



Strategic Framework & Action Plan to Prevent & End Homelessness in Summit County

Common Terms & Acronyms

Chronically Homeless Individual refers to an individual with a federally qualified 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.

Coordinated Entry (CE): As defined by HUD, CE means a centralized or coordinated process designed to coordinate program participant intake assessment and provision of referrals. A centralized or coordinated assessment system covers the geographic area, is easily accessed by individuals and families seeking housing or services, is well advertised, and includes a comprehensive and standardized assessment tool. CE must include means to match people to shelter and housing resources for which they are eligible, as well as prioritize people based on an assessment of their needs and vulnerabilities when shelter, housing, or other needed assistance is limited and unable to assist everyone who is eligible and seeking assistance. HUD requires every CoC operate a Coordinated Entry process which must at minimum allocate all CoC Program funded housing resources. United Way of Summit/Medina County is the CE lead for Summit County.

Continuum of Care (CoC) is the local planning body responsible for coordinating the full range of homelessness services in the Sacramento region inclusive of the cities and unincorporated areas within Sacramento County.

Continuum of Care Program is the largest federal funding source for homeless assistance, providing annual competitive funding to communities for permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing, transitional housing, street outreach, and supportive services.

Diversion Services is the most targeted form of homelessness prevention and involves strategies and practices seeking to assist people to resolve their immediate housing crisis by accessing a safe and appropriate housing alternative versus entering emergency shelter or otherwise staying in a place not meant for human habitation that night.

Disabling Condition: According to HUD: (1) a condition that: (i) is expected to be of indefinite duration; (ii) impedes the individual's ability to live independently; (iii) could be improved by providing more suitable housing conditions; and (iv) is a physical, mental, or emotional impairment, including an impairment caused by alcohol or drug abuse, posttraumatic stress disorder, or brain injury; or a developmental disability, as defined above; or the disease of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or any conditions arising from AIDS, including infection with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). (24 CFR 583.5)



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Emergency Shelter provides safe, temporary housing for individuals and/or families who have no alternative safe housing options while they are supported in obtaining permanent housing or access to other appropriate assistance, such as treatment. Shelters serve people who have neither a safe home nor the means to obtain other safe permanent or temporary housing. Emergency shelters may serve specific populations (e.g., families with children, single adults, transition age youth), in congregate or non-congregate facilities, and do not require occupants to sign leases or occupancy agreements.

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

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

Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program is an annual federal block grant provided to federally designated “entitlement communities” to fund homelessness prevention, street outreach, emergency shelter, and rapid rehousing.

Fair Market Rent (FMR) provides a standard for rent based on unit size for different geographic areas. These standards are often used as a limit for how much rent can be charged or supported in certain programs. FMRs are published in the Federal Register annually by HUD.

“Harm Reduction” means a set of strategies, policies, and practices aimed at mitigating the negative social and physical consequences associated with various human behaviors, including, but not limited to, substance use, and that do not rely on punitive measures to gain program compliance.

Homeless (HUD Definition):

Category 1: Literally Homeless: An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

- Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation;
- Is living in a publicly or privately-operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, TH, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs); or
- Is exiting an institution where he/she has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution.

Category 2: Imminent Risk of Homelessness: An individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, if:

- Residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance;
- No subsequent residence has been identified; and
- The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing.

Category 3: Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes: An unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with Category 3 children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who:



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- Are defined as homeless under the other listed federal statutes;
- Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing during the 60 days prior to the homeless assistance application;
- Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more in the preceding 60 days; and
- Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period due to special needs or barriers.

Category 4: Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence: Any individual or family who:

- Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence;
- Has no other residence; and
- Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

Homeless-Dedicated Housing refers to any form of permanent housing or permanent housing subsidy that is formally designated to serve individuals or families experiencing homelessness.

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 people. Implementation of an HMIS is required by the U.S. Department Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for programs receiving federal funding through the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program. United Way of Summit/Medina County is the HMIS lead for Summit County.

Homeless Response System refers to the various organizations and entities within an area that serve homeless individuals and families and their respective programs, services, and supports designed to respond to and resolve housing crises.

Homelessness Prevention programs assist people who are imminently at-risk of literal homelessness with housing problem solving, temporary financial assistance, information and referral to other resources, and time-limited housing stabilization assistance.

- **Coordinated Homelessness Prevention (“Coordinated Prevention”)**: is a community-wide approach that uses common risk screening criteria to identify people who are housing insecure, including people at greatest risk for literal homelessness, and then offers immediate, coordinated access to Housing Problem Solving and prevention-related resources, including prioritized access to assistance for people with more urgent prevention needs. Coordinated Prevention systems increase access to assistance and reduce the burden on already overwhelmed homeless crisis response systems by providing “housing urgent care” in community settings where people with urgent housing needs can more readily access assistance to avoid a housing emergency. Coordinated Prevention systems also include ‘upstream’ and cross-sector partners to identify and assist people with both targeted and non-targeted strategies and resources.
- **Targeted Homelessness Prevention (“Targeted Prevention”)** (including Diversion) targets assistance to households at greatest risk for literal homelessness within a defined period (e.g., 14 days or less) and who lack other safe housing options and resources to avoid literal homelessness “but for” timely and individualized prevention assistance.



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Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCV) is a federal rent subsidy program under section 8 of the US Housing Act, which issues vouchers to eligible households.

Housing First is an evidence-based model that uses housing as a tool, rather than a reward, for recovery and that centers on providing or connecting homeless people to permanent housing as quickly as possible. Housing First providers offer services as needed and requested on a voluntary basis and that do not make housing contingent on participation in services.

Housing Problem Solving is a person-centered, housing-focused approach to explore creative, safe, and cost-effective solutions to quickly resolve a housing crisis — even if just temporarily — with limited or no financial support. Housing problem solving is not a one-time event and instead, problem-solving techniques can be used in many circumstances to support a more effective implementation of homelessness prevention, diversion, and rapid exit strategies.

Programs are services provided by a local social service, housing, healthcare, or other entity to meet the homelessness prevention or assistance needs of people in Summit County.

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.

Other Permanent Housing is housing with or without services that are specifically for people who formerly experienced homelessness but that do 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).

People with Lived Experience/Expertise (PLE), for our purposes, is anyone who is experiencing or has experienced housing insecurity and homelessness.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) include single site and scattered site rental housing with a permanent subsidy and supportive services for individuals and families who are homeless and have at least one household member with a federally qualified disabling condition. PSH programs include supportive services that are designed to meet the needs of the program participants.

Point in Time (PIT) Count is an annual count of people experiencing homelessness on a single night. Data are required to be reported to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Summit County reports an annual shelter and unsheltered count.

Rapid Rehousing (RRH) provides (directly and/or via service partnership) housing search and placement, time-limited financial assistance, and housing-focused case management for individuals and families who are literally homeless. RRH programs help households secure private rental market housing, where the lease is initially or eventually between the landlord and the program participant following conclusion of housing stabilization services. RRH assistance may be used as a bridge to or as a means to help people access other ongoing subsidized housing and services (e.g., permanent supportive housing). RRH assistance for eligible participants is typically limited to a specific number of months based on program funding sources.



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

Street Outreach programs offer mobile services to engage and assist unsheltered individuals and families experiencing homelessness within the CoC's geographic area, including those least likely to request assistance. Services typically include engagement, connection to emergency shelter, housing, critical/crisis services, basic needs support, and urgent, non-facility-based care.

System Performance Measures (SPMs) are the key measures used by federal, state, and local funders to examine the performance of local homelessness response systems and guide improvements. **They include:**

- Reducing the number of people experiencing homelessness
- Reducing the number of people becoming homeless for the first time.
- Increasing the number of people exiting homelessness into permanent housing.
- Reducing the length of time persons remain homeless.
- Reducing the number of persons who return to homelessness after exiting homelessness to permanent housing.
- Increasing successful placements from street outreach.

Transitional Housing Programs provide temporary housing with supportive services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness with the goal of interim stability and support to successfully move to and maintain permanent housing. TH programs can cover housing costs and accompanying supportive services for program participants for up to 24 months.

Trauma-Informed Care means a set of practices that promote safety, empowerment, and healing in recognition that program participants may have experienced trauma that informs their experiences and responses.

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.

Victim Service Providers (VSP) are private nonprofit organizations whose primary mission is to provide services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Providers include rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters and transitional housing programs, and other programs.



Common Acronyms

The following is a list of common acronyms used in this document. For definitions of specific terms used in this document, see Appendix A.

- AMI: Area Median Income
- CH: Chronically Homeless
- CoC: Continuum of Care
- CE: Coordinated Entry; CES: Coordinated Entry System
- DV: Domestic Violence
- ES: Emergency Shelter
- ESG: Emergency Solutions Grants Program (federal funding source)
- FMR: Fair Market Rent
- HP: Homelessness Prevention
- HMIS: Homeless Management Information System
- HQS: Housing Quality Inspection
- HUD: U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
- IPV: Intimate Partner Violence
- LGBTQIA+: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual or Ally, and Other Non-Heterosexual People
- PIT Count: Point-in-time count
- PLE: People with lived experience/expertise
- PSH: Permanent Supportive Housing
- RRH: Rapid Rehousing
- SOAR: SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SSI/SSDI application assistance program)
- SSDI: Social Security Disability Income
- SSI: Supplemental Security Income
- SSO: Supportive Services Only
- TAY: Transition Age Youth (18-24 years old)
- TH: Transitional Housing
- SCCoC: Summit County Continuum of Care
- VA: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- VAWA: Federal Violence Against Women Act