

RURAL DIALOGUE GROUP

4.22.10



North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness

securing resources • encouraging public dialogue • advocating for public policy change

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HEARTH

- The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009
- New CoC application for 2011

Definition of Homelessness

- **Currently, HUD considers people homeless if they are in one of the following situations:**
 1. Their nighttime residence is an emergency shelter, transitional housing program, or a place not meant for human habitation (e.g. car, sidewalk, park).
 2. They are exiting an institutional setting where they resided for up to 30 days and immediately prior to entering the institution, they were living in a place not meant for human habitation or an emergency shelter.
 3. They are in housing but are being evicted within the next 7 days and have no other place to go and no resources or support networks to obtain housing.
 4. They are fleeing domestic violence and have no other place to go and no resources or support networks to obtain housing.

Definition of Homelessness CHANGES

- **The new definition makes a few changes.**

- It extends the time a person could be living in an institutional setting (number 2 above) to 90 days,
- It extends the amount of time prior to being evicted that a person would be considered homeless (number 3) to 14 days,
- And it creates a new category of homeless families with children or unaccompanied youth who have not lived independently for more than 90 days, have moved frequently (at least 3 times in the last 90 days) and have a disability or multiple barriers to employment that make it likely that they will continue to remain in an unstable situation.

Definition of Homelessness CHANGES

- These changes are **most relevant for people who will now be considered homeless who weren't before**. They will be eligible for more assistance, particularly shelter, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing programs. However, the programs will not grow in size to meet the new demand, so the overall number of people served won't change.

Providers that operate HUD funded homeless assistance programs will also be affected. More people will be eligible for their programs, and they will have to collect different types of documentation. Overall, though, the effects will be modest.

The [draft regulation](#) is open for public comment for 60 days (until June 21). HUD will then issue the final regulations.

New Definition: At Risk of Homelessness

- An individual or family
 - (a) Has income below 30% AMI
 - (b) Has insufficient resources immediately available to attain housing stability; and
 - (c) Has moved frequently because of economic reasons
 - i. is living in the home of another because of economic hardship
 - ii. Has been notified that their right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated
 - iii. Lives in a hotel or motel
 - iv. Lives in severely overcrowded housing
 - v. Is exiting an institution; or
 - vi. Otherwise lives in housing that had characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness

Chronically Homeless

- Meets the homeless definition
- Has been homeless for at least 1 year or on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years

And

- Has an **adult head of household** (or a minor HoH if no adult is present) with a diagnosable substance abuse disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, post traumatic stress disorder, cognitive impairments resulting from brain injury, or chronic physical illness or disability, including the co-occurrence of 2 or more of those conditions.
- Including persons living in institutional care up to **90** days if the above requirements were met before entering facility.

HMIS

- Requires all recipients of ESG or CoC funds to participate in HMIS

Emergency Solutions Grants Program

- Current Activities will equal no more than 60% of ESG \$
 - Renovation, major rehabilitation, or conversion of buildings to be used as emergency shelters
 - Provision of essential services related to emergency shelter or street outreach
 - Maintenance, operation, insurance, provision of utilities, and provision of furnishings related to emergency shelter

Emergency Solutions Grants Program

- New HPRP-like activities = ~40% of ESG\$
 - Provision of rental assistance to provide short-term or medium-term housing to homeless or at-risk.
 - Housing relocation or stabilization services for homeless or at-risk including housing search, mediation or outreach to property owners, legal services, credit repair, security or utility deposits, last month's rent, moving costs, and other activities that are effective at
 - (a) stabilizing individuals and families in their current housing; or
 - (b) quickly moving such individuals and families to other permanent housing.

CoC = Collaborative Applicant

□ Duties:

- Design a collaborative process to apply for funding, evaluate outcomes, determine compliance, and establish funding priorities;
- Participate in the Consolidated Plan;
- Ensure participation in Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) to collect unduplicated counts of homeless people, analyze patterns of program use, determine needs, and operate in accordance with data protection and confidentiality standards developed by the Secretary.

Rural Housing Stability Assistance Program

- Separate CoC competition
- Opt-in
- Goals:
 - Rehousing or improving the housing situations of individuals and families who are homeless or in the worst housing situations in the geographic area
 - Stabilizing the housing of individuals and families who are in imminent danger of losing housing; and
 - Improving the ability of the lowest-income residents of the community to afford stable housing

Rural Housing CoC Eligible Activities

- Rent, mortgage, or utility assistance to prevent eviction, foreclosure or loss of utility service
- Security deposits, rent for the first month of residence at a new location, and relocation assistance
- Short-term emergency lodging in motels or shelters
- Construction of new transitional and permanent housing units for homeless and at-risk
- Leasing for transitional and permanent housing for homeless and at-risk, or providing supportive services
- Rental assistance for transitional or permanent housing for homeless or at-risk
- Operating Costs for housing units receiving these funds
- Rehab & repairs to make premises habitable
- Development of comprehensive and coordinated support services
- Costs to make use of federal inventory property to house homeless families
- Capacity Building Activities (no more than 20% of total CoC funds)

New Match Requirement

- 25 percent in-kind match
- Grants for leasing have no match requirement.

Selection Criteria

- The participation of potential beneficiaries in determining need;
- The degree to which the project addresses the most harmful housing conditions in the community;
- The degree of collaboration with other entities;
- Performance of the organization in improving housing situations;
- For organizations that have previously received funding, the extent to which they improved conditions to the community;
- Pro-rata need;
- Other HUD determined criteria.

More information:

www.ncceh.org

www.hudhre.info

www.endinghomelessness.org