



San Francisco Homelessness Response System Homeless Populations
November 12, 2019

Policy regarding Population Definitions: San Francisco has adopted definitions for each of the three primary populations that experience homelessness and for whom San Francisco has created dedicated Access Points and system resources: Adults, Families and Transition Age Youth (TAY). Each definition includes three elements:

- 1) description of what constitutes the household type
- 2) connection to San Francisco
- 3) a definition of applicable housing/homeless status.

As much as possible these definitions will align with one another so that the same concepts (e.g. fleeing violence) are defined in the same way and have similar documentation requirements. All people experiencing homelessness are covered by *at least* one household type. Persons who meet more than one household type definition (e.g. parenting transition-age youth) are welcome to be served in any system.

Definitions for the Homeless Response System are *not the same* as eligibility requirements for any specific program or funding source, which may be narrower than the broadest definition.

Transfers are the process for households who are housed within the resources of one system to be moved to a more suitable size unit or program available through another population system without having to be reassessed or reprioritized.

A household that is in Priority Status in one Coordinated Entry process and moves to another coordinated entry process due to a change in household type will retain their status for the 90 days during which the Priority Status designation is active.

Requests for housing assistance in the San Francisco Homeless Response System often exceed the availability of housing assistance. The San Francisco Homeless Response System currently prioritizes households for all Homeless Response System housing by vulnerability, barriers to housing, and chronicity of homelessness. Households may be eligible for a variety of housing and other assistance that is not currently available to them.

On a case by case basis, based on need and availability, HSH may consider extenuating circumstances raised by an Access Point or by a household and determine to serve a household who is not included in these definitions in order to accommodate specific needs. This process must include a write up of the circumstances and a determination by HSH to waive the applicable population definition in order to better serve the household.

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Each definition below has three components:

- 1) household composition
- 2) San Francisco connection
- 3) homeless status.

#	Definition Element	Adult	Family	Transition Age Youth
1	Household Composition and/or Characteristics	An individual age 18 or over living in a household of one or more people without minor children; or	One or more adults with physical and legal custody of one or more minor children; or	An unaccompanied individual between the ages of 18 and 24; or
		An individual under 18 who has been legally emancipated.	One or more adults in a household which includes a person who is pregnant.	An unaccompanied individual under 18 who has been legally emancipated; or
			One or more adults with one or more minor children not currently in their custody who are expected to reunify in less than 90 days and who have a letter from Child Protective Services stating that the only barrier to reunification is lack of shelter or housing.	An unaccompanied individual between the ages of 25 and 27 who first entered youth-targeted services in San Francisco when in an age category above.
2	San Francisco Connection	Stayed in San Francisco at least 1 of the last 7 nights.	Stayed in San Francisco at least 1 of the last 7 nights; or	Stayed in San Francisco at least 1 of the last 7 nights; or
			Have one or more children enrolled in school, preschool or childcare in San Francisco, or	Is currently or formerly a ward of San Francisco who currently resides in another county.
			Has a Head of Household who is currently or formerly a ward of San Francisco who currently resides in another county.	
3	Literally Homeless	Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation	Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation	Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation

#	Definition Element	Adult	Family	Transition Age Youth
	Literally Homeless	Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs)	Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs)	Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs)
	Literally Homeless	Has been residing in an institutional care facility, including a jail, substance abuse or mental health treatment facility, hospital, or other similar facility, for fewer than 90 days and was homeless in shelter, place not meant for habitation or fleeing/attempting to flee domestic violence before entry	Has been residing in an institutional care facility, including a jail, substance abuse or mental health treatment facility, hospital, or other similar facility, for fewer than 90 days and was homeless in shelter, place not meant for habitation or fleeing/attempting to flee domestic violence before entry	Has been residing in an institutional care facility, including a jail, substance abuse or mental health treatment facility, hospital, or other similar facility, for fewer than 90 days and was homeless in shelter, place not meant for habitation or fleeing/attempting to flee domestic violence before entry
3	Literally Homeless	Fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member in the primary nighttime residence or has made the individual afraid to return to their primary nighttime residence, and a. has no other residence, and b. Lacks the resources of support networks, such as family, friends and faith-based or other social networks to obtain other permanent housing	Fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member in the primary nighttime residence or has made the individual afraid to return to their primary nighttime residence, and a. has no other residence, and b. Lacks the resources of support networks, such as family, friends and faith-based or other social networks to obtain other permanent housing	Fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member in the primary nighttime residence or has made the individual afraid to return to their primary nighttime residence, and a. has no other residence, and b. Lacks the resources of support networks, such as family, friends and faith-based or other social networks to obtain other permanent housing

3	ARCH (At Risk of Chronic Homelessness)	An individual who is at high-risk of long-term or intermittent homelessness: diagnosed with serious mental illness and/or chronic substance abuse exiting institutionalized settings, including, but not limited to, jail and mental health facilities, who were homeless prior to admission and a. has no other residence, and b. Lacks the resources of support networks, such as family, friends and faith-based or other social networks to obtain other permanent housing.	A family with a head of household who is an individual who is at high-risk of long-term or intermittent homelessness: diagnosed with serious mental illness and/or chronic substance abuse exiting institutionalized settings, including, but not limited to, jail and mental health facilities, who were homeless prior to admission and a. has no other residence, and b. Lacks the resources of support networks, such as family, friends and faith-based or other social networks to obtain other permanent housing.	An individual who is at high-risk of long-term or intermittent homelessness: diagnosed with serious mental illness and/or chronic substance abuse exiting institutionalized settings, including, but not limited to, jail and mental health facilities, who were homeless prior to admission and a. has no other residence, and b. Lacks the resources of support networks, such as family, friends and faith-based or other social networks to obtain other permanent housing.
3	Homeless		A family living in a San Francisco Single Room Occupancy (SRO) unit or a family living with one or more other families (except the parents or children of adults in the family) in a housing unit.	
3	Homeless		A family living with one or more other families in a housing unit except for families living with a parent or child of the adults in the family.	
3	Imminent Risk of Homelessness	Individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that: (i) Residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance; (ii) No subsequent residence has been identified; and (iii) The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing	Individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that: (i) Residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance; (ii) No subsequent residence has been identified; and (iii) The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing	Individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that: (i) Residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance; (ii) No subsequent residence has been identified; and (iii) The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing