



# Achieving the Goal of Ending Chronic Homelessness

## Definitions, Benchmark Calculation Details, and Supporting Documentation

The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, in partnership with other Council member agencies, have adopted specific criteria and a benchmark for ending chronic homelessness in order to guide communities as they take action to achieve the goal.

The following guidance was designed to help Continuums of Care (CoCs) measure their progress on the benchmark. CoCs should use this guidance side-by-side with [Criteria and Benchmark for Achieving the Goal of Ending Chronic Homelessness](#) and [Assessing Whether Your Continuum of Care Has Achieved the Goal of Ending Chronic Homelessness](#).

In order for a CoC<sup>1</sup> to successfully demonstrate that the benchmark has been met, it must have high quality data and data systems that identify and track all individuals experiencing chronic homelessness at a point-in-time. This data may all be located within the CoC's HMIS or, in CoCs where not all homelessness assistance programs in the CoC enter data into HMIS, a data system outside of or supplementary to HMIS that serves this purpose. Regardless of which data system(s) is used, it must have the ability to produce real-time data of all individuals currently experiencing homelessness, often referred to as an active (or by-name) list with the ability to track and prioritize persons experiencing chronic homelessness and who are most at risk of becoming chronically homeless.

## DEFINITIONS

**CHRONICALLY HOMELESS INDIVIDUAL:** For the purposes of calculating the benchmark for determining an end to chronic homelessness, any individual who has been identified in the CoC's data system (including individuals *with and without supporting documentation* prior to entry in CoC-funded permanent supportive housing) as being chronically homeless as defined by HUD<sup>2</sup>, and who has not yet exited to a permanent housing destination.

Includes:

- Individuals who have been identified as chronically homeless in the CoC's data system and were placed in transitional housing (regardless of funding source) and who have not yet exited to a permanent housing destination,<sup>3</sup> and
- Individuals who have been identified as chronically homeless in the CoC's data system that have entered an institution where they have resided for fewer than 90 days.

<sup>1</sup> Benchmark must be calculated at the CoC level. No sub-CoC level or state-level claims will be considered.

<sup>2</sup> The [Final Rule on Defining "Chronically Homeless"](#) defines a chronically homeless individual as an individual with a disability who is living in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter and has been living in one of those locations for at least the last 12 months continuously or on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years where the combined occasions total at least 12 months.

<sup>3</sup> While individuals experiencing chronic homelessness who enter transitional housing are in most cases no longer eligible for CoC-funded permanent supportive housing that is dedicated to those experiencing chronic homelessness, a CoC must continue to count these individuals against the benchmark until they have been permanently housed.

## Excludes:

- Individuals who have been identified as chronically homeless in the CoC's data system, but the CoC has information that demonstrates that the individual does not meet the definition of chronically homeless;
- Individuals who have been identified as chronically homeless in the CoC's data system but with whom the CoC has had no contact for at least 90 days or more despite repeated attempts to locate the individual;
- Individuals who have been identified as chronically homeless in the CoC's data system but who have subsequently become deceased; and
- Individuals who have been identified as chronically homeless in the CoC's data system but who have resided in an institution for 90 days or more or where it is clear that they will be in an institution for more than 90 days (e.g., the individual has begun a long prison sentence).

**BASELINE DATE:** The initial date in which the total number of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness reaches zero, or no more than 0.1% of the total number of homeless individuals reported in the most recent Point in Time (PIT) count or 3 individuals, whichever is greater.

**BENCHMARK CALCULATION DETAILS**

<b>Units of measurement</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>[NUMBER OF HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS]</b> equals the total sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals counted in the most recent annual PIT count and submitted to HUD.</li> <li><b>[NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS (INCLUDING CHRONICALLY HOMELESS VETERANS) EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS]</b> includes the <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• total number of individuals currently experiencing chronic homelessness in unsheltered locations and sheltered locations (including emergency shelter (ES) and supportive housing (SH)), and the</li> <li>• total number of individuals currently residing in transitional housing (TH) that were chronically homeless upon entry.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<b>Contributing projects</b>	All projects administering ES, SH, TH, street outreach, and permanent housing, regardless of funding source.
<b>Recommended data source</b>	HMIS, Active List
<b>Target</b>	On the baseline date, and 30, 60, and 90 days following that date: Zero chronically homeless individuals, or no more than 0.1% of the total number of individuals reported in the most recent PIT count, or 3 individuals, whichever is greater.

### Benchmark Calculation

In order for a CoC to demonstrate that it has met the goal, the benchmark must be achieved on the baseline date, and maintained consistently each month for a period of 90 days to ensure that the system is working well enough to maintain the goal over time.

- A. *As of Baseline Date: # of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness = 0; or # of chronically homeless individuals on Baseline Date/# of individuals in most recent PIT = < 0.1%, or 3 persons (whichever is greater)*
- B. *As of 30 days after Baseline Date: # of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness = 0; or # of chronically homeless individuals as of 30 days after Baseline Date/# of individuals in most recent PIT count = < 0.1%, or 3 persons (whichever is greater)*
- C. *As of 60 days after Baseline Date: # of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness = 0; or # of chronically homeless individuals as of 60 days after Baseline Date/# of individuals in most recent PIT count = < 0.1%, or 3 persons (whichever is greater)*
- D. *As of 90 days after Baseline Date: # of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness = 0; or # of chronically homeless individuals as of 90 days after Baseline Date/# of individuals in most recent PIT count = < 0.1%, or 3 persons (whichever is greater)*

### SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

When a CoC requests federal confirmation that it has met the goal of ending chronic homelessness, it may be asked to provide additional data and documentation to support the claim. Examples of additional documentation that may be requested include:

- Information on the individuals experiencing chronic homelessness in the 90-day period prior to and following the Baseline Date, including, but not limited to:
  - Total number of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness during that timeframe
  - Total number of newly identified individuals experiencing chronic homelessness during that timeframe
  - Total number of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness during that timeframe who exited to a permanent housing destination
  - Average length of time to placement from point of identification as chronically homeless
  - Total number of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness during that timeframe with whom the CoC has had no contact for 90 days or more
- Documentation to support any of the affirmative responses to the [Assessing Whether Your Continuum of Care Has Achieved the Goal of Ending Chronic Homelessness](#) questions.