal process.

Family Reunification

Family reunification typically refers to one-way, one-time transportation assistance to individuals experiencing homelessness (or at imminent risk) who wish to return to their family or other support system in another part of the U.S. Individuals must have family or support systems in place when the relocation occurs.

Triage

As an entry point to resources, a program or caseworker must assess the specific needs of an individual or family in crisis and direct those in need to the appropriate resources. This rapid assessment is known as triage.

Terms Referring to Populations within Homelessness

Unless otherwise noted, the terms below are compiled from the Glossary Project of the Social & Housing Advancement (SHA) Committee of the Phoenix Community Alliance. They are used to reference the people and populations central and most relevant to the challenge of homelessness.

Chronically Homeless

An unaccompanied individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for one year or more OR has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years, where the combined occasions total a length of time of at least 12 months is defined as being chronically homeless. (Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development)

Experiencing Homelessness

An individual or family that lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, such as those living in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or places not meant for human habitation, is described as experiencing homelessness.

First-Time Homelessness

People experiencing homelessness for the first time. Possible causes include job loss, increased rent or domestic/family issues.

Previously Homeless

This refers to an individual or family that has advanced into housing or a sustainable living situation. Although no longer experiencing homelessness, they are vulnerable to becoming homeless again.

Serious Mental Illness (SMI)

Serious Mental Illness is defined as a mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder resulting in serious functional impairment, which substantially interferes with or limits one or more major life activities. (Source: National Institute of Mental Health)

Vulnerable Populations

Vulnerable populations include the economically disadvantaged, the uninsured, children in families who have low-incomes, older adults, individuals experiencing homelessness, and those with chronic health conditions, including severe mental illness. Their health and health care problems intersect with social factors, including housing, poverty and inadequate education.

Phoenix Community Alliance's List of Terms to Avoid

The Social & Housing Advancement (SHA) Committee of the Phoenix Community Alliance recognizes there are terms in the common diction of our social environment, but also recognizes these terms (listed below) provide little clarity, or that there are subtle connotations that remove the human element from a very human challenge. The SHA Committee prefers to avoid the following terms:

- "The homeless"
- Homeless person
- Vagrancy
- Transient
- Underserved