

Chronic Homelessness



MUSKEGON COUNTY
Homeless Continuum
of Care Network

MUSKEGON COUNTY HOMELESS CONTINUUM
OF CARE NETWORK

Chronic Homelessness Defined-

- A homeless individual with a disability as defined in section 401(9) of the McKinney-Vento Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360(9)), who:
 - Lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter, and;
 - Has been homeless and living as described for at least 12 months* or on at least 4 separate occasions within 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.
 - *A "break" in homelessness is considered to be 7 or more nights.
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Chronic Homelessness Defined–Cont'd

- Things to consider:

- An individual who has been residing in an institutional care facility, including jail, substance abuse or mental health treatment facility, hospital, or other similar facility, for fewer than 90 days and met all the criteria for this definition before entering that facility**; or
- A family with an adult head of households (or, if there is no adult in the family, a minor head of household) who meet all the criteria of this definition, including a family whose composition has fluctuated while head of household has been homeless.

- **An individual residing in an institutional care facility does not constitute a break in homelessness.

Recordkeeping Requirements – (CFR 578.103/Notice CPD-14-012 Required by all CoC program funded PSH)

- Order of Priority when collecting verification of homelessness documents:
 - Third Party Documentation (HMIS Records/Comparable Database (entries and exits from shelters))
 - Intake worker observations
 - Self-Certification (evidence required: discharge paperwork, written or oral referral from social worker, case manager, or other appropriate official from an institution.)
 - If evidence is not obtainable, written record of the intake specialist's due diligence to obtain the require documents
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Recordkeeping Requirements – (CFR 578.103/Notice CPD-14-012 Required by all CoC program funded PSH)

- Order of Priority when collecting verification of disability documents:
 - Written verification of the condition from a professional licensed by the state to diagnose and treat the condition;
 - Written verification from the Social Security Administration;
 - Copies of a disability check (e.g., Social Security Disability Insurance check or Veterans Disability Compensation);
 - Intake staff (or referral staff) observation that is confirmed by written verification of the condition from a professional licensed by the state to diagnose and treat the condition that is confirmed no later than 45 days of the application for assistance and accompanied with one of the types of evidence above;
 - or Other documentation approved by HUD.
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Let's test your knowledge!!

Scenarios – Darrell

- Darrell hurt his back at work, applied for worker's compensation but, was unfortunately let go. He is currently on pain killers to help with his chronic back pain. Darrell's only income now comes from disability income. Darrell is now homeless and spent two months in a shelter before moving in with his cousin for four months. After having to leave his cousin's house, he has been living in the woods for the past six months.
 - Is Darrell considered Chronically Homeless?
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Scenarios–Answer

- Darrell – **Not** chronically homeless.
 - Why? Darrell had a break in homelessness which last 4 months while he was housed with his cousin.
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Scenarios – Samantha

- Samantha, a single mother, is employed. Samantha went through a bad breakup and had to move from where she was living. She sought refuge at a shelter with her child for three months before staying with her aunt temporarily. She was only able to stay with her aunt for a week before being asked to leave. Her aunt agreed to care for her child while Samantha had been living in her vehicle for the past nine months, working towards saving enough money to secure housing for her and her child.
 - Is Samantha chronically homeless?
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Scenarios – Answer

- Samantha - **Not Chronically** homeless.
 - Why? Samantha has not indicated that she has a disability.
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Scenarios – Jared

- Jared is retired and receiving social security income and disability. Jared has neuropathy in his feet which makes it difficult to walk from place to place. With Jared's limited income, he has been unable to keep up with increasing rent rates and unfortunately has become homeless. Jared stayed at the local shelter for the max allotted time of six months. Once he ran out of time, he decided to stay in a hotel for about 5 days, which was all he could afford at the time. After staying in the hotel, he found an encampment in the woods and stayed for 3 months, after which he was able to return to shelter for another six month stay.
 - Is Jared chronically homeless?
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Scenario – Answer

- **Jared - Chronically Homeless**

- Jared is a homeless individual with a disability. Jared had stayed in the hotel for 5 days, which he paid out of pocket for but it did not exceed the 7-day or more mark and would not be considered a break in homelessness. All other instances of homelessness add up to 12 months. 6 months in shelter, 3 months in an encampment, and then back to the shelter for another 6 months.
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Scenario – Megan

- Megan is retired and only receiving supplemental security income. With her limited income it is virtually impossible to secure any housing without a voucher or having multiple roommates. Megan struggles with mental health issues and was recently staying in a shelter for about 4 months before going into a mental health facility for counseling which lasted 2 months. After leaving the facility she was able to get a spot in the shelter again which she stayed for max allotted time of 6 months.
 - Is Megan chronically homeless?
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Scenarios – Answer

- Megan – Chronically Homeless
 - Why? Megan is homeless and suffers from mental health issues (which is considered a disability). Megan was homeless for 4 months before entering into a facility for 2 month (since this is less than 90 days, it is not considered a break in homelessness) after which she returned to the shelter for another 6 months equaling 12 months' worth of homelessness.
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Pop Quiz! What are the criteria to be considered chronically homeless?

- Be homeless (place not meant for human habitation, safe haven, or in emergency shelter)
 - Have a disability
 - Been homeless for at least 12 months or;
 - Have experienced 4 separate occasions within the last 3 years that would add up to at least 12 months and each break in homelessness did not exceed 7 days
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